Canada Diplomat to Aid in French Renaissance

LAFAYETTE, La.—Jean Charles Cantin, Canada’s new consul-general in Louisiana, will make his first official visit to Acadiana Dec. 6-9 to make a “substantial financial contribution” from his government to the state’s French renaissance movement and to participate in a series of special events in four southwest Louisiana parishes.

The timetable arranged by the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODIFIL) calls for visits in Vermilion Parish Dec. 6; an Iberia Parish schedule Dec. 7; a trip into Evangeline Parish Dec. 8 and programs in Lafayette Parish Dec. 8 and 9.

“... The Canadian government will make a substantial gratuity toward the CODIFIL program,” through its Louisiana-based consul-general, CODIFIL chairman James Domengeaux stated.

Abbeville Mayor James Vorhoff, Vermillion Parish Clerk of Court Irby Hebert and Vermilion Parish CODIFIL Chapter president Alden Soirez will coordinate the consul-general’s visit to Vermilion. Cantin and his party will travel from Lafayette for ceremonies at Abbeville City Hall Wednesday morning.

Events in Vermilion Parish include dedication of the international Hug-The-Coast Highway. The consul-general will be briefed on the development of oil and gas industry in Vermilion and will inspect the offshore oil base at Intracoastal City. Lunch is scheduled at Intracoastal City to be followed by a walking tour of Cushing Avenue in Kaplan, where Cantin will talk in French with townspeople. A reception will be held at Comeaux Recreation Center in Abbeville Wednesday night.

Mrs. Vernon Voorhies, president of the Iberia Parish CODIFIL Chapter, is arranging the consul-general’s Iberia activities.

Mamou attorney Paul Tate and Mrs. Druoet Vidrine of Ville Platte are coordinating events scheduled for Friday in Evangeline Parish.

Domengeaux and CODIFIL central staff member Pete Perrodin will coordinate activities in Lafayette.