LAFAYETTE, La. - For the second summer in a row, a group of Louisiana teachers and students are studying and traveling in France upon the invitation of the French government.

Ninety-one Louisiana French teachers and college students left Tuesday for a six-week program of study and travel in France, marking the second summer program of cooperation between Louisiana and France, the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), has reported. The group left New Orleans Tuesday afternoon for New York, from where they were scheduled to depart for Paris.

Commenting on the significance of the French government's invitation to the Louisianians, CODOFIL chairman James Domengeaux of Lafayette said, "This invitation doubles the number invited last summer. This proves that official France believes that Louisianians are serious in their drive to make this state bilingual in the foreseeable future," Domengeaux said.

The invitation was sent to CODOFIL by the French government under its program to help CODOFIL provide Louisiana with more qualified teachers who will teach French in elementary and high schools of this state.

"This cost-free help to Louisianians by France hastens the day when Louisiana will become the first bilingual state in the United States. CODOFIL proposes to help send hundreds of teachers to France next year," he said, adding that CODOFIL proposes to send more than 600 in the next year or two.