Cooperation Discussed
By Quebec, Louisiana

The annual meeting of representatives of the Quebec and Louisiana governments to discuss areas of cooperation took place on Feb. 7 and 8 in Quebec City. The meeting was presided over by Robert Normand, deputy minister of intergovernmental affairs, and Kelly Nix, superintendent of education for Louisiana, and James Domengeaux, president of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODEFIL).

Nix and Domengeaux were received by the high-level representatives of the Quebec government, including Prime Minister, Rene Levesque, Jacques-Yvan Morin, minister of education, and Claude Morin, minister of intergovernmental affairs. The Louisiana delegation represented the United States at the reception for foreign delegates held during the Winter Carnaval at the City Hall of Quebec.

In welcoming the Louisiana representatives, the president of the Quebec delegation expressed his awareness of the significant contributions Louisiana has made during the past years toward the development of the French language and culture in the United States. He stated that he is confident that the cooperation between the two countries in the areas of education and culture will continue to expand in the coming years. He noted the significance of the personal participation of Nix in the deliberations of the commission.

On behalf of the Louisiana delegation, Nix expressed great appreciation for the major assistance Quebec has provided to Louisiana and further stated that French language programs would be given priority status in the coming four years of his new administration. Nix announced that he would organize an in-depth study with the best available experts to present for Louisiana a master plan for French instruction.

Louisiana hopes to receive from Quebec a bilingual technician in television capable of producing programs in French and assisting the local Louisianans personnel during one year, an educational assistant, and 50 foreign associate teachers. Louisiana is also seeking an audio-visual training program in Quebec, a new teacher training program at McGill University in Montreal, and continuation of the various summer study and exchange programs, involving hundreds of high school and college students.

Quebec will be represented in CODEFIL's Tribute to Cajun Music Festival, to be held May 24-26 in Lafayette, and Quebec will receive Acadian musicians during its summer festival, "La Riente des Peuples Frangois," in July. CODEFIL and the Quebec Delegation in Lafayette will organize a charter flight of 50 Louisianans in travel to Quebec for this event.