McKeithen Invites French Official to Visit Louisiana

PARIS (A) — Louisiana—one-third of its population now speaks and understands French—made an invitation Saturday to "a very high official of France to visit his state "before very long."

McKeithen, mindful of the late President Charles de Gaulle’s visit to his state in 1968, made the request to the office of Premier Jacques Chaban-Delmas. The idea was to promote French culture in Louisiana, where teaching of the French language from the first school grade up will be mandatory beginning next year, the governor said.

McKeithen, on a business trip to France, earlier visited President Charles de Gaulle in Paris. With McKeithen in Paris were Eugene J. Vernard, director of the Office of International Relations of the University of Louisiana and the Louisiana department of education; and the governor’s private secretary, George A. Johnson.

The governor said he hoped to bring commerce and industry; and the Louisiana official to promote the bilingual state. At home,

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