To Work with CODOFIL on Bilingualism

In a continuing effort to attain bilingualism, Gov. Edwin W. Edwards has announced the creation of the International Municipal and Bilingualism Committee (IMBC) composed of all the mayors and police jury presidents to work with the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), a state agency designed to preserve, develop and expand the French language in this deep-South State.

This committee will make Louisiana part of a world-wide movement of international exchanges brought about mainly by the twinning of cities and towns, and related activities.

The newly-formed Committee has the immediate support of the United Towns Organization, a similar association in France which has the backing of the United Nations and UNESCO. United Towns will send a permanent representative to Louisiana to work with its counterpart here.

"In today's shrinking world, bilingualism plays an ever-increasingly demanding and necessary role," Edwards said. He added: "French in Louisiana is one of our great natural assets. The renaissance of the French-speaking world, motivates me to create this Committee which is directed to develop and promote bilingualism by exchange of students, the twinning of towns, the development of international goodwill, and engaging in all activities likely to promote and facilitate a better understanding between the peoples of the world for their mutual advantage and cultural benefit."

For the first year, Edwards appointed the mayors of those cities having a population of over 50,000 people, the President of the Louisiana Municipal Association and the president of the State Police Jury Association to serve as the Executive Board of the Committee. After the first year, the executive board will be elected by the membership of the committee.