Jean Teillac 1920-94

Former President of CERN Council
Jean Teillac died on 10 March. He was elected to that post in June 1978, at a critical time for CERN as the President-elect, Bernard Gregory, had died in December 1977 before assuming office.

His presidency saw a major change in CERN's profile. As well as the experimental programme at the then new SPS proton synchrotron coming to fruition, Professor Teillac's historic 1978-81 mandate also covered the launching, approval and final commissioning of the ambitious programme to convert the SPS into a proton-antiproton collider which revitalized CERN science. Finally in 1981, under his presidency, CERN Council voted the construction of the LEP electron-positron collider.

After assuming the chair of nuclear physics at Paris in 1958, Professor Teillac took on a series of key roles - Director of the famous Institut du Radium and Director of Orsay's Nuclear Physics Institute. In the 1960s he founded the French National Institute for Nuclear and Particle Physics (IN2P3), and from 1975 went on to be High Commissioner for Atomic Energy. Concurrently with his presidency of CERN Council, he also had a parallel role at Euratom's Joint European Torus (JET). His national and international accomplishments earned him the accolade of Officer of the Légion d'honneur.