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GREEK P.M. DENIES
GREEK TERRITORY BEING
USED FOR ANY ACTIVITY
RELATED TO THE WAR

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RNR 71

MIDEAST -- LEAD GREECE (RNR 53)

ATHENS, ~~OCT. 13~~, REUTER -- FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTIAN XANTHOPOULOS-PALMAS DENIED TODAY THAT GREEK TERRITORY OR AIR SPACE WERE BEING USED FOR ANY ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE MIDDLE EAST WAR.

EARLIER, THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER ATHENS NEWS SAID GREECE HAD REFUSED THE UNITED STATES TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR MILITARY SUPPLIES ON THEIR WAY TO ISRAEL.

PALMAS WAS ASKED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IF PORT FACILITIES GRANTED TO THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET WERE COMPATIBLE WITH THE NEUTRALITY OF GREECE OVER THE MIDDLE EAST.

HE REPLIED THAT "GREEK TERRITORY, SEA OR AIRSPACE, IS NOT BEING USED FOR ANY ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE WAR SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

WHEN FIGHTING BROKE OUT LAST SATURDAY THE SIXTH FLEET LEFT PIRAEUS FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

PALMAS SAID THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF SOME SIXTH FLEET UNITS IN GREEK WATERS WAS NORMAL BECAUSE GREECE AND THE U.S. WERE ALLIES.

HE RECALLED, THAT A STATEMENT MADE BY GREECE IN 1972 THAT GREECE'S FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES EXCLUDED PARTICIPATION, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, IN ANY ACTIVITY AGAINST THEM.

MEANWHILE, THE MERCHANT MARINE ...4TH GRAPH RNR 53)
REUTER GR/MT 0914

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