

# Prof honored

## Mitterrand cites Reddy and CMU

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With searchlights sweeping the campus and hundreds of onlookers waiting in the rain to greet him, French President Francois Mitterrand came to Carnegie Mellon University last night to call for "a universal chain for the transfer of knowledge "

After noting the joint efforts of CMU and France in spreading Computer literacy throughout the world, Mitterrand give special recognition to Professor Raj Reddy, director of CMU's Robotics Institute by awarding him the Legion of honor, France's highest award

Addressing 600 people in the university's Skibo Hall ballroom and hundreds more watching on closed circuit television in two other rooms, the Socialist leader called upon the United States and other industrialized nations to begin a global effort to spread computer knowledge.

"That's more important than financial assistance," he said, comparing his idea to the Marshall Plan which helped war-torn Europe recover after the World War II.

"It is not a question of just imitating [the Marshall Plan]," he said. "Let us have the courage to have a new look at things."

As the audience listened on the headsets as the speech was translated from French to English, Mitterrand called for "a universal chain of the transfer of knowledge ... This is this chain would step by step touch all the population of the planet."

This vision is not a pipe dream, he said, "but something which has actually started."

For example, Mitterrand noted the progress made by France and CMU through the World Center for Personal Computation and Human Resource in Paris, established about two years ago.

The French-funded center, with Reddy as its chief scientist and another CMU professor as director has begun to train unemployed youths throughout France to use microcomputers. It has also established national networks of researchers who use computers to attack medical and agricultural problems, and has set up computer centers throughout the country that are open daily for public use.

The world center has established computer links to other centers throughout the world, including some in the third world nations such as Tunisia and Senegal.

The French president, who has increased the World Center's budget in the midst of a national austerity program, says he sees the computer as a tool not only for the economic growth but also for the development of the talents of all individuals.

"Computer literacy is the very basis of everything in education," Mitterrand said. CMU already has recognized this, he noted, with its plan for linking all students and faculty on the campus with thousands of personal computers.

Before presenting his nation's highest award to Reddy, Mitterrand called the international is renowned scientist "a tireless builder of the networks of knowledge." He then pinned the red ribbon and medal to Reddy's coat and kissed him on both cheeks.

Reddy, among the founders of the world center, praised Mitterrand in return. "It is fantastic that a leader of the world had chosen to make a major policy statement about the potential impact of the scientific revolution that is engulfing us and has the courage to ask not merely "How can it help the economy?" but rather "How can it help the people?"

CMU President Richard M Cyert presented the 67-year-old French President with two works of art created on a computer by CMU art professor Harry Holland. They then headed for a private reception for about 200 people at CMU, including Mayor Caliguiri , business leaders and French officials.

The French president's visit to CMU, the second last stop in this eight-day US trip presented its own technical challenges to the University. About 600 headsets were rented from a Washington DC firm and a special translation booth constructed in the ballroom.

Three searchlights and 82 spotlights we'll set up on the campus in the last several days to light the campus "like a jewel" at the request of the French official , a CMU spokeswoman said.

Mitterrand was to leave last night for New York, his final stop in the United States

Besides ready, those awarded the Legion of Honor during Mitterrand's trip included San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein and Atlanta Mayor Andrew young.