French-Speaking Congress Planned

Representatives from 20 countries of the 33 French-speaking nations of the world will convene in Lafayette April 3-5 for the first International Congress of the French-Speaking Americas.

James Domengeaux, chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, made the announcement today and said about 500 people from Louisiana and a possible 200 others from French-speaking countries in the world are expected to attend.

Top state officials, congressional leaders from Louisiana and the New England States, all Louisiana colleges and universities and other agencies from the United States and abroad are cooperating with CODOFIL in conducting the three-day event.

Economic Enrichment

Bilingualism and the cultural

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and economic enrichment benefits of the French language will be discussed by participants from France, Québec and France-speaking countries in both the Caribbean area and Africa. Louisiana's Governor, John J. McKeithen and Governor-elect, Edwin Edwards will address the assembly.

Main speakers will be Jean Louis Gagnon of Ottawa, General Manager of Information Canada and former Chairman of the Federal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism; Yves Berger of Paris, Member of the High Committee for the Defense and Expansion of the French Language; Yves Michaud of Quebec, Commissioner General for Cooperation with the Exterior; and, Adelard Savoie, President of the University of Moncton, New Brunswick.

Major Coverage

Domengeaux said that the Congress is expected to attract many Louisianians who are interested in the French renaissance to Lafayette in addition to participants from Atlantic States and abroad. Major foreign newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations have indicated that they will cover the Congress. An international press workshop organized by the Louisiana Press Association will be held prior to the opening session April 3.

The first day's events will include welcomes by the city of Lafayette and CODIFIL followed by an introduction of honored guests by Secretary of State Wade O. Martin. A panorama "CODIFIL and the French Renaissance in Louisiana" will be presented with James Beuzo of New Orleans as narrator.

"Acadian Humor" will be the highlight of the April 3 luncheon with Paul Tate, CODIFIL board member from Mamou as chairman. Also participating will be State Comptroller Roy Theriot and Harris Periou, chairman of the St. Martin chapter of CODIFIL.

Crawfish Party

"French Language and Culture in Louisiana" will be the subject of a panel discussion held by representatives of Louisiana colleges and universities. The first day's program will close with a crawfish party. Opening the April 4 session