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PRESS RELEASE

Raymond Guitonneau, former Chairman of
Campenon Bernard, has died.

Raymond Guitonneau, who was Chairman of Campenon Bernard (VINCI Group) for almost fifteen years, died on 26 March 2001, aged 79.

His funeral was held on Saturday 31 March 2001.

Born on 13 August 1921, he graduated from Ecole Polytechnique, was a qualified engineer from Ponts et Chaussées, and held a science degree. He spent close to twenty five years in government service before entering the private sector.

His career began in 1948 as a state road construction engineer in the hydraulic works department at Marrakech, where he was in charge of everything related to water in the southern half of Morocco, in particular irrigation in the Haouz plain and the Sous and Draa valleys.

In 1953 he became engineer at the port of Dunkirk, then head of operations and later director, before being appointed chief Ponts et Chaussées engineer on 1 January 1963. He enthusiastically pursued his ambition of completing construction of the port facilities and its successful operation, but more especially of designing and building, in conjunction with Usinor, the first steel plant at a waterside location in France.

In 1964, he became general engineer in charge of new works for the Paris transport authority RATP, before moving to general design, with the particular responsibility of building the first RER fast suburban line, on the most difficult part of the route crossing Paris from Nation to La Défense.

The Council of Ministers meeting on 1 March 1967 appointed him General Manager of Aéroport de Paris tasked with managing the construction of the second terminal at Orly and the first phase of Roissy airport, whilst at the same time overseeing a process of reform in government departments.

Just when it appeared he would continue his career as a very high-ranking civil servant, he left government service to found Société des Autoroutes Rhône-Alpes-AREA, where he was chief executive officer until 1974 and then chairman until 1977. He said that what had attracted him was that a concession company enabled him to control the three essential functions in the construction process: as customer, prime contractor, and builder.

In 1974, Générale des Eaux and Paribas, the two largest shareholders in Campenon Bernard, asked him to take over management of the Group, whose financial health was being endangered by loss-making building activities.

As deputy chairman and CEO from October 1974 to October 1975, then Chairman and CEO until June 1980, Raymond Guitonneau reorganised the Group, broadened its scope by focusing once again on major projects abroad and merged, under the name of Campenon Bernard Cetra, Campenon Bernard's and Capag-Cetra's contracting activities.

As Chairman of Campenon Bernard's Supervisory Board from July 1980 to June 1985, he supported the formation within the Group of a new building division by setting up Campenon Bernard Construction in 1981 and contributed to the renewal of substantial property development activities, in particular through the Group's participation in the regeneration of the La Défense district.

He has left a lasting imprint on the Campenon Bernard Group.

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