AMBASSADOR FETED — France's Ambassador to the United States, Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet, toured Acadiana yesterday and was honored at a banquet here last night. Shown here at the banquet, from left, are Mayor Kenny Bowen; Mrs. Bowen; Mrs. James Domengenaux, wife of the chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana; and the ambassador. (Advertiser Staff Photo)

HONORED AT DINNER

French Ambassador Visits In Acadiana

By KENNETH R. ALLEN
Advertiser Staff Reporter

France's highest ranking government official in the

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United States, Ambassador Jacques Kosciusko - Morizet, was honored last night at a dinner in Lafayette by more than 250 Acadiana residents.

The dinner party was held at Jacob's restaurant and grew so large that four additional tables had to be set up in an anteroom of the main private dining room of the restaurant. It was the final event in a day-long schedule in Cajun Louisiana for the ambassador and his wife and party.

Officials, Citizens


The ambassador and Madame Kosciusko-Morizet arrived in Lafayette yesterday at noon, flying via two U.S. Army helicopters from Baton Rouge to the Lafayette Municipal Airport. Prior to the trip to Lafayette, the ambassador and his party visited with Governor Edwin Edwards at the Capitol.

Bowen Greets

Upon arrival in Lafayette the (Continued On Page 2, Col. 3)

French delegation was greeted by Mayor Kenneth F. Bowen who presented the ambassador and his wife with keys to the city. Nine-year-old Jessica Chaisson of Alice Bouchet Elementary School presented Madam Kosciusko-Morizet with a large cluster of red roses. The little girl's presentation was in the French language and the petite blonde obviously captured the hearts of the French party.

Newly elected 15th Judicial District Court Judge Allen Babineaux presided at the welcoming ceremony. Glenn Weber, director of Administration for Lafayette, presented the ambassador Bowen's greetings in French.

First Trip

The ambassador held a brief press conference following the airport welcome. He said it was his first trip to Acadiana, though he had been to New Orleans 10 years ago. The ambassador was France's liaison with the United Nations prior to his appointment as U.S. Ambassador in April this year.

The Frenchman is making a tour of every state in the Union. He came to Louisiana from a stop in Dallas, Tex.

Note that he was "struck by the warmth of the welcome" to Lafayette, the ambassador added that he had no difficulty understanding the French spoken in the ceremony and that the French hero apparently is similar to French spoken in southern France where his mother was reared.

As to his meeting with Edwards, the ambassador commented, "He speaks beautiful French."

'Something Serious'

Commenting on the CODOFIL program in the state and the exchange of students between Louisiana and France, the ambassador asserted that "What is important is to build something serious." He made the comment in reference to the 180 French school teachers who have been assigned to study French school systems throughout Louisiana. The ambassador lauded the program and especially the CODOFIL effort.

Following the comments to the press, the visiting party was taken to a restaurant in St. Martin Parish. Following the luncheon, the party went to Breaux Bridge and then to St. Martinville, partly traveling by boat.