



Célébration en l'honneur du 75ème anniversaire de Robert Aymar

CERN – 24 Mai 2011 – Salle du Conseil

La Parole est à la Défense.....de la Vérité

--Heartfelt Thanks to the DG Rolf Heuer

I was reluctant to accept this CelebrationI have enjoyed the time to prepare for.....

--Heartfelt Thanks to all of you who have spared their time to come to CERN to remember our work together

--Heartfelt Thanks to the Speakers: I appreciate your friendly words
I have enjoyed your kind anecdotes....but surprised to hear so few critics and complaints,
which should have understandably..... remained hidden until I left office

Une amicale pensée à travers les airs pour Catherine Césarsky

Mes respectueux sentiments pour mon Parrain dans la Légion d'Honneur, Bernard Bigot,
qui a permis que je sois aujourd'hui doublement honoré: **un Grand Merci !!**

I would like to add a personal note on the description of my professional life, to justify or at least explain why I did what I did: [a message to the “ Young”?](#)

1- [Scientific Research and Societal needs:](#)

-- You have been told that I made very young the choice, original at that time, of working in research (rather than in bank or industry) in a “to-be” scientific discipline : Plasma Physics, oriented towards Thermonuclear Fusion.

I was dragged to this line by a Visionary man: Georges Vendryès.

-- [I was looking for new results, discoveries to come,.... a risky direction !](#)

[contributing to solving a long-term social need: cheap and plentiful Energy.](#)

-- 50 years have passed, the social needs have increased and diversified, their solution wait for ideas and discoveries, for more Science. There is a necessity for a shift in the role and place of Science and the need to restore trust between Science and Society, [what is described as a New Renaissance by ERAB](#), an independent Committee, chaired by John Wood, to advise the EU Commission.

-- [Researchers should be mobilized to speak for knowledge and attract the “Young”, as CERN is excellently doing .](#)

2- Scientific Research, Organization and Democracy:

- You have been told my interest in organization and management: it is the result of my strong personal belief that Research is:
 - . a collective process around the brightest brains, which calls for an appropriate organization and democratic content,
 - . a global process of calls for collaboration, which speaks (brings?) for peace.

- I continue to be convinced that Science is a source and a pillar of democracy, even if a real experience in Laboratory around 1968 induced me to be doubtful. It was the problems linked to:
 - . how to decide on the laboratory research programmes and organize their implementation?
 - . how election or appointment should or could be used, for which responsible positions

- There are probably no general solutions to apply to these important issues. **One very important factor to consider is the common values and collective ambitions of the community.** The CERN conditions can be a good example: election to head a permanent organization, appointment for a temporary project and necessity of an arbitration process.

Born in 1936

1954-1956 Ecole Polytechnique

1956-1958 Ecole des Poudres et Salpêtres

1958 IAEA Geneva Conference: Fusion declassified

1959 EURATOM: Fusion as unique EU research

1959 Secondment to CEA (French Atomic Energy Commission)

1963-1964 UC-Berkeley : Plasma Physics Lab Prof. Van Atta

1968....1972 Diverse Commitments

1968 IAEA Conf. Novosibirsk: Fusion Renaissance

1969-1973 TFR built at Fontenay under P-H Rebut

1973-1974 Institute Max Planck- Plasma Physics (Garching-DE)

1973-1978 JET Design (Culham-UK) under P-H Rebut

1978-1983 JET built at Culham; Dir.Wuester from CERN

3- International Collaboration in Research...The problem of ERA:

- In the minds of its founders in 1954, CERN was thought to become a Laboratory of excellence open to the collaboration of all scientists, but also to help rebuilding a new peaceful Europe after years of bloody fights: **what an enlightening and generous message to guide researchers in their work !**
- I had the opportunity to follow this line of conduct, finding in addition that **promoting international cooperation in research provided more visibility to the programmes, usually better efficiency in the collective implementation and easier public support.** Examples in my professional life: a unique Fusion programme in Europe as soon as 1959, realization and operation of JET, US Labs collaboration with TORE SUPRA, andCERN and ITER.
- I was probably lucky to live with these examples, or blind to trends I don't like to acknowledge and against which I think we should resist: **the loss of confidence in progress towards an European Research Area and the return towards national interest in isolation.** Only 15% of total public funding in Europe is invested in collaboration between Member States across borders ! The success of EIROs is forgotten; more similar ones should be added...Large Public Research Organizations should build permanent Alliances to help European governments to overcome their short-lived diverging policies.

Après ces quelques commentaires de l'intimité de mes choix professionnels:

- engagement pour la Recherche Scientifique,
- intérêt pour les valeurs partagées qui unissent la collectivité vers un objectif commun et permettent son organisation, son efficacité et son succès,
- promotion de la collaboration internationale, en particulier de l'unification de l'Europe malgré les insuffisances actuelles,
- confiance dans les exigences démocratiques.

Je voudrais partager l' **Honneur** qui m'est fait par cette Décoration que vous m'avez remise, Cher Monsieur Bigot, **avec la Communauté qui m'entoure aujourd'hui**. Elle représente tous ceux qui ont oeuvré avec moi pendant de longues années et qui méritent également d'être distingués.

Je les assure de mon estime jamais démentie pour leur engagement collectif et les remercie chaleureusement de l'aide qu'ils m'ont apportée en permanence avec une mention particulière pour mon Assistante de 30 ans, **Annick Lyraud**.

Une pensée spéciale pour mon épouse et ma famille, qui n'ont probablement pas profité de la présence ou reçu l'attention qu'ils méritaient de ma part, pas suffisamment disponible.

Je suis donc le Père ou le Parrain de TORE SUPRA, d' ITER, du LHC et potentiellement CLIC: j'en suis fier et heureux de souhaiter à leurs équipes la réalisation des succès scientifiques attendus.

GLORIEUX FUTUR ET GRAND MERCI A TOUS !