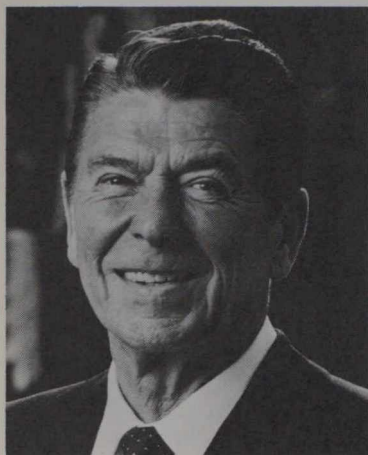


The Participants



Ronald Reagan



François Mitterrand



Margaret Thatcher

Ronald Reagan

President Ronald Reagan had a long pre-political public career as a sports announcer and actor, but he has been close to the centre of the political stage since he became Governor of California in 1967.

The details of his emergence as leader of the Republican Party and of his successful campaign for the presidency last year are familiar to readers of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI.

During his first five months in office the President has undertaken a major revision of the United States budget with the intention of cutting inflation while restoring vigorous economic growth. His principal techniques are reduced government spending, tax cuts to encourage industrial investment and accelerated depreciation to encourage capital formation.

François Mitterrand

François Mitterrand was born in Jarnac in the Charente Department on October 26, 1916. He is a lawyer and also holds degrees in humanities and political science.

He entered national politics in 1946 when he ran successfully for deputy from the Nièvre Department. He was reelected in every election but that of 1958.

He served as Minister of War Veterans (1947-1948), Secretary of State for Information (1948-1949), Minister of France Overseas (1950-1951), Minister of State (1952), Minister of the Interior (1954-1955) and Minister of State for Justice (1956-1957).

He became a member of the Democratic and Socialist Resistance Union in 1946 and served as chairman of the Federation of the Democratic and Socialist Left from 1965 to 1968. He was secretary general of the Socialist Party from 1971 to 1981.

On May 10 of this year he was elected President of France.

Mr. Mitterrand stated during the election campaign that his primary objective as President of France would be the reduction of unemployment, which reached the 6 per cent mark last year. He hopes to stimulate the economy by encouraging public and private investment, while holding down inflation through a rigorous monetary policy.

Pierre Trudeau

Pierre Elliott Trudeau appeared quite suddenly upon the Canadian political scene and became Prime Minister in 1968, less than three years after his first election to the House of Commons.

He had studied at the University of Montreal, Harvard, Ecole des Sciences Politiques in Paris and the London School of Economics, and had travelled in Europe, Russia, China, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

He was, and would remain, a deeply committed internationalist, and in 1970 he was already emphasizing the need to do something about the plight of the poorer nations. "We are not so much threatened by fascist or communist ideologies or even nuclear bombs as by the fact that two-thirds of the world goes to bed hungry every night." His Liberal Party won by a narrow margin in 1972 and by a substantial one in 1974. It lost in 1979 but won again less than a year later.

Margaret Thatcher

Margaret Hilda Thatcher became Prime Minister of Great Britain in the spring of 1979 when her Conservative Party substantially defeated the Labour Party.

She campaigned on a platform of less taxation, more law and order, restraints on union power, and less government involvement in business and everyday life.