

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE

SERVICE DE PRESSE ET D'INFORMATION

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Biography

JACQUES KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET

Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations Security Council and Head of the French Permanent Mission to the United Nations, was born in Paris on January 31, 1913. His father was Director of Public Works of the city of Paris; his mother won the Paris Conservatory's First Prize for Harmony.

Planning a career as a professor, he graduated from the Ecole Normale Supérieure with a degree in ethics and sociology and passed the "agrégation" examination in literature in 1937.

He began teaching at the Grenoble lycée but was mobilized in 1939. He took part in the battle of Dunkirk and, while in command of a unit protecting the landing of British and French troops, he was taken prisoner. After seven months of captivity in a German prison camp, he managed to escape to France. Under cover as a teacher, he immediately resumed fighting within the resistance. As captain of the French Forces of the Interior, he belonged to the small group of resistance fighters who seized Paris City Hall in August 1944. He helped organize its defense and was among those who greeted General Leclerc and General de Gaulle at the liberation of Paris. For his war and resistance activities, he was made a member of the Legion of Honor and awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Medal of the Resistance.

After the war he returned to teaching at the Sorbonne, while remaining at the City Hall where he worked actively on the Paris region's administrative and political reorganization.

In 1946 Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet was invited by Columbia University to lecture on literature as well as the resistance and postwar France. Returning to France that same year, he became a member of the staff of the President of the Constituent Assembly, Vincent Auriol, and then served on the staff of Léon Blum, President of the Provisional Government. When Vincent Auriol was elected President of the Republic in 1947, he was appointed Director of his staff with special responsibilities for following foreign policy. He served throughout President Auriol's seven-year term and accompanied the President on his visits to Britain, the United States, Canada and Africa.

Appointed to the Council of State in 1948, Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet served from 1954 to 1956 in the administrative section.

In February 1956 he became Director of the staff of Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Minister Delegate to the Premier and then Minister of State. This was the start of a long African period in Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet's career, for he took part in preparing the African nations' internal autonomy and then their independence. It was at that time that he formed long-standing and close friendships with the leaders of French-speaking Africa.

In 1957 Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet was appointed French Delegate to the United Nations Trusteeship Council. Between 1957 and 1962, he led the debates at the UN on the independence of Togoland and Cameroon and worked alongside the African delegations for their independence and admission to the UN. In 1960 he was vice president of the French delegation which negotiated accords of independence and cooperation with Mali and Madagascar.

In 1963, Paul Hoffmann, head of the United Nations Development Program, entrusted him with a special mission for the United Nations Special Fund. He visited 17 African states and Madagascar and prepared an important report on the methods of bilateral and multilateral cooperation and the ways of making it more effective.

General de Gaulle named him French Ambassador to Leopoldville in November 1963; while he held this post, substantial strides were made in French-Congolese cooperation.

Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet returned to Paris in 1968, where he became Director of Technical and Cultural Affairs at the Secretariat of State for Foreign Affairs.

In December of the same year, he was named Permanent Representative of France to the North Atlantic Council in Brussels.

On February 18, 1970 Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet was appointed Head of the French Permanent Mission to the United Nations and Permanent Representative of France to the Security Council, succeeding Ambassador Armand Bérard.

Alongside his professional life as diplomat, professor and jurist, the new French Ambassador to the United Nations has taken part in other activities. He was a member of the High Committee for Youth and Sports for France and Overseas and general delegate to the World Federation of War Veterans. He has been municipal councillor of St. Nom-la-Brèche since 1959.

A sports enthusiast, Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet plays tennis and golf and skis. His hobbies include music, especially piano music and jazz. He is a member of the French Record Academy.

Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet is married and has four children.