LOUISIANA LEADERS of the movement to expand the French language in the state met with a delegation from France to survey needs of Louisiana in promoting bilingualism. Attending the session were (from left, seated) Francis Debyser, director of the BELC, French agency for the teaching of the language; Louis Gillette, department of cultural affairs, ministry of foreign affairs; James Domengeaux, Lafayette, chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, and Philippe Breant, also with France’s ministry of foreign affairs; (standing) Rep. J. Luke LeBlanc; state Sen. Edgar G. Mouton Jr., and Jean Pettinelli, French cultural counsel at New Orleans.

——AP WIREPHOTO.

Honor Is Given French Group

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

LAFAYETTE, La. — An official delegation, representing the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of France, was honored Thursday afternoon at a luncheon meeting at the Evangeline State Park Lodge.

The visit to Louisiana by the French delegation resulted from meetings held in France between the chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, James Domengeaux, and officials of the French government. It is a response to a request made for assistance to help CODOFIL preserve and expand the French language in Louisiana.

The visit is said to be a milestone in CODOFIL’s effort to obtain the cooperation of France to achieve its goals and to establish definite lines of liaison between the council and France, especially in efforts to develop educational programs and to expand its student and teacher exchange programs.