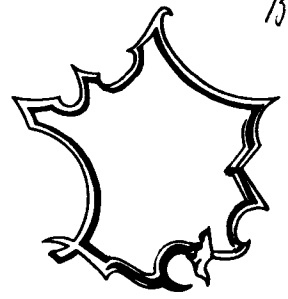


FRENCH EMBASSY

PRESS & INFORMATION DIVISION



JEAN FRANCOIS-PONCET

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Jean François-Poncet was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs on November 29, 1978. He was formerly head of the President's staff at the Elysée Palace and prior to that held the cabinet post of secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs (1976).

He was born on December 8, 1928 and is the son of André François-Poncet, who was French ambassador to Berlin and then Rome prior to World War II as well as the first French ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. He holds a degree in law, a doctorate in economics from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques and is a graduate of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration. In addition, he has an M.A. from Harvard University.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1955. Between 1956 and 1958 he was secretary general of the French delegation to the negotiations for the Common Market and EURATOM treaties and was subsequently assigned to the Department for European Organizations at the Foreign Ministry. After an assignment with the French Embassy in Morocco (1961-1963) he returned to Paris to become deputy director of the Africa-Middle East desk (1963-1966). After a brief period at the National Center for Scientific Research, he was appointed first counselor to the French Embassy in Teheran (1968-1970).

In 1971 Mr. François-Poncet took a leave of absence from the Foreign Service and joined the board of a major steel corporation of which he became president in 1973. He returned to the Service at the end of 1975.

In addition to his career with the Ministry, Mr. François-Poncet has been on the faculty of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris since 1960. He is also active in local politics and has several times been elected to the general council of the Lot-et-Garonne department in southwestern France.

Mr. François-Poncet holds the Legion of Honor and the National Order of Merit. He is married to the former Marie-Thérèse de Mitry and has two sons and a daughter.

11/78
