Two Delegations Leave Louisiana To Promote French Heritage

Louisiana Teachers Study For Ten Weeks In France

A group of 54 Louisiana teachers left Friday from New Orleans International Airport for France, where they will take a 10-weeks refresher course in French.

The French language program is being sponsored by the French government and the State Board of Education. The program is being conducted under the auspices of the Council for Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) the official state agency created for the preservation and extension of the French language and culture in the state.

The program is designed to improve teaching techniques and to expose Louisiana teachers to changes in the modern French language.

CODOFIL chairman James Domengeaux told the group, "Today we take the first big step toward assuring that qualified French teachers will teach in our elementary schools." Since the start of the French movement Domengeaux has insisted that the campaign cannot succeed unless the language is taught to elementary pupils by qualified French teachers.

"The renaissance of the French language in Louisiana is reaching serious educational and cultural proportions. This movement will succeed only if the people of the state will insist on early French education in schools," Domengeaux said.

The Louisiana group will take courses at four of France's "finest colleges and universities," Domengeaux stated. The teachers will study at the universities of Montpellier, Angers, Besancon and Grenoble.

Another group of 20 Louisiana French language teachers will leave soon from Miami, Fla., for the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, a French Department. The delegation will study at the International Center for French Studies.

Acadiana Group To Tour Canadian Maritime Areas

A Southwestern Louisiana delegation leaves the Lafayette Municipal Airport this morning for a week in the Maritime Provinces to promote trade and tourism and to cement ties between Acadiana South and Acadiana North.

Highlighting the journey will be the final step in twinning Shediac, New Brunswick, the Land of the Lobster, with Breaux Bridge, the Land of the Crawfish. The gala event will take place during the July 9 Lobster Festival in Shediac. Three New Brunswick officials will be made Admirals on the staff of Governor John McKeithen, while two Breaux Bridge leaders will be named Knight of the Lobster. The new Admirals will be New Brunswick Provincial Secretary Joe LeBlanc, Shediac Mayor Alfred Landry and Lobster Festival President Joseph Landry.

Acadians who will become the first Americans to be knighted by Lobster Festival authorities will be Breaux Bridge Mayor Fred Mills and Crawfish Festival President Aubrey Heumann.

During the biennial Crawfish Festival in Breaux Bridge May 2-3 the three New Brunswick men along with Rev. Oswald Parelle and airline official Zoel Robichaux participated in twinning ceremonies that included a bilingual proclamation from Secretary of State Wade O. Martin.

Louis Michot, member of the state board of education, will honor two New Brunswick students who attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana in the last school year. The event will take place at the University of Moncton.

The mission to the maritimes will mix international business with pleasure. Spokesmen for Acadiana will extend invitations to countries and companies in eastern Canada to locate offices in the French-Spanish Trade Mart in Lafayette in order to stimulate commercial, educational and tourist exchanges. Similar objectives with the province of Quebec have resulted in establishment of a Louisiana exhibit in the Man and His World exposition in Montreal, and the stationing of a Quebec government representative in Lafayette.

Mills, the French-speaking mayor of Breaux Bridge, will bring bilingual greetings of Louisiana during the weeklong tour. Heumann said the mission will also look into the possibilities of stimulating lobster imports to Louisiana. New Iberia is joining Breaux Bridge and Lafayette in sending representation on the mission. The delegation returns Saturday.