



AREA FOCUS LECTURE SERIES

"France–U.S. Relations"

His Excellency
Jean-David Levitte
French Ambassador to the U.S.



Tuesday, 30 March
2:00 P.M.
238 HRCB

Jean-David Levitte has had a distinguished and outstanding career in the French foreign service, serving on the staff of two French Presidents and holding various senior positions in the French foreign service. Born in the south of France, Levitte earned a law degree and is a graduate of Sciences-Po (the renowned Institute for Political Science in Paris) and of the National School of Oriental Languages, where he studied Chinese and Indonesian. Having successfully passed the Foreign Service exam in 1970, he was first posted in Hong Kong and Beijing in the early 1970s. A few months after his election in 1974, President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing asked him to work on his staff at the Elysee Palace (1975–81). Levitte was then assigned to his first position in the United States as Second Counselor at the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York. Upon returning to Paris, he was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary in the African



Bureau. He was then assigned as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Foreign Minister (1986–88). In 1988, he was designated to his first position as Ambassador and served as the French Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva (1988–90). Returning to Paris in 1990, he held senior positions in the French Foreign Ministry, first as Assistant Secretary for Asia and then as Undersecretary for Cultural and Scientific Cooperation. After the presidential elections in 1995, President Chirac asked Levitte to be his Senior Diplomatic Adviser (1995–2000). President Chirac appointed him as French Permanent Representative to the United Nations in 2000, his most recent position before the present one. In New York, Ambassador Levitte successfully handled several international negotiations, including resolution 1441 on Iraq. Levitte and his wife, Marie-Cécile Jonas, have two daughters.

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