

Press Statement
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Anthony J. Principi
March 5, 2004

- I am here at the personal request of President George Bush to express his deep condolences and those of the American people to President Trajkovski's family and to the people of Macedonia.
- President Trajkovski was a dear and great friend to America. He was an admired leader whose strong compassion and commitment to all Macedonians shaped a path of tolerance and promise in the future of Macedonia and in the Balkan region.
- Under his leadership, Macedonia joined with the United States in the Global War on Terrorism, with Macedonian troops serving with distinction in Iraq and Afghanistan, sharing the same risks as Americans.
- The United States will continue to support Macedonia as she strives to achieve her aspirations and full potential as part of the Euro-Atlantic community.
- Through this tragic event and time of great challenge to Macedonia, President Trajkovski's legacy of building a strong U.S. – Macedonian friendship will endure.

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