



*President
John F.
Kennedy*

Normally one would not expect a head of State to have much to do with an international organisation, but the OECD owes unusually much to the late John F. Kennedy because of his invigorating influence in its formative stage.

He became President of our biggest Member state just after the signature of the Convention, and his Administration made the United States a very active partner in our work. He understood the interdependence of the continents which he stressed in a famous speech. If the OECD has become a real Atlantic organisation, it is to a large extent due to the wholehearted participation of the Kennedy Administration.

The President personally took a lively interest in economic affairs. He asked his advisers for papers every now and then, and he found time to read them in spite of his enormous workload. It was highly stimulating to discuss our problems with him. He asked good questions, and his own answers were quick and to the point.

It is difficult to accept that he is no longer among us. We will always remember him as an exceptionally courageous and positive leader of men in a troubled world.

Thorkil KRISTENSEN,
Secretary-General of the OECD.