

Ieronymos receives new Archbishop of Australia Makarios; meetings with Greek leadership



The Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, on Monday received the new Archbishop of Australia, His Eminence Makarios, with the new Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia continuing his contacts in the country before departing for Sydney.

Over the weekend, His Eminence Makarios was also received by Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos, with the former requesting from Pavlopoulos that the international issue revolving around the reopening of the Halki Seminary be promoted at every level.

The Patriarchate's school of theology is located on the eponymous Marmara Sea island of Halki, one of the so-called Princes Isles.

Turkish authorities in 1971 ordered the Ecumenical Patriarchate's historic seminary

closed. Efforts to achieve its reopening have taken on an international dimension, touching especially on the concept of religious freedom in Turkey.

After his meeting with the Primate of the Church of Greece, Makarios was received separately on Monday by Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and former minister Evangelos Venizelos. He is due to meet with main opposition leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Tuesday.