

021A

GREECE 0-2

1ST PAGE LD 285A

BY JOHN RISCOE

ATHENS (UPI) -- BRIG. GEN. DIMITRIOS IOANNIDIS, COMMANDER OF THE GREEK MILITARY POLICE AND STRONGMAN OF THE FORMER MILITARY REGIME, HAS BEEN RELIEVED OF ACTIVE DUTY FOR SIX MONTHS AT HIS OWN REQUEST, THE HIGH COMMAND OF THE GREEK ARMED FORCES SAID FRIDAY.

"BRIG. IOANNIDIS HAS ASKED TO BE RELIEVED OF ACTIVE DUTY FOR SIX MONTHS. HIS REQUEST WAS GRANTED," ACCORDING TO A BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED BY THE HIGH COMMAND AFTER A SPATE OF RUMORS THAT IOANNIDIS WAS IN JAIL OR HAD RETIRED.

MILITARY EXPERTS SAID OFFICERS ON NON-ACTIVE DUTY REMAIN AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE ARMY COMMAND AND TAKE A 15 PER CENT PAY CUT. NON-ACTIVE DUTY STATUS CANNOT EXCEED SIX MONTHS AND IS USUALLY FOLLOWED BY RETIREMENT, THEY SAID.

THE DEFENSE MINISTRY EARLIER THIS WEEK DISBANDED THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION SECTION OF THE MILITARY POLICE AND TRANSFERRED ITS OFFICERS, ALL CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF IOANNIDIS, TO COMBAT UNITS IN NORTHERN GREECE.

IN AN ORDER OF THE DAY, NEW CIVILIAN DEFENSE MINISTER EVANGELOS AVEROFF SAID HE EXPECTED ALL MEN "TO FULFILL YOUR DUTIES TO THE COUNTRY AS DICTATED BY HONOR, YOUR OATH AND THE LAWS."

HE SAID THE GREEK PEOPLE FACED "TRYING MOMENTS" WHILE THEY "PREPARE THEMSELVES SERIOUSLY, EARNESTLY AND WITH DISCIPLINE FOR THE RESTORATION OF THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHTS."

GREEKS ALSO PONDERED THE FUTURE OF DEPOSED KING CONSTANTINE.

PICKUP 2ND PGN 285A: "NOW THAT

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