



Jean-Pierre Gontard | Class of 1967

Throughout his career, Jean-Pierre Gontard embarked on a remarkable journey spanning continents and disciplines. From his tenure at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to his appointment by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) as a mediator, he navigated conflict zones in Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and beyond. His pivotal role in facilitating dialogue between warring factions in Africa, Asia, and later in Colombia, along with his contributions to academia and cultural initiatives, underscores his profound commitment to humanitarian causes and cross-border collaboration. Through his endeavours, Jean-Pierre Gontard exemplifies the transformative impact of individuals dedicated to fostering peace and understanding on a global scale.



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During one of his trips to Jordan for the ICRC during the Black September conflict that opposed the Jordanian monarchy and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1971, Gontard had the opportunity to negotiate with Yasser Arafat.



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Gontard alongside representatives of the Colombian government, employers union and leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), whom he successfully convinced to gather at Les Diablerets in 2000 for a day of confidential discussions.



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As an envoy of the FDFA for the peace process in Colombia, he contributed to the release of hundreds of hostages. Here, he is seen negotiating with FARC spokesperson Raul Reyes in 2005.

