

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 4, 2011 6:39 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Greek premier to start talks on caretaker govt (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Friday, November 04, 2011 06:06 PM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Subject:** Greek premier to start talks on caretaker govt (AP)

ATHENS (AP) - Greece's embattled prime minister promised to start immediate powersharing talks to form a caretaker government, declaring his willingness to step aside if needed, but ruled out snap elections that he said would scuttle a major new European debt deal.

George Papandreou made the pledge late Friday, moments before lawmakers were to cast ballots in a confidence vote in his troubled two-year Socialist government. The vote comes days after Papandreou's ultimately scrapped plan to put the debt deal to a referendum sparked an open rebellion in the governing party, with deputies openly calling for him to step down.

The plan to put the deal to a popular vote had led to anger among European leaders and roiled global markets. Papandreou withdrew the plan Thursday.

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