The arrival of 30 French teachers from France marks the beginning of a new era in Louisiana's French renaissance, according to James Domengeaux, chairman of The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana.

The teachers, who arrived in New Orleans Tuesday, will be in Louisiana for two years to teach French to elementary school pupils. This French instruction is in conjunction with Louisiana's French movement, a two-year drive to preserve, expand and improve the French language and culture in the state.

The teachers' arrival is "probably the most important single event that has occurred in the French movement since CODOFIL was created by the Legislature," Domengeaux said.

The instructors arrived in Lafayette Tuesday night for a three-day briefing on their assignments. They leave Friday for schools throughout the state. Twenty of the thirty are man-and-wife teaching teams.

The teaching program, spearheaded by CODOFIL, is being coordinated with France, the Louisiana Department of Education and parish school boards. The fact that the teachers are assigned to schools throughout the state "reaffirms that the French movement is for all of Louisiana, not only for French-speaking areas," Domengeaux said.

The presence of the instructors "is a significant expression of international goodwill and cooperation between a state and France," Domengeaux said. "It creates reasonable hope that—should this experiment be successful—we can look forward to attaining many more teachers of French during this developmental period."

Three supervisors from France will be living in Louisiana at the expense of the French government to coordinate the work of the teachers, Domengeaux said. They will be headquartered in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Domengeaux said he does not know the names of the two who will be stationed in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, but Allain Delsol will supervise in Lafayette.

The supervisors and teachers were welcomed Wednesday by Lafayette Mayor J. Rayburn Bertrand and will be welcomed Thursday by Clyde Rougeau, president of the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Thursday night they will be guests at a CODOFIL-sponsored gumbo in St. Martinville at Evangeline State Park.