

Stephen W. Bosworth

December 4, 1939 - January 3, 2016

Stephen W. Bosworth, U.S. Diplomat Who Helped Oust Ferdinand Marcos, Dies at 76

By SAM ROBERTS JAN. 8, 2016

Photo



Stephen Bosworth, left, in Beijing when he was involved in efforts to curb North Korea's nuclear ambitions. Credit Peter Parks/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Stephen W. Bosworth, a former American ambassador who pulled off a diplomatic coup in 1986 by persuading the Philippine dictator [Ferdinand E. Marcos](#) to allow free elections, and then personally delivered Washington's pink slip to him when he refused to accept defeat, died Monday at his home in Boston. He was 76.

The cause was pancreatic cancer, according to [Tufts University](#), where Mr. Bosworth had been dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Mr. Bosworth served as United States ambassador to Tunisia, the [Philippines](#) and South Korea under Presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. As President

Obama's special representative for North Korea policy, he sought to persuade the Pyongyang government to enter into nuclear disarmament negotiations. But his most celebrated act of diplomacy came in Manila, where the kleptocratic Mr. Marcos was ruling by martial law in the face of a communist insurgency, mounting political opposition and an eroding economy, all of which threatened not only the Marcos government but also the survival of American military bases in the [Philippines](#). Accused by Mr. Bosworth of "egregious" human rights abuses and pressed to allow elections, Mr. Marcos relented. But in a vote that most people believed [Corazon C. Aquino](#) had won, he was declared the winner by a compliant election commission, setting off widespread protests and a "people power" uprising in support of Ms. Aquino — an event that Mr. Bosworth later characterized as "the Philippine revolution of February 1986."

Alarmed by rumblings that troops loyal to Mr. Marcos might resort to force rather than relinquish office amid competing [inaugurations](#), the White House sent Mr. Bosworth to read the Philippine president a message dictated by President Reagan — that the White House looked forward to Mr. Marcos's "working out a scenario for a transition government" and would welcome him and his family if they left to live in the United States.

Within hours, the Marcos family was taken from the grounds of Malacanang Palace on a United States Air Force helicopter and flown 40 miles northwest to Clark Air Force Base.

"We were trying to help restore democracy in the Philippines, and Stephen wound up playing a key role in that historic transition," Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement on Thursday. "Steve's unique brand of diplomacy blended the gravitas of a statesman and the timing of a comedian."

Stephen Warren Bosworth was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Dec. 4, 1939, the son of Warren Bosworth and the former Mina Phillips. He was raised on a farm and began his education in a one-room schoolhouse.

He is survived by his wife, the former Christine Holmes; their children, Andrew and Allison Bosworth and Stacey and William Rutledge; 10 grandchildren; and his brothers, Barry and Brian Bosworth.

After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1961 (he was later chairman of its board of trustees), Mr. Bosworth entered the Foreign Service instead of going to law school because, he recalled years later, "I was broke." By the time he was 38, he was a full-fledged ambassador, among the youngest ever.

He served as the envoy to Tunisia from 1979 to 1981, chairman of the State Department's Policy Planning Council and ambassador to the Philippines from 1984 to 1987 — a tumultuous period that followed the assassination of Benigno Aquino, Ms.

Corazon's husband, at the Manila airport in 1983 as he returned from exile in the United States to challenge Mr. Marcos.

Mr. Bosworth later directed the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, a multinational consortium formed in the mid-1990s to provide energy to North Korea in exchange for guarantees that it would dismantle nuclear reactors that might be used to produce weapons. He was ambassador to South Korea from 1997 to 2001 and special representative for North Korea from 2009 to 2011.

Fluent in Spanish, Mr. Bosworth was also well versed in economics, which he maintained was as important as the political and military aspects of diplomacy.

"There has always been a feeling in the State Department and Foreign Service," he told *The New York Times* in 1998, "that economics officers were not quite the *crème de la crème*, that what you really wanted to be was a political officer carrying diplomatic notes to the Foreign Ministry and making *démarches*."

And from Wikipedia

Stephen Warren Bosworth (December 4, 1939 – January 3, 2016) was an American academic and diplomat. He served as [Dean of The Fletcher School at Tufts University](#) and served as [United States Special Representative for North Korea Policy](#) from March 2009 to October 2011. He served three times as a [U.S. Ambassador](#), to [South Korea](#) (1997–2001),^[3] to the [Philippines](#) (1984–1987), and to [Tunisia](#) (1979–1981).^[4] In 1987, he received the [American Academy of Diplomacy's Diplomat of the Year Award](#).

In February 2009 [U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton](#) named Bosworth [Special Representative](#) for North Korea policy.^{[5][6]}

Bosworth was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1939.^[7] Before his appointment as Ambassador to South Korea he was the Executive Director of the [Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization](#) (1995–1997). Before coming to KEDO, he was president of the [United States Japan Foundation](#).^[1]

Prior to 1984, his previous foreign service assignments include Paris, Madrid, [Panama City](#), and Washington, D.C. where he was the State Department's [Director of Policy Planning](#), Principal



Deputy Assistant Secretary for inter-American affairs, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs.

He was a member of the International Board of Advisers for the president of the Philippines, and also a member of the boards of [International Textile Group](#) and [Franklin Templeton Investment Trust Management Co. \(Korea\)](#). He was a member of the [Trilateral Commission](#).

At times he has held teaching and oversight positions at various colleges and universities: [Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs](#) (1990–1994); Linowitz Chair of International Studies, [Hamilton College](#) (1993); Trustee, [Dartmouth College](#) (1992–2002), Chairman of Board of Trustees, (1996–1999).^[1]

He holds an [A.B.](#) (1961) and an honorary doctorate (1986) from [Dartmouth College](#). He was a graduate student at [George Washington University](#).^[8]

He served on the Executive Committee of [Americans Elect](#), a political party seeking to gain ballot access in every state in 2012.^[9] On January 3, 2016, Bosworth died at the age of 76 in Boston, Massachusetts.^{[10][11]}

He is survived by his wife, the former Christine Holmes , two daughters, Allison and Stacey; and two sons, Andrew and William.

Obituary from Wikipedia. See also Bob Conn article in November 1987 Dartmouth Alumni Magazine. <http://archive.dartmouthalumnimagazine.com/19871101/#!/32> reviewing B's efforts in Phillipines.