

# AMBASSADOR JOHN A. McKESSON III

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background	
Early life/education in France	
Navy service in WWII	
Failed orals because not ‘American’ enough	
Entrance into Foreign Service	
Reykjavik	1947-1951
Consular work/Deputy Chief of ECA mission	
Work in ECA mission	
U.S. troops in Iceland	
Berlin	1951-
Economic officer	
Berlin before and after the war	
Crossing to East Berlin	
Problems with movement of goods from West to East	
Bonn	1953-
Political officer	
Transition from occupation to independence	
Impressions of German democracy in 1953	
Saigon	1955-1957
Political officer	
Aftermath of French defeat	
Peaceful period for country	
Factional disputes	
Terrorist activity	
Emergence of Diem as major political figure	
Impressions of Vietnamese officials	
Nature of work	
Attack on hotel and rescue of Perle Mesta	
Paris	1957-1960
Internal political affairs section	
Gaullist election success	
Military mutiny in Algiers	
Impressions of de Gaulle	
French reaction to de Gaulle	
State	1963-1964

Personnel Operations Division  
National War College  
Executive Secretariat  
Impressions of Dean Rusk and George Ball  
Failure of American leaders to understand Foreign Service

Senegal	1964-
Deputy Chief of Mission	
Impressions of U.S. Africa policy	
Senghor and Diouf	
Dakar	1966-1968
Deputy Chief of Mission	
Ambassador Mercer Cook	
Dispute over aid	
Impression of French in Senegal	
Bureau of African Affairs	1968-1970
Director for West African Affairs	
Joe Palmer and David Newsom	
Lack of White House interest	
Dealings with Kissinger	
Turnaround in relations with Gabon	
Ambassador to Gabon	1970-1973
French interest in warmer relations	
Recovery of Gabonese relations after coup and invasion	
Nature of work as ambassador	
U.S. business interests in Gabon	
Forgery of CIA documents	
Bongo's visit to Washington	
Lack of human touch in American diplomats	
Conclusion	
Role of Foreign Service in U.S. foreign policy	