Louisianians To Receive French Training In Quebec

The Quebec - Louisiana Joint Committee, a bi-governmental cooperation agency between the two state governments, today agreed on sending 100 Louisiana students to the college of Quebec for French training this summer. This is an increase of 25 per cent over last summer.

The committee is headed by Deputy Minister Jean Guy Michaud and Secretary of State Wade Martin. On a proposal by the Chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), James Domengeaux, the committee set a goal to develop bilingualism tailored to the needs of the North American continent. Meeting at the end of the International Congress of the French - Speaking Americas, the committee formed plans to station a Quebec teaching expert in Baton Rouge to help Louisiana develop its bilingual programs from kindergarten to university.

Bilingual Education

Preliminary plans were also made to train Louisiana teachers for bilingual education. These courses would be given in Quebec, which has become the center for bilingual education in North America with teachers from different parts of the United States participating.

In the field of industrial development, the Committee set the stage for intensified relations in petroleum development. Quebec Natural Resources Deputy Minister Jean-Guy Fredette scheduled a series of meetings with Louisiana authorities in off-shore exploration and development. It was felt that Quebec, far advanced in the development of French, could be of valuable assistance in Louisiana's efforts to develop a second language and that Louisiana, with its solid experience in oil activities could help Quebec tap its own petroleum possibilities.

Electronics Media

The Committee stressed the importance of the electronics media in the modern world and Quebec agreed to train Louisianans in this field, especially in educational television. Various exchange programs were discussed to be worked out mainly within the framework of existing international endeavors such as social clubs, boy scouts and religious organizations.

Mutual visits were planned by professional associations such as the lawyers and journalists.