

CIA/CR/79-12094..M

MICROFILMED

Robert BOULIN
(Phonetic: booLAN)

FRANCE

Minister of Labor
(since April 1978)

Addressed as:
Mr. Minister



A well-known Gaullist political figure, Robert Boulin has held eight different Cabinet posts during the last 18 years. By serving more than 14 years as a Cabinet officer, he has broken the longstanding record for ministerial longevity previously held by Jean-Baptiste Colbert, Minister of Finance under King Louis XIV during the 17th century. Before assuming his current portfolio, Boulin had worked with Prime Minister Raymond Barre as Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of Parliamentary Relations (1976-77) and then in Charge of Economy and Finance (1977-78). His earlier Cabinet portfolios included Civil Service (1968), Agriculture (1968-69), and Public Health and Social Security (1969-72).

During World War II, Boulin served with Gen. Charles de Gaulle and was active in the Resistance. Educated in law, he practiced in the city of Libourne, where he has been mayor since 1959. He was elected to the National Assembly (parliament) as a deputy from the Gironde Department in 1958 and has been reelected in every subsequent election. He has had to give up his parliamentary mandate, however, in order to serve in the Cabinet. During his early career, Boulin held a succession of junior ministerial posts as Secretary of State for Repatriation (1961-62), Secretary of State for Budget (1962-66), and Secretary of State for Economy and Finance (1967-68).

The 58-year-old Boulin holds the Croix de Guerre and the Medal of the Resistance. He is married to the former Colette Lalande and has two grown children, Bertrand and Fabienne. Boulin enjoys horseback riding.

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