

Ecumenical Patriarch concludes visit to Greece; meetings with US amb., Greek minister on Fri.



Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, on Friday concluded his visit to Greece.

Earlier on Friday, he received the US ambassador to Greece, Geoffrey Pyatt, with discussions revolving around developments for the Archdiocese of America, where a new Archbishop, His Eminence Elpidoforos, was elected by members of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Holy Synod this month.

Additionally, the contentious issue of Autocephaly for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church was also discussed.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate granted the Tomos of Autocephaly last November to Ukrainian Orthodox Church, generating an angry reaction by the Russian Orthodox

Church, as well as reservations by other Orthodox Churches around the world.



Afterwards, His All Holiness received Greece's education and religious affairs minister, Costas Gavroglu.



A day earlier, on Thursday, the Ecumenical Patriarch presided in a service to bless a new geriatric research center and elderly care unit in the Dilesi township, north of Athens, which is funded and will be operated by the Archdiocese of Athens.

The Patriarch was joined side-by-side by the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, during an inauguration ceremony also attended by Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos.

After his meetings on Friday morning, the Ecumenical Patriarch attended a reception in his honor by the Church of Greece's Holy Synod, before his scheduled departure by plane for Turkey and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

