French Physicians Form International Association

Doctors of France, Acadia Agree to Plan

By TRENT ANGERS

LAFAYETTE, La. — An international association of French-speaking doctors was formed here during a meeting of physicians from France and southwest Louisiana.

Twenty French doctors and their spouses met with a group of Louisiana physicians and their spouses at Oakbourne Country Club to take the first steps toward forming the organization.

The doctors from southwest Louisiana agreed to write a proposed charter for the association in coming weeks, and the doctors from France agreed to do the same, according to Jean Pierre Lendais, director of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOF-IL).

Exchange programs for doctors in Louisiana and those in France will be developed as the association becomes firmly established, Lendais said. The association's membership won't be limited to Louisiana and France, he noted.

The French doctors arrived at the country club by bus from New Orleans and were greeted by doctors and others interested in the Louisiana French movement.

After the reception, the French group split up into smaller groups and accompanied area people to their hometowns, where they were house guests for three days, Lendais pointed out. Five French couples visited families in Eunice; five stayed with families in Mamou; five, in Ville Platte; and five, in Lafayette, Broussard and Carencro.

During the reception, Lendais told the group the formation of the association of French-speaking doctors would help in the movement to preserve the French language and culture in Louisiana. Formation of the group is one of several CODOF-IL-sponsored moves to help in building the French language in this state, Lendais explained.

A response to Lendais' remarks was given by Dr. Jean Marie Erraud, mayor of Pornichet, France. He said he was surprised to find French spoken extensively in the Acadiana area. He promised that he and the group he was with would do their part to make the new organization successful.

Mamou attorney Paul Tate gave the visitors an account of the history of the Acadians in explaining the current French renaissance movement in Louisiana.

The French people's visit to Acadiana was part of a tour of the United States they were taking following a medical symposium held on the S.S. France, which traveled from LaFayet, France, to New York, N.Y., and then to New Orleans.