NEW IBERIA - Acadiana Regional Airport at New Iberia will become a beehive of bilingual activity Saturday and Sunday as 95 students and teachers from throughout Louisiana prepare to enplane for five-week “Living-In-French” and “French Studies” programs in Quebec. The public is invited to the departure ceremonies.

Detail arrangements for the occasion were announced today in a joint announcement by the Iberia Parish Police Jury, the Iberia Parish Airport Authority and the Council For The Development of French in Louisiana. More than a dozen governmental agencies and Iberia civic organizations are participating in the program.

Starting Saturday
Participants will begin arriving Saturday at 2 p.m. for registration. They will take part in a special program of welcome and orientation at 4 p.m., enjoy a barbecue, spend the night at the air base and leave by Southern Airways charter flight Sunday morning.

Patout Burns, president of the Iberia School Board, will serve as master of ceremonies. A French welcome will be extended by Ernest Fouquier, Iberia Police Jury president. Sen. Francis Romero, chairman of the airport authority; New Iberia Mayor J. Allen Daigre and other state and local officials will be on the platform.

James Domegeaux, chairman of CODOFIL, will review the Council’s student program. Leo LeBlanc, Quebec government representative in Louisiana will be joined by Miss Marie Roy, a Quebec camp representative, for orientation. A young Louisianian who has taken part in exchange junkets will cite some experiences.

Congressman Patrick Caffery is scheduled to speak also.

More than 120 persons including 14 teachers and 12 student rally winners in Louisiana French competition will take part in the five week activity. Teachers and students from the New Orleans area will leave for Quebec from the New Orleans International Airport on the same day as the New Iberia activity.

Project Grows

This CODOFIL undertaking has more than tripled in size since last year.

While in Quebec the teachers and some of the students will participate in a study program at the College de Jonquiere on Lake St. John north of Quebec City and will be able to earn six credit hours in French-Canadian humanities. Student age groups vary from 16 to 20.

While the four week study program is underway at Jonquiere, the other Louisiana students will be enrolled in summer camps in Quebec Province and will be taught French in an informal camp setting. They will also be joined by young people from Canada and France and will engage in organized games and informal recreational activities.