Hafez Al-Assad
President of Syria

Hafez Al-Assad was born in Qardaha on Oct. 6, 1930. He graduated from the Homs Military Academy in 1955 as an air force pilot.

In 1964, Mr. Al-Assad was appointed commander-in-chief of the Syrian air force. He became Minister of Defence in 1966, and Prime Minister in 1970. Currently he is commander-in-chief of the Syrian armed forces and secretary-general of the Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party.

Mr. Al-Assad was elected President of Syria in 1971.

Mr. Al-Assad is married and has five children.