French Teachers Fired By CODOFIL

Five of the French instructors teaching their native language in Louisiana have been fired by the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

Four of the five are men who were teaching here in lieu of military service and will be returned to military duty in France.

The firings, which CODOFIL chairman James Domenegeaux said would have no effect on the CODOFIL program, drew a representative of the French Embassy in New York to Lafayette to arrange for the return of the five and discuss what he called “internal administrative matters.”

Both Domenegeaux and Jean Silvestre, secretary general of cultural services of the embassy in New York, indicated that the firings are routine administrative matters.

Domenegeaux said the firings had nothing to do with the fact that the five were among French teachers who recently signed a petition threatening to strike unless the French government would raise their pay.

CODOFIL fired the teachers at the request of officials in the public school systems in Lafayette and Livingston Parishes. Four of the five had been in Lafayette, Domenegeaux said.