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Robert BOULIN
(Phonetic: booLAN)

FRANCE
MICROFILMED

Minister Delegate to
the Prime Minister in
Charge of Economy and
Finance. (since March
1977)



Addressed as:
Mr. Minister

Minister for Parlia-
mentary Relations in
Prime Minister Raymond
Barre's first Cabinet
(August 1976-March 1977),
Robert Boulin is a well-
known national political
figure who has served with distinction under four
previous Prime Ministers. No stranger to the world
of economy and finance, he is a former Secretary of
State for the Budget (1962-66) and for Economy and
Finance (1967-68). Boulin is a longtime Gaullist,
and he is politically allied with Jacques Chaban-
Delmas, whom he backed for the Presidency against
Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in 1974. Boulin never-
theless has the confidence of Giscard and, like the
President, would like to see a broadening toward
the center-left of the present majority coalition
of Gaullists, Republicans and Centrists.

Courageous Administrator

[redacted] He apparently has a reputation as a
dynamic and resourceful politician, ready to take
the risks involved in tackling difficult problems.
As Agriculture Minister (1968-69), he was noted for
his courage in proposing much needed but unpopular
reforms to encourage marginal producers to leave
the soil and seek more useful occupations. With
the equally difficult portfolio of Public Health
and Social Security (1969-72), he was able to bring
about a minireform, known as the Boulin Plan, within
the social security program. He also devoted much

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time and energy to fighting France's growing drug problem. Because of his well-refined talents as a conciliator, Boulin twice was given the important post of Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Parliamentary Relations.

Background

Boulin served with Gen. Charles de Gaulle and was active in the Resistance during World War II. Educated in law, he has practiced his art for over 30 years in the city of Libourne, where he has also been mayor since 1959. He was elected to the National Assembly from Gironde as a Gaullist in 1958 and has been returned to that body in every succeeding election. Boulin, however, is especially proud of his 13 years (1961-73) of consecutive service in Gaullist Cabinets, a record unequaled by any other party member. He has also been active in business affairs, most notably as a high-ranking executive of the Perrier beverage firm. For relaxation he enjoys horseback riding. Married, he has a grown son and daughter. Boulin's proficiency in English is not known. He is 56 years old.

Career Highlights

1958-61; 1973-76	Deputy, National Assembly
1961-62	Secretary of State for Repatriation
1962-66	Secretary of State for Budget
1967-68	Secretary of State for Economy and Finance
May-Jul 1968	Minister of Civil Service
1968-69	Minister of Agriculture
1969-72	Minister of Public Health and Social Security
1972-73; Aug 1976-Mar 1977	Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Parliamentary Relations
30 Mar 1977-date	Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Economy and Finance

15 September 1977

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