By JOHN ROBERTS

It's easy making friends with American boys, the French girl said, smiling from behind her large sunglasses and the miniature U.S. flag she held.

Was she in love?

"Oh, no," she laughed. "No lovers, just friends."

Miss Agnes Guille was waiting at New Orleans International Airport for the Eastern jet that would take her long blonde hair and her small American flag back home to Lorraine. With her in the waiting room were 82 other young Frenchmen, most of them teenagers and none over 23.

The group arrived in New Orleans one month ago under an exchange program co-sponsored by the Rotary Club and the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL). A similar number of young Americans were guests of French Rotarians last May.

FIRST OF KIND

The mutual visits were the first massive exchanges of their kind between Louisiana and France, according to James Domengeaux, state chairman of CODOFIL.

The young Frenchmen — 40 boys and 43 girls — lived for four weeks with host families in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Thibodaux, Lake Charles and Lockport.

LEAVING TO BOARD A JET plane Sunday morning at New Orleans International Airport are Miss Agnes Guille (left), and Thierry Sevaux (right). Talking with them about their month-long visit here is James Bezou, executive vice-president of the New Orleans Area Chapter of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana. The teen-agers were part of a group of 83 French exchange students who left New Orleans on the chartered flight.

Many of the visitors traveled far outside southwestern Louisiana with their hosts during the month in America. Miss Guille said she visited Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Florida and Tennessee — and a few other states, but she did not remember their names.

Chatting with Miss Guille was Thierry Sevaux, a high school student from Alencon, Normandy. He said his visit to Louisiana had included jaunts to Nassau, Colorado, New Mexico, and a good many points in between. But he ran out of time before he could visit New York.

'T'LL COME BACK'

"I plan to go home and work for a few years while in school," Sevaux said in fluent English. "Then I'll come back and see New York."

One of the chaperones at the Moisant Field waiting room was James Bezou, executive vice-president of the New Orleans Area Chapter of CODOFIL.

"The reports we've had on these young people are absolutely glowing," Bezou said. "I've never seen a finer bunch of kids. This sort of exchange program could develop into a really big two-way current between Louisiana and French-speaking countries and contribute very much towards international good will and understanding."

Was Miss Guille interested in visiting America again? Her bright blue eyes suddenly grew even bigger.

"Oh!" she exclaimed. "Next summer!"