French Group Is Meeting In Lafayette

A 160-member group of elementary and kindergarten French teaching assistants begin a one-week indoctrination period here today, preparing to move into their Louisiana school rooms. The teaching assistants arrived from France over the weekend as the latest step in a continuing program to increase and improve the teaching of French in the state's schools.

Given Impetus

The program has been given its impetus largely through the work of The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL). But CODOFIL Chairman James Domengeaux passes the credit to work "on a grassroots level which has backed the French language renaissance from its very inception, all with the approval of the Department of State and the U.S. Office of Education." He also credited local, state and foreign governments with helping the program.

The arrival of the teaching assistants, Domengeaux said, is a turning point. "A battle which has been largely psychological, now is being translated into concrete projects and pilot programs in every corner of the state," he said.