Regular Exchange
With France Seen

The way for thousands of Louisianians and Frenchmen to travel between the two cultural areas is being paved this week as Roland Vincent, a French tourism consultant, talks with Council for the Development of French in Louisiana officials.

The purpose of Vincent’s visit is to place a travel consultant from his staff with CODOFIL to plan trips to France.

Trips for students and adults are planned to last from two to six weeks. The young people will study at universities from four to six weeks to improve their knowledge of French and will stay with French families to learn more of the country’s customs.

Professional Groups

Professional groups such as doctors and lawyers will be encouraged to meet their French counterparts in an effort to achieve better understanding between people, Vincent said.

Vincent hopes that tours taking Louisianians into French homes will help avoid the misunderstandings Americans conceive about France if they remain in hotels and dine in restaurants.

“Your people will be given an opportunity to talk with French people and to see life in France as it really is. There is no language problem as the French the people speak here is perfectly good but your people are shy. They think they are speaking a patois but the accent is perfect,” the travel consultant commented.

Acadiana Tours

In a similar manner, tours for Frenchmen to Acadiana are being arranged. A committee has been set up in Poitiers, the area from which most Acadian ancestors came, to plan the tours. In November of 1972 the first plane load of Frenchmen will visit this area. The 12-day tour will start in New Orleans and will be spent in Acadiana and tourists will come into homes to get to know the people of the area.

“When the French people travel to the big northern and eastern cities like Boston and New York, they come to think that Times Square and 42nd St. are the center of the states and, of course, that is not the true America,” Vincent said.

French Language

Costs of the tours will be kept as low as possible. Air France and the French government have expressed great interest in the program and recently President Georges Pompidou told an audience that it was absolutely necessary to speak French in the common market and urged protection of the French language.

CODOFIL officials expect better than 1,000 people, most of them students, to travel to France next year and as many as 500 or 600 French people will come here.