

**Statement of Ambassador Lawrence E. Butler  
On the Death of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski**

February 27, 2004

I am greatly saddened by the tragic death of President Boris Trajkovski. President Trajkovski was a champion for the people of Macedonia. He was a man of uncommon courage and conviction. His deep faith combined with distinguished leadership and vision to steer Macedonia through many challenging and difficult times. He was not just a great friend of the United States, but a personal friend of mine. I shall greatly miss his friendship, warm-hearted nature and passion for the future of Macedonia. I will cherish my many moments and discussions with him. Citizens of Macedonia have lost an advocate for their country on the world stage. President Trajkovski garnered the respect of world figures and increased international support for Macedonia's successes. His work in promoting tolerance and reconciliation has left an indelible imprint on Macedonia's future. Linda's and my deepest sympathies are extended to his wife Vilma and their children, to his father and brothers, and to the people of Macedonia.