

## BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGES BIDAULT

### MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Georges Bidault was born in Moulins (Allier) on October 5, 1899. He was mobilized in 1918. After his discharge from the army he continued his studies and, in 1925, placed first in the history "concours d'agrégation", the competitive state examination for admission to the teaching staffs of the "lycées" and universities. During his student years he participated actively in the movement known as "Catholic Action", working especially with groups of young people.

After passing his examination, he became professor of history in Paris. At the same time, he was active in the Christian Democratic Party and became an editorial writer for its daily organ, l'Aube. He vigorously opposed the Munich Pact in 1938.

M. Bidault enlisted in 1939, served as an infantry sergeant, and was taken prisoner by the Germans. Released a year later, he resumed teaching, this time in Lyon. There he immediately joined the Resistance, giving anti-Nazi lectures to his students, publishing a clandestine newspaper, helping to organize the movement "Combat", and acting as liaison agent between the Resistance in France and Fighting France headquarters in London.

In 1943 M. Bidault was elected President of the National Council of the Resistance, and succeeded in uniting the various elements of the Resistance and in formulating a common program.

Appointed Foreign Minister of the Provisional Government by General de Gaulle on September 9, 1944, Georges Bidault represented France at the United Nations San Francisco, London and New York Conferences and at the Foreign Ministers' Conferences held in London, Paris, New York and Moscow.

Elected President of the Provisional Government by the Constituent Assembly on June 19, 1946, M. Bidault resigned on November 18 after the election of the first National Assembly under the Constitution of the Fourth Republic. He continued to serve as Foreign Minister from September 9, 1944 to July 19, 1948. He initiated the rapprochement between France and Germany by vigorously defending before the French Parliament, and leading it to adopt the agreements on Germany of June 1948, on which the policy of European unification is based.

Georges Bidault headed the French delegation to UNESCO in September 1948. A delegate to the Strasbourg European Assembly in September 1949, he became President of its Political Commission.

In May 1949 he became President of the MRP (Popular Republican Movement).

He served as President of the Council of Ministers (Premier) from October 27, 1949 to June 24, 1950, and as Vice-Premier in Henri Queuille's Cabinet March 10 to July 10, 1951.

M. Bidault was Vice-Premier and Minister of National Defence in the Cabinet constituted by René Plevon on August 11, 1951. In this post he coordinated the work of the Departments of War, the Navy and the Air Force. He was also given unusually broad powers in the entire rearmament and security fields and replaced the Foreign Minister in all matters connected with the Atlantic Pact and at all international conferences dealing with the defence of France.

On January 8, 1953, M. René Mayer formed a new government in which M. Georges Bidault again took the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs.