

IN MEMORY OF MR. RAYMOND BARRE, HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF INSTITUT ASPEN FRANCE

It is with great sadness that Institut Aspen France learned of the death of Mr. Raymond Barre, former Prime Minister of France, former Mayor of Lyon and former Member of Parliament for the Rhône département, on Saturday, August 24th, 2007.

Raymond Barre became **Honorary Chairman of Institut Aspen France** in 2004, after having **presided over the Institute since 1994**.

Created in France by Olivier Mellerio in 1983, it was thanks to the efforts of Raymond Barre – then an MP for the Rhône département – that the Institute set up its headquarters in Lyon, to encourage exchanges of ideas and open, constructive dialogue on the international, national and regional levels.

Hundreds of personalities and leaders from around the world, from all economic, political and intellectual circles, the media, international and non-governmental organizations have since come to Aspen France to discuss the challenges and solutions of major contemporary problems under Raymond Barre's presidency, whether concerning Africa, the Mediterranean, Europe, Japan or China, as well as urban issues and questions of territorial dynamics.

Raymond Barre often shared his experience and his vision as a free spirit who was above partisan questions and made no concessions, discussing the upheavals in our world, notably the major challenges of development in the face of persistent poverty among parts of humanity.

Raymond Barre was also a respected professor and a true pedagogue: many leaders who had benefited from his courses later had the opportunity to see him again at the Aspen Roundtable. This was notably the case at the Europe-Africa conferences, which he initiated in 1994 with the support of Dr. Charles Mérioux.

More recently, he gave his support to the new political leadership program launched by the Institute in 2006, designed for the rising generation of men and women in politics who aspire to positions of responsibility in conducting the public affairs of our country in the coming years.

Michel Pébereau, Chairman of BNP Paribas, who succeeded Raymond Barre in 2004 as the head of the Institute, spoke today of *“the loss of a true Statesman, a great European, a remarkable economist and teacher, an independent mind turned toward the future and a man of conviction”*.

Institut Aspen France will continue to work in the same spirit of openness, respect and humanism shared by all Aspen Institutes around the world.

*Institut Aspen France is an independent, non-partisan, international center for discussion and dialogue. Michel Pébereau is the Chairman of the Supervisory Board and Elisabeth Lulin is the President of the Executive Board. It is affiliated with the international network of Aspen Institutes including **The Aspen Institute** in the United States and its counterparts in Berlin, Rome, Bucharest, Tokyo and New Delhi. Its objective is to organize informal international meetings for leaders and actors from the worlds of economics, politics, academia, trade unions, culture and the media, to encourage better mutual understanding and a better view of the economic and social developments facing them.*