Acadian Culture
Link Draws Near

A cultural link between Acadians in Canada and those in South Louisiana is about to be put into operation, and is receiving the plaudits of members of the Acadian Committee of Franco-America in Lafayette, according to Thomas Arceneaux, co-chairman of the committee.

The agreement, announced Friday by Roy Theriot, Abbeville, Louisiana state comptroller, will provide for the exchange of students, teachers, lecturers and artists, with the Canadian Maritime Provinces.

The program will enable South Louisiana Acadians to visit in Canada for the purposes of "polishing their knowledge of Acadian culture and the French language," Arceneaux told the Advertiser last night.

One of the advantages of such a program, according to Arceneaux, would be the training of South Louisianaans for service for the federal government in foreign countries.

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foreign countries. Many local persons of Acadian descent have a profound knowledge of tropical agriculture, he said. If they could combine a thorough knowledge of the French language with their knowledge of agriculture, they could do double service to the U.S. government in such areas as Africa, he explained.

Arceneaux, who is dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, said that a UI student, Kenneth Lefleur, is spending the summer in Canada at the invitation of Hon. Arcenault, secretary of the province of Quebec. Lefleur made arrangements for the trip when Arcenault was in Lafayette in April to introduce his book on Acadian genealogy. The Canadian official will return to Lafayette Aug. 15 as representative of Quebec for the feast of Our Lady of the Assumption.

The trip, said that the exchange program will "save the heritage" of 600,000 Acadians descended from settlers expelled from the Canadian provinces.

An Acadian himself, Theriot said the cultural exchange agreement will be signed soon. If the agreement is recognized under international law, Louisiana, it would probably deal with Quebec through Washington, he said.

"I think it is time for us this year, when we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the first Acadians to dedicate ourselves to the preservation of our rich and noble heritage," Theriot said.