

Obituary

Joseph Fontanet (1921–1980)

Joseph Fontanet, the ex-minister in the Cabinets of both general de Gaulle and Georges Pompidou, was senselessly murdered in the early hours of February 1, 1980. The responsibility for the murder of Mr. Fontanet was claimed by the terrorists of the “Brigades autonomes révolutionnaires”.

Joseph Fontanet was an early and active member of the Circle of Human Systems Management, contributor to HSM Co-Enzyme and an avid student of the theory of organizations and the systems approach to political process. He was scheduled to deliver a lecture, “Pour une meilleure maîtrise du budget social: des macro-regulations et des micro-regulations a instaurer?”, on March 4, 1980, at the University of Paris Seminar on Systems, Economics and Management, organized by Professor Bernard Roy. He never saw the first issue of HSM which he was patiently awaiting for so many years.

Human Systems Management is much poorer by the loss of Mr. Fontanet. The inhuman killing of a “homme affable et droit” only underlines the need for humanization of the political process – one of the dimensions which Fontanet was hoping that HSM would acquire.

We shall remember Joseph Fontanet through the words of Alain Peyrefitte: “Les anciens collègues et les amis de Joseph Fontanet sont accablés de tristesse. Energique sous son apparente douceur, acharné au travail avec discrétion, il restera dans leurs mémoires comme un modèle de passion pour le service des autres et de fermeté dans les convictions.”

As a small tribute to Joseph Fontanet we reprint a review of his book, *le Social et le Vivant*, as it appeared earlier in the Co-Enzyme, in his native language of French.