

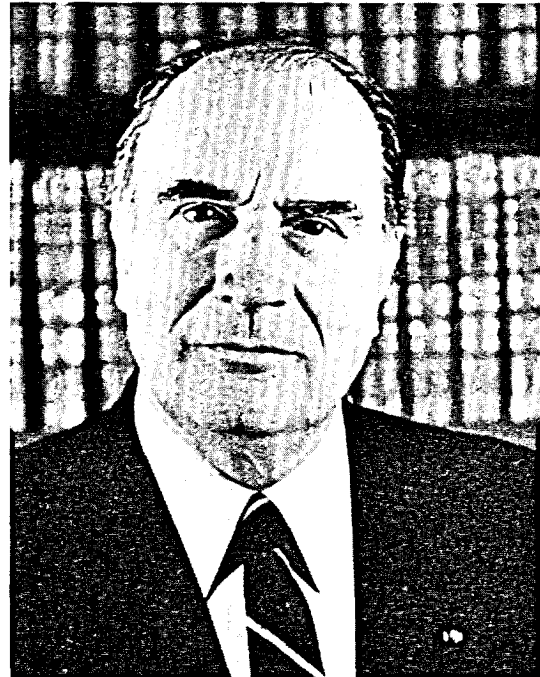
**President  
François Mitterrand**

François Mitterrand was born on October 26, 1916, at Jarnac in Charente. After studying law, literature and political science at the University of Paris, he was called up for military service in 1939.

During World War II, Mr. Mitterrand's efforts in the Resistance prompted General de Gaulle to appoint him secretly as secretary-general for prisoners of war, deportees and refugees. In this same capacity, he took part in the first provisional government council of the French Republic following the liberation of Paris in August 1944.

In 1946, Mr. Mitterrand was elected to the National Assembly as member for Nièvre. Under the Fourth Republic of 1946 to 1958, he took part in many governments; in 1947, he became the youngest minister to serve in a hundred years.

In May 1958, he became one of the main leaders of the opposition. In the presidential elections of 1965, he ran unsuccessfully against General de Gaulle; in 1974, he was narrowly defeated by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing; finally, on May 10, 1981, he was elected president of the republic. Mr. Mitterrand was re-elected May 8, 1988.



In 1944, he married Danielle Gouze. They have two sons, Jean-Christophe and Gilbert.