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Qian Zhengying (1923–). Chinese politician. She was born in the USA, but her family returned to China when she was a baby. Her father, a civil engineer who worked in water conservancy, encouraged her to become one of China's first women engineers. She became involved in revolutionary groups in 1937 in Shanghai, and two years after going to Datong University she became Secretary of an underground Communist Party group there (1941). From 1942 to 1947 she lived in the liberated zones, beginning her work with flood relief in 1944. During 40 years of practical experience she rose to become Minister of Water Conservancy in 1975 and also of Power since 1982, an extremely important position. She has been a member of the State Council since 1982.

Quant, Mary (1934–). British designer and businesswoman. Born in London, she had a disjointed education at numerous schools before enrolling at Goldsmiths' College of Art. She began designing in 1955, when she opened her shop Bazaar in Chelsea, with two partners; one of them was Alexander Plunket-Greene, whom she later married in 1957. Beginning with single garments made up overnight and sold the next day, they soon employed seamstresses, and their success eventually led them to adopt mass production. During the 1960s Quant became internationally famous for her casual clothes and spicy colours, and especially for her popularization of the mini-skirt. In 1965 she had her first American show, and in 1966, having helped to make London a centre of fashion, she was awarded the OBE. She won many awards and at this stage was producing over 20 collections a year. After 1970 the

pace slowed and she became a member of the fashion establishment, rather than a radical innovator; she was made a member of the Design Council (1971), an adviser to the British-American Bicentennial Liaison Committee (1973), and a consultant to the Victoria and Albert Museum (1976–8). In 1973 she was the focus of an exhibition, 'Mary Quant's London', at the London Museum. Quant then moved from clothes to cosmetics, building a huge franchise business which became a part of the Max Factor empire, and she also gave her name to household textiles, linen and interior decorations.

M. Quant: *Quant by Quant* (1966)

Questiaux [née Valayer], Nicole (Françoise) (1931–). French politician. Born in Nantes, the daughter of an engineer, she married Paul Questiaux in 1951; they have two children. She graduated in politics from the University of Paris, studied at the École Nationale d'Administration (1953–5), and became an *auditeur* to the Council of State in 1955, and then a full member of the Council (1963–74). Her special area of concern was with administrative disputes, and problems relating to the elderly. In 1971 she was prominent in the launching of the new Socialist Party, becoming a member in 1979 of its executive committee and of the left-wing group Comité d'Études Régionales' Economiques et Sociales (CERES). After the inauguration of François Mitterrand she was Minister of State for National Solidarity, 1981–2. Other women ministers in recent years have included YVETTE ROUDY (Women's Rights), Edith Cresson (Industry), Edwige Alice (Youth) and Georgina Dufoix (Social Affairs).