

Minister of External Relations
Dr. Hector Gros Espiell

Dr. Hector Gros Espiell was born on September 17, 1926, in Montevideo. He obtained a degree in law and social sciences in 1952 from the Universidad de la República.

From 1959-1963, Dr. Gros Espiell taught law at the University of Montevideo and was an editor of *La Tribuna*, a local paper.

He joined the foreign ministry in 1963 and served as ambassador from 1964 to 1973. During this period he was Uruguay's representative to the United Nations General Assembly and the Organization of American States General Assembly.

From 1967 to 1972, Dr. Gros Espiell was Uruguay's permanent representative for United Nations and General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) agencies in Geneva.

Dr. Gros Espiell's interest in international law led him to the post of secretary general for the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Tlateloco Treaty) from 1973-1981. He has also represented his country at numerous United Nations conferences with particular emphasis on human rights.

Prior to becoming minister of external relations, Dr. Gros Espiell was director of the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights in San José, Costa Rica. He has also served as a judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Dr. Gros Espiell is married to the former Mercedes Cibils Puig and has two children: Maria, and Hector Guillermo.

