



**THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON**

October 12, 2021

His Excellency
Kyriakos Mitsotakis
Prime Minister of the
Hellenic Republic of Greece
Athens

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The United States views Greece as a steadfast NATO Ally and partner, a bond with Greece strengthened by the 200 years of friendship between our nations and the connections between our peoples. We applaud Greece's role as a regional leader and pillar of stability. The United States remains committed to supporting Greece's prosperity, security, and democracy. President Biden said on the occasion of Greece's bicentennial this year that relations between Greece and the United States are reaching new heights. I am very pleased to note the progress our two countries have made in strengthening our cooperation. The United States and Greece will emerge stronger from the challenges of the global pandemic together. We will continue to build ties across our governments through the U.S.-Greece Strategic Dialogue, which we are honored to host this year in Washington for its third meeting.

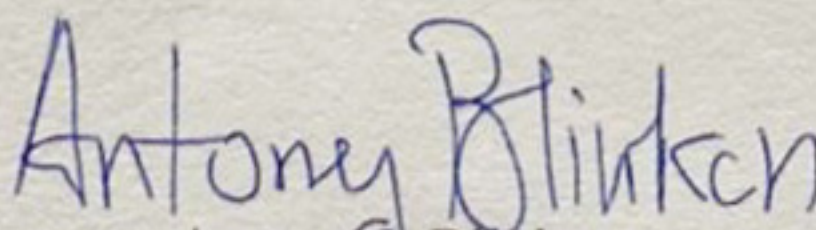
Through the latest revision to our bilateral Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement (MDCA), the United States and Greece reaffirm our commitment and resolve to further deepen and expand our strategic defense partnership towards maintaining strong, capable, and interoperable militaries for the purpose of contributing to the security of both countries, as well as to stability in the region. The United States recognizes the vital role of Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay and other Greek installations, at which the United States may train or operate on the mainland or islands, to ensuring our common defense objectives, and it thanks Greece for its continued support for the United States' expanded military presence in Greece. Since 2015, the United States has provided Greece with substantial security assistance funding, mutually beneficial infrastructure investments, and Excess Defense Articles to assist Greece in achieving its defense modernization goals.

We look forward to continuing our close collaboration in the above mentioned sectors through various security cooperation programs, such as the Foreign Military Sales and Excess Defense Articles programs, the International Military Education and Training program, and Department of Defense funding, as well as through joint military training and exercises throughout Greece, taking into account the desire of the Government of the Hellenic Republic that such assistance be provided on the most favorable terms possible. The United States also continues to support Greece's objective to become a regional maintenance, logistics, and training hub.

The United States' and Greece's decision to further enhance our bilateral MDCA is a significant achievement that further demonstrates the increasingly close and expanding security ties between our two countries. The newly updated MDCA reflects our common devotion to the principles of freedom, democracy, rule of law, human rights, and social progress. It expands our strategic defense partnership and manifestly displays our firm determination to mutually safeguard and protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our countries against actions threatening to peace, including armed attack or threat thereof. It will make both our countries safer and support the peace and stability of the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans, as well as Europe as a whole, through its contribution to the capabilities and cooperation at the core of the NATO Alliance.

We greatly appreciate the Greek government's steadfast commitment to dialogue with its neighbors and its adherence to resolving disputes peacefully through diplomacy and in accordance with international law. It is our longstanding belief that resource development in the Eastern Mediterranean should promote cooperation and provide a foundation for durable energy security and economic prosperity throughout the region in accordance with international law. We also firmly believe in respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as sovereign rights and jurisdiction in accordance with the international law of the sea. The Biden Administration is committed to ensuring stability and prosperity throughout the Eastern Mediterranean.

Sincerely


Antony J. Blinken