Canadian Consul General Pays Visit To Acadiana

Jean Charles Cantin, newly appointed Consul General of Canada for the southern states, who arrived in New Orleans on October 16, will visit Acadiana today through Saturday, announced James Domengeaux, Chairman, the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

Cantin and his wife, Denyse, will make this visit to Lafayette and surrounding areas to acquaint themselves with the French-speaking people of Louisiana, and to present a substantial gratuity to the CODOFIL program from the Canadian Government.

Received By Mayor

Special events will take place in Vermilion, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry and Evangeline parishes on the 6th, 7th and 8th of December. In Lafayette he will be received by the Mayor and public officials to be presented the keys to the city; visit the University of Southwestern Louisiana and meet with President Rougeou and the French-speaking faculty and engage in an all day quail hunt.

Cantin will assume charge of Canadian Government interests in the states of Louisiana, Okla., Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama. A former member of Parliament in the federal government, Cantin is a native of Quebec City. As Parliamentary Secretary to Federal Cabinet Ministers in the Departments of Transport, Trade and Commerce and Justice, Cantin headed numerous committees and international missions to the USA, France and Gabon, Africa. He served as his town's Mayor for several years and is a lawyer by profession.

Worldwide Acceptance

Domengeaux cited this occasion as another example of the growing worldwide acceptance of the movement to preserve and expand the French language. With the acceptance of the bilingual programs on the local level, to the State level, with the unanimous approval of the Governor, Legislature, public officials, both French-speaking and Anglo-Saxon and the State Department of Education, and now acceptance on the international level with interested and active support, the expansion and preservation of the French language will be an ongoing program in creating a bilingual society for the state of Louisiana, stated Domengeaux.