

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesman

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Statement by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell

Death of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski

I was shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic death of President Boris Trajkovski earlier today. He was a man whom I came to know and trust, a cherished colleague and friend.

President Trajkovski was a distinguished leader and champion for all citizens of Macedonia. He embodied the finest qualities of wisdom and compassion. More than any other leader, he applied these qualities to governing his nation and brought the people of Macedonia from crisis and division to recovery and tolerance.

He will be greatly missed, but he leaves behind a legacy of U.S.-Macedonian friendship that has never been closer or stronger. He will live on through his policies of reconciliation at home and through his efforts to promote Macedonia's integration into the Euro-Atlantic community.

I extend my deepest condolences to President Trajkovski's wife Vilma, daughter Sara, son Stefan, other family members and friends, and to the people of Macedonia in this time of tragedy.