

## **H.E. Amb Gérard ARAUD**

**Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations**

### ***“French diplomacy at the forefront?”***

Monday 4th April 2011

French diplomacy has been lauded for centuries with King Louis XIV using it as a potent tool of negotiation in the 17th century. In 1626, Cardinal Richelieu instituted the first modern foreign ministry in France: the Ministry of External Affairs.

Today, in the United Nations, Ambassador Gerard Araud of France executes his highly visible role as a member of the P5 in the Security Council with calm effectiveness. This affable Ambassador is taking French diplomacy to the forefront.

He was the Director-General for Political and Security Affairs in the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Paris for four years before being posted to New York in September 2009. Prior to that he was the Ambassador to Israel; Political Counsellor in Washington D.C. and held a string of high-profile positions in the Foreign and Defence Ministries.

Ambassador Araud is a graduate of Ecole Polytechnique and of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration.