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JACQUES CHABAN-DELMAS

Premier of France

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Jacques Chaban-Delmas, President of the National Assembly, has been appointed Premier by Georges Pompidou, President of the Republic. Mr. Chaban-Delmas is well known in this country, having paid several visits to the US, notably in 1961 when he addressed the National Press Club and again recently, in March 1969, when he was received by President Nixon who entrusted him with a personal message to General de Gaulle.

Jacques Chaban-Delmas was born in Paris on March 7, 1915. He is a graduate of the School of Political Science and a Doctor of Law. After passing a selective examination, he entered the French finance administration at the top level of "Inspecteur des Finances."

Mr. Chaban-Delmas was a second lieutenant when war was declared in 1939. In 1940, in answer to General de Gaulle's appeal, he joined the early resistance movement and played an important role in that movement working in occupied France. At this time he substituted Chaban for his real surname, Delmas. In 1944, he became the national military delegate responsible for military coordination throughout the French territory. In June 1944, he was promoted brigadier general at the age of 29 and entrusted with important missions between the Allied forces and the Resistance. He also played a vital role in the insurrection that led to the liberation of Paris. On August 24, he welcomed General Leclerc, Commander of the French Second Armored Division, in the suburbs and entered Paris at his side.

After the war he became secretary general of the Information Ministry; that was the beginning of his political career. On November 10, 1946, he was elected Deputy for the Gironde Department (on the Radical Socialist ticket) and was re-elected in 1951, 1956, 1958, 1962 1967 and 1968 as a Gaullist.

In 1954, when he was not yet 40, Mr. Chaban-Delmas was Minister of Public Works in the Mendès-France cabinet. In 1956, in the Guy Mollet cabinet, he was Minister of State and was later Minister of Defense in the Félix Gaillard cabinet (November 1957 to May 1958).

After General de Gaulle's return to power he was one of the most influential members of the UNR (Union for the New Republic) and, in December 1958, was elected President of the first National Assembly of the Fifth Republic. Until his nomination as Premier he had been constantly re-elected to this post.

Mr. Chaban-Delmas has been Mayor of Bordeaux since 1947 and, as such, has carried out far-reaching administrative reforms, initiated social programs--particularly for the welfare of the aged and the young--and expanded the intellectual and artistic activities of the Community. One of the events he sponsors is the "Mai Musical" held in Bordeaux each year. He has also successfully promoted joint public action for the economic development of Aquitaine, a region which covers one sixth of the territory of France, and presides over the Committee for Regional Economic Development.

On his last trip to the United States he headed a 230-member delegation of businessmen from the Bordeaux region to California, notably Los Angeles which is Bordeaux's twin city.

His interests are wide-ranging and, in particular, he is a first-class sportsman. He was formerly an international rugby player and is still one of France's finest tennis players.

He is a Commander of the Legion of Honor, a Companion of the Liberation and a Commander of the National Order of Merit and holds the Croix de Guerre and the Rosette of the Resistance. He also has a large number of foreign decorations, most of them military, and is a Commander of the US Legion of Merit.