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Greek Central Banker Feels At Home In US

By Luca Di Leo, Of DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

WASHINGTON -(Dow Jones)- George S. Tavlas, the number two official at the Bank of Greece, says he's really happy to be back in the U.S.--a country that reminds him of his homecountry because of its fiscal troubles.

"It feels like home," Tavlas joked with an audience at the Cato Institute, a conservative think tank where he was invited to participate in a panel.

It's hard to find a country that has the same fiscal problems that Greece has, the Director General at the Bank of Greece told the audience to some awkward laughter.

To fight the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, the U.S. has accumulated huge budget deficits that are close to the levels Greece has. Some analysts worry financial markets could suddenly turn against the U.S.--like they did with Greece despite its euro membership.

Tavlas worked for several years in Washington, D.C., at the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. Department of State and was also a guest scholar with the Brookings Institution.

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11-18-101641ET

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