DOMENGEAUX MEETS LEVESQUE — Two leaders of North American French Culture, Quebec Prime Minister Rene Levesque (right) and Louisiana’s CODOFIL Chairman James Domengeaux (left), plan the 370th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City by Samuel de Champlain. Celebrations will last from June 23 through July 3 in Quebec City.

Domengeaux Visits With Canadian Officials

James Domengeaux, chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), visited Canada recently to discuss with government officials various existing and new programs between Ottawa, Toronto, Quebec and Louisiana pertaining to the French language renaissance movement in Louisiana.

Domengeaux first visited Ottawa, the federal capital, and was given a state dinner by the President of the Senate, Mrs. Renaude Lapointe. The dinner was attended by 60 members of Parliament and other high government officials. Negotiations were begun to obtain additional “animateurs” or people engaged in developing French language activities in communities throughout Louisiana.

In Toronto, Domengeaux met with William G. Davis, Prime Minister of the Province of Ontario, to discuss educational films in French, a field in which Ontario excels. Ontario is a primarily English-speaking province with a sizable French-speaking minority. CODOFIL is currently engaged in trying to open the way for French-language programs produced in Ontario to be broadcast over Louisiana Public Television.

In Quebec City, the annual meeting of the Joint Quebec-Louisiana Committee was held to discuss various aspects of the long-existing agreement between Quebec and Louisiana. Representing Louisiana were Domengeaux and Homer Dyess, coordinator of foreign languages in the State Department of Education. The Quebec government was represented by Richard Pouliot, assistant deputy minister of intergovernmental affairs, and Jules Poisson, resident commissioner of Quebec in Louisiana. Agreements were reached on associate teachers and exchange programs. Domengeaux and Dyess also met with Claude Morin, minister of intergovernmental affairs; Robert Burns, minister of parliamentary reform; Denis Vaugeols, minister of cultural affairs; Pierre Bellefeuille, representative; and Mac Namara, consul general of the U.S. in Quebec City.

Domengeaux conferred with Rene Levesque, prime minister of Quebec, who invited Louisiana to send a delegation of citizens to join in the celebration of the 370th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City from June 23 until July 4. Quebec City, the capital of the Province of Quebec, was founded by Samuel de Champlain in 1608 and is the oldest French city in North America.

Domengeaux said: “Quebec furnished early Louisiana with explorers, pioneers and officials. Additionally, Quebec was the first government to recognize and assist our French renaissance movement in 1969. This trip will be a wonderful opportunity for Louisianans to rediscover their roots.”

Anyone interested should contact CODOFIL, P.O. Box 3936, Lafayette, Louisiana, 70502, phone (318) 233-1020.