

JACQUES GIGNAC

Mr. Jacques Gignac was born in Shawinigan, Quebec on July 24, 1928. He attended the University of Montreal from which he received a B.A. in 1949 and where he followed post-graduate courses in Sociology; the Institut Catholique de Paris, from which he received degrees in theology (1955) and in Social Sciences (1957); and the Sorbonne, from which he received a degree in literature (1957). In 1958 he taught at le Collège Sainte-Marie in Montreal.

Having entered the Department of External Affairs in 1958, he saw service at Headquarters in Ottawa, the Canadian Consulate General in Boston and the Canadian Embassy in Paris. Reassigned to Ottawa in 1965, he was appointed Head of the Cultural Programmes Section of the Cultural Affairs Division and, in 1968, named Head of that Division. In this capacity, Mr. Gignac had primary responsibility in the negotiation and implementation of a number of cultural agreements and exchange programmes with other countries. In 1970 Mr. Gignac was appointed Ambassador to Lebanon and subsequently accredited to Syria, Jordan, and Iraq.

Mr. Gignac is married to the former Françoise Teisserenc and has five children.