

BIOGRAPHY OF RENE MAYER

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

René Mayer was born in Paris on May 4, 1895. He holds degrees in arts and law from the University of Paris. After serving in the First World War he became Master of Requests in the "Conseil d'Etat", France's highest administrative court. He resigned in 1928 to devote himself to the management of large business enterprises on the national as well as the private level. In 1930 he was asked by Premier André Tardieu to conduct negotiations with the German "Reinisch Westphaelishes Kohlensyndikat", with which he signed the Essen agreement regulating the importation of Ruhr coal into France.

Mobilized in 1939, M. Mayer became head of the London Mission of the Ministry of Armaments. In 1943 he was appointed Commissioner for Communications and the Merchant Marine in the French Committee of National Liberation in Algiers, which later became the Provisional Government of the French Republic. Upon the latter's return to Paris, M. Mayer was appointed Minister of Public Works and Transportation in the first Government of liberated France. He was named General Commissioner for German Affairs in December 1945, a post which he held until July 16, 1946.

M. Mayer was elected to the Second Constituent Assembly in June 1946 and was re-elected to the National Assembly on November 10, 1946 and on June 17, 1951.

As Vice-President of the Radical Socialist Group in the Assembly he became Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs in the first Schuman Cabinet (November 1947-July 1948) and was the author of a plan for economic and financial reorganization which was approved by the Assembly in December 1947. He was Minister of National Defence in André Marie's Cabinet (July 1948) and in the second Schuman Cabinet (September 1948). He was Minister of Justice in the Government formed by Georges Bidault in October 1949 and in the first Plevén Cabinet of July 1950. As Vice-Premier and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs in the Cabinet constituted by René Plevén on August 11, 1951, he coordinated the departments of Finance, Economic Affairs, Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Reconstruction.

M. Mayer represented France in the United Nations Preparatory Commission and in the United Nations General Assembly in 1947. As a member of the French Foreign Affairs Committee in July 1949 he was in charge of drawing up the report which recommended to the French National Assembly approval of the Atlantic Pact. Within the Radical Socialist Party he opposed the position adopted by Edouard Herriot and Edouard Daladier, and favoured ratification of the European Defence Treaty with the addition of certain supplementary provisions.

M. Mayer became Prime Minister of France on January 8, 1953. He is Commander of the French Legion of Honour and holds the Croix de Guerre for distinguished service in World War I.
