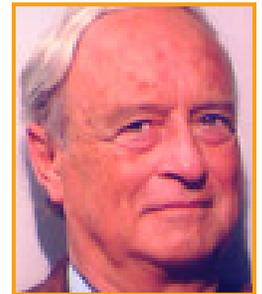




### CLAUDE HENRION, 1968 FRANCE

Former President, Institute of Strategic Deployment

Claude Henrion describes his “blessed,” seven-month, 1968 fellowship by examining the events of that world-shaking year. He writes, “The spring of 1968 was blooming throughout the U.S., in all its glory. But heavy clouds were appearing in the distance, and spreading fast. Soon, France would be partly destroyed by a series of total strikes never heard of before in history. The U.S. would be deeply wounded by a number of dramatic events, including the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., occurring while all the '68 Eisenhower Fellows were gathered in Princeton for our Opening Seminar. Within weeks, a wave of urban riots would rampage across the whole United States, from coast to coast. I personally remember roaming through Camden and Trenton, among rioters, with my new EF friend, Dr. Jose Luis de Imaz, '68, Argentina, and later visiting Washington D.C., and together with Mayor Walter Washington, personally touring areas of looting and burning while taking unforgettable pictures... a good way to discover firsthand yet another facet of this big country. Shortly thereafter, Senator Robert F. Kennedy was shot dead in L.A., just across the window from our hotel room, within walking distance ... Unforgettable experiences!”



Henrion says he felt the impact of his fellowship immediately when his employer (Canadian-based Massey-Ferguson Corporation) promoted him, at the age of 34, to board director and COO of the largest operations group, MF-UK, Ltd. The organization had four factories (among them the largest plant for tractors worldwide), 6,000 employees, and served 117 markets/countries.

Five years later, upon his return to France, Henrion took a teaching position at the highest level in France as a professor at Institut d'Electronique de Paris, a prestigious engineering university, and with ESSEC's MBA program. While teaching, he reinforced several concepts he acquired during his fellowship.

Henrion describes the effect of an Eisenhower Fellowship as twofold. It dramatically enhanced his networks, both professional and personal, on wider international bases, and provided a greater understanding for the way he read any problem occurring in his life. This unique opportunity of being plunged into a different “atmosphere” for seven months resulted in new ways of comprehending the world and new attitudes of actual leaders coming from so many different horizons.

Eisenhower Fellowships had a deep impact on many aspects of Henrion's subsequent 40 years of professional life, as well as his personal life. “It is impossible now,” he writes, “to envisage what life I could have had without the impact of this fantastic experience in terms of friends and international contacts on all continents...I must say that the many friends kept, with care and pride throughout the world, are still playing an outstanding role in my life.”

**Leaders bettering the world around them.**