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PRESS RELEASE

René Gonon, former Chairman of GTM, has died.

René Gonon, GTM's Chairman for fifteen years, died on June 28, 2001 at the age of ninety-six. The funeral was held privately on July 2, 2001.

Born on May 15, 1906, a graduate of the Ecole Polytechnique and a Ponts et Chaussées civil engineer, he began his career in the French Railways. He joined GTM in 1954 as CEO and was its Chairman from 1957 to 1972. He put his stamp on the company.

- As an innovator he sought to develop the utilisation of prestressed concrete and designed a tunnel composed of several prefabricated compartments made of that material. The innovative technique was implemented in Havana between 1955 and 1958.
- As a developer, he took part in GTM's international expansion based on large projects such as the Keban dam on the Euphrates in Turkey, the Cabora Bassa dam on the Zambezi in Mozambique and the Tarbela dam, the largest in the world to date, on the Indus in Pakistan. He developed offshore activity by setting up ETPM in 1965. He enabled GTM to participate in the nuclear endeavour in France by establishing a good position for his company on the nuclear plant construction market.
- As a visionary, he originated GTM's concessions policy with, as its first achievement, the Haussmann car park in Paris. He helped set up Cofiroute in the early 1970s.

He remained Chairman of GTM until 1972, sat on the Boards of Directors of a number of other companies such as UTE and Soletanche and was Chairman of Garonor between 1971 and 1976. Within the industry his influence was considerable. As head of the Chambre Syndicale de l'Entreprise Française à l'Etranger, he took an active part in the preparatory work for the Sixth Plan by chairing the groups on industry structures and business administration methods improvement. His influence reached far beyond the civil engineering sector. He was elected *conseiller d'escompte* of the Bank of France in 1966 and joined its General Council two years later, where he remained until 1972. Between 1973 and 1977 he chaired the standing committee on public facilities and housing at the CNPF (French employers' federation). He put his permanent stamp on GTM where, as he described it, he based his actions on three principles: team spirit, trust and outspokenness.

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