Jean Sauvagnargues
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Jean Sauvagnargues was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Chirac Cabinet formed on May 28, 1974.

Mr. Sauvagnargues was born in Paris on April 2, 1915. He is a graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, an agrégé in German, and holds a diploma from the Ecole des Sciences Politiques.

During World War II he was taken prisoner (1940) but escaped and entered the diplomatic service in 1941. He was assigned to the Embassy in Bucharest and from there, in June 1943, he joined the Free French Forces in Syria.

After the liberation he joined the staff of General de Gaulle and in 1946 became head of the Political Division of the General Commissariat for German Affairs. In 1949 he was named to head the German and Austrian Affairs desk at the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

In his capacity as counselor for German and European Affairs to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1955, he negotiated the agreements on the Saar and was involved in the initial moves to promote European development, prior to the founding of the Common Market.

Jean Sauvagnargues was Director General for Moroccan and Tunisian Affairs when the two former protectorates acceded to independence. In 1956 he was named Ambassador to Ethiopia and held that office until his return to Paris in 1960 to head the Africa-Levant desk at the Foreign Affairs Ministry (1960-1962).

Mr. Sauvagnargues was subsequently named Ambassador to Tunis (1962-1970) and then Ambassador to Bonn (1970-1974).

In this last capacity he took part in the negotiations leading to the Four-Power Agreement of September 3, 1971 on the status of Berlin, signed by the United States, France, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union.

He is an Officer of the Legion of Honor and a Commander of the National Order of Merit. He also holds the Croix de Guerre (1939-1945).

Mr. Sauvagnargues is married and has two sons and two daughters.