French Teachers Arrive In City

By BARBARA VORENKAMP
Advertiser Staff Reporter

The arrival of 30 French teachers from France “is probably the most important event in the state's French movement since the inception of CODOFIL,” James Domengeaux, chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, said yesterday. He greeted the group's Tuesday night arrival in Lafayette.

As part of CODOFIL's teacher exchange program with France, the group will teach French in Louisiana elementary schools for two years.

Plans for the exchange were initiated three months ago and were worked out by CODOFIL, the French government, the State Department of Education and the parish school boards, Domengeaux explained.

Two-Day Briefing

In morning ceremonies today Mayor Rayburn Bertrand welcomed the 10 unmarried teachers and 10 men- and-wives during this initial two-year period.

Supervisors Here

Three supervisors from France will be living in Louisiana at the expense of the French government to coordinate the work of the teachers and will be headquartered in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Alain Delsoi will be the Lafayette area supervisor.

Tentative teaching assignments include two in Lafayette, two in Abbeville, two in St. Martinville, one in Crowley, two in Opelousas, two in Ville Platte, three in Baton Rouge, three in Thibodaux, one in Houma, one in Jefferson Parish, one in Monroe, one in Bastrop, and one in Orleans Parish.

The teachers, all having bachelor or masters degrees in education, arrived in New Orleans early Tuesday where they were greeted by the French Consulate General Jean Lecanelli, James F. Bezou, CODOFIL representative in New Orleans, Keith Summers, cultural attache for CODOFIL, and Jean Pettinelli, French cultural attache in New Orleans.

While staying at Agnes Edwards House, the teachers will be greeted by the French Consulate General Jean Lecanelli, James F. Bezou, CODOFIL representative in New Orleans, Keith Summers, cultural attache for CODOFIL, and Jean Pettinelli, French cultural attache in New Orleans.

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While staying at Agnes Edwards House, the teachers will review teaching methods, materials and assignments.

A university reception in President Clyde Rougeau's office will be held Thursday afternoon followed by a bus tour of Acadiana and a stop for gumbo in Evangeline State Park in St. Martinville.

The group will depart for individual assignments Friday morning after breakfast.