

KUZUL ETREVROADEL EVIT KENDALC'H  
AR YEZH VREZHONEK

International Committee for  
the Defense of the Breton Language

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. BRANCH

NUMBER 1

JULY 1981



U.S. BRANCH OFFICERS:

President: Robin Brendan Mackey

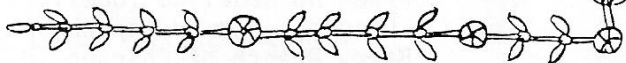
Secretary-Treasurer: Lois Kuter

Members of the Board of Directors:

Laurie O Keefe Fadave  
Christine Renee C. Forster  
Rene Galand (Reun ar C'halan)  
John S. Hennessey, Jr.  
Dennis King  
Lenora A. Timm

All correspondence and inquiries  
should be directed to the secre-  
tary:

Lois Kuter  
312 West Dodds St.  
Bloomington, IN 47401



The International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language was set up at the beginning of the 1975/76 school year to support the repeated demands of the teachers and people of Brittany that their language be recognized at long last, taught and accepted as a fact of daily life by the French authorities.

This Committee, with more than 500 personalities representing 40 different nationalities, was set up on a voluntary basis by non-Bretons who in this way show that, while the issue does not personally concern them, they consider it to be one which merits the disinterested support of men and women of good will. The Committee, which is concerned purely with the defense of the cultural rights of the individual, is non-political and non-ideological.

Branches of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language have been established in Canada, France, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, England, Wales, Norway, and Austria. The newest branch of the ICDBL is our own, that of the United States, which is now in the process of being formed.

Activities of the various branches of the ICDBL have included petitions and letters to government officials of France and to diplomatic representatives of France in various European countries. Information has been diffused to the press, and the attention of European Parliament members has been drawn to the situation of the Breton language in hopes that some international pressure will be put on the French government to live up to its promises of aid to the Breton culture. The ICDBL has also acted in support of activities of Bretons themselves in teaching their language.

The activities of the U.S. branch are up to its members. What we choose to do to defend the Breton language may or may not resemble the activities of other branches, since the U.S. is quite different from Europe (and Canada) in terms of peoples' knowledge about Breton. Our main task to start with will be to simply inform people in the United States that the Breton language exists and that Bretons need support for its continued existence.

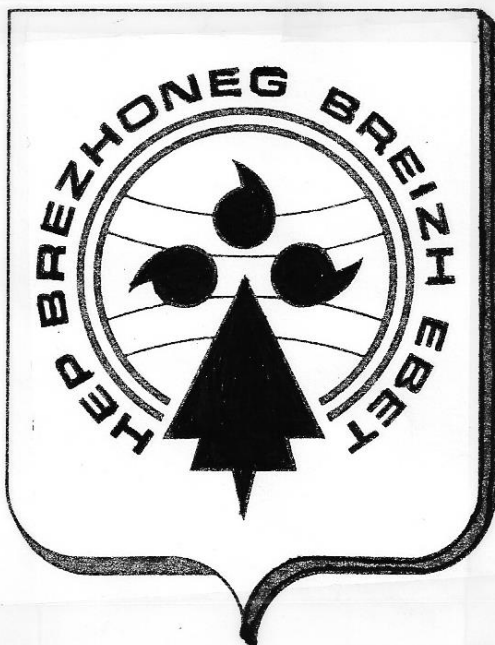
Our newsletter will be one means of spreading news about the Breton language. I hope this first newsletter will be of interest to members as well as others who have expressed interest in the formation of a U.S. branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language.

Lois Kuter

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#### ICDBL DECALS

A limited number of ICDBL decals are available from the secretary-treasurer. These are available on a first-come first-serve basis for a \$2 contribution to the U.S. branch treasury. They look as follows (actual size):



#### MEMBERSHIP

We have currently (late July) a total of 105 members distributed throughout the U.S. as follows:

AL - 1	MA - 9	RI - 1
CA - 27	MD - 5	SC - 1
CO - 1	ME - 1	SD - 1
FL - 2	MI - 4	TX - 3
GA - 1	MN - 4	VA - 2
IA - 3	NJ - 1	WA - 2
IL - 6	NY - 11	WA.D.C. - 2
IN - 3	OH - 5	WI - 1
LA - 4	PA - 3	Canada - 1

Of these members there are five organizations who have joined to show their support of the ICDBL:

Conradh na nGaeilge\* (Gaelic League), Commodore John Barry Branch of Chicago.  
Cumann na Gaeilge (Gaelic Society, Inc.) of New York.  
Cymdeithas Madog/Cyfeillion Madog, of Maryland.  
Irish American Cultural Institute, of Minnesota  
Center for Applied Linguistics/  
Linguistic Reporter, of Wash. D.C.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. BRANCH, ROBIN R. MACKEY

As the president of our new branch of the ICDBL, I am impressed by the relatively wide base of membership in our fledgling branch. We range from the "just interested" to those who have been active in such causes for years. You all are very much appreciated. You can be assured that the officers and directors will keep the lines of communication open to the membership in a spirit of cooperation, as we sincerely hope that the general membership will, without hesitation, communicate with us.

I would like to introduce myself. A native Ozarkian, I am a high school and junior college teacher of German and Spanish on the Olympic peninsula in western Washington state. I have dabbled in six other languages, including a bit of Irish and a very little French. Unfortunately, until given the incentive of the ICDBL, I had not attempted Breton at all, other than comparing it with the other Celtic languages contained in Carn. Right now, I am working with the Hardie Handbook of Modern Breton which I borrowed from the University of Washington. Although Breton is not by any stretch of the imagination at my command, I do recognize the peril the Celtic languages are in today. My personal philosophy is that if one takes another's language away one takes another's soul, and that no matter how Basque or Frisian or Breton one feels, one can't truly be Basque or Frisian or Breton if one does not speak one's own language.

It is hoped that an admired Republic which struggled against oppression as it saw it under the phrase "liberty, equality, and fraternity" would see its way to recognize the same aspiration among its regional and minority language speakers. We hope that in some small way we can help Bretons to survive and perhaps someday even to grow in strength. With your help and your prayers we will succeed!

Robin R. Mackey  
President of the U.S. branch  
of the ICDBL

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LEARNING MATERIALS FOR BRETON

Brezhoneg Buan hag Aes, by Per Denez of the University of Haute Bretagne, a beginners course for Breton, is now translated into Welsh. It is called Llawlyfr Dysgu Llydaweg and has been translated by Rita Williams of the University of Aberystwyth. Inquiries should be addressed to:

Gwasg Prifysgol Cymru  
Welsh Universities Press  
6 stryd Gwennyth  
Cathays  
Caerdydd CF 24 YD  
WALES

The English version was translated in 1977 by Raymond Delaporte of the University College of Cork. John Hennessey has been in contact with Cork University Press and it appears possible to order directly from them. Brezhoneg Buan hag Aes sells for 8.51 Irish pounds (approx. \$13) and R. Delaporte's Breton-English Dictionary sells for 3.60 Irish pounds (\$5.50). If there is enough interest it would be good to order in bulk from Cork University Press. Anyone interested should contact Lois Kuter. Anyone with ideas on book dealers in the U.S. for Breton materials is also invited to write.

FINANCIAL REPORT - U.S. BRANCH OF THE ICDBL (as of July 31, 1981)

Expenditures by Lois Kuter (including postage, xerox, duplication materials, paper, and envelopes as primary expenses)	\$348.09
Income: dues and contributions, bank account interest	256.17
Reimbursement to L. Kuter for expenditures	200.00
Balance of funds in ICDBL bank account	56.17

As the above figures indicate, expenses are well above income. My personal financial situation is miserable enough that I will need reimbursement of a good portion of the \$148.09 I have spent which has not yet been reimbursed. Several forthcoming expenses include the \$26 application fee for our application for non-profit status and a \$40 bulk rate mailing fee (which will give us a discount in postage which will more than pay for this high fee in the future). To use a bulk rate of 10.4¢ per letter at least 200 items must be sent out; later, through application, we should be able to get a rate of 3.5¢ per piece for bulk mailing. Postage is by far our highest expense at the moment and will continue to be so even with the bulk mailing rates.

Expenses for this newsletter will run to approximately \$90 (including cost of stencils, 3 reams of paper, xerox of three of its pages at 3¢ per page, and postage at rate of 10.4¢). I estimate that the newsletter costs approximately 25¢ per person, and close to 300 will be mailed to members as well as interested people.

In view of the very small demand of \$1 for dues for 1981, I request that members (and non-members) who are able try to contribute a little more every now and then to meet the expenses of operating the U.S. branch.

Anyone wishing a more detailed financial report should write to me and I will be happy to give you a finer breakdown of expenses.

Lois Kuter  
Secretary-Treasurer

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MEMBERSHIP LIST

In the questionnaire, members were asked to indicate whether or not they wished to be placed on an address list to be circulated to members of the U.S. branch. Since relatively few people have sent in the questionnaire (30), this membership list has not yet been put together. Such a list would be useful so that people who live in a particular area could contact each other. If you do not want to be on the membership address list, please notify the Secretary, Lois Kuter. If no word is received from you by August 30, it will be assumed that you have no objections to being on the list and your name will appear as you have requested on the questionnaire or as you were addressed on this newsletter.



## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

This column will carry news of books and magazines on the Breton language and Brittany. For this first pilot newsletter only three magazines will be featured. These are only a few of many publications of interest which will be briefly noted here.

Breizh - Magazine de la Culture Bretonne. This is a 20-30 page monthly magazine published by the cultural organization Kendalc'h in Brittany. It carries articles on Breton culture and history: language, music and the arts as well as notes on current events in Brittany. Regular features include book and record reviews, notes on the activities of Kendalc'h and a variety of other Breton organizations, and a feature on other Celtic nations and cultural organizations. Breizh includes within its pages a Breton language supplement called Dihun. A subscription for one year (overseas) is 60 francs. All subscription inquiries should be addressed to:

Breizh  
Le Pradi  
Tredion  
56250 Elven  
FRANCE

Evid ar Brezhoneg - This is a bi-monthly magazine of 8-10 pages (large pages) in Breton with French "sub-titles". This magazine is especially good for Breton learners in that it contains articles in interview form: Breton as people speak it rather than as a literary language. The interviews cover a wide range of topics relevant to an understanding of contemporary Brittany. Subscription for one year is 60 francs. Address inquiries to:

Evid ar Brezhoneg  
B.P. 93  
22202 Guingamp  
FRANCE

Keltica - This journal is perhaps already known to many members since it is published here in the United States (in English) by the Society of Inter-Celtic Arts and Culture. So far, one issue has come out and a second one is due shortly. The first issue (of over 100 pages) contained articles and notes on a variety of Celtic organizations in North America as well as international groups supporting Celtic cultures and languages (including the ICDBL). Each Celtic nation receives a section including articles on arts, language and culture as well as informative notes on the activities of cultural organizations. The next issue will include an article on the Breton language written by Reun ar C'halan, one of our members, which should be of value to those seeking a better background knowledge about Breton and Brittany. Subscription for one year is \$15, for two years, \$25. All inquiries should be addressed to:

Keltica  
96 Marguerite Avenue  
Waltham, Massachusetts 02154

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## BRETON AND ESPERANTO

The following address may be of interest to those members interested in Esperanto

Club Esperanto Rennais  
9 Square de Provence  
35000 Rennes  
FRANCE

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Members are invited to submit notes or articles for the newsletter. Suggestions as to what would interest you would be very welcome.

## DIWAN

Judging from many questionnaires that have come back, it appears that many members do not know what DIWAN is. Because this organization is extremely important for the future of the Breton language, I have translated and abridged an article called "Diwan in 1981" which appeared in the journal Breizh (no. 263, January 1981). The original article (in French) goes into considerably more detail than my version of it; I would be happy to send a copy to anyone interested.

### DIWAN IN 1981

The opening of the first pre-school in Breton in May 1977 was met with support and responded to the deep desire of many Bretons. This is the only way to explain the development of this association which today includes 16 pre-schools, one primary school, and a cultural center at Treglonou. Ten new classes are scheduled to open in the Fall of 1982. Diwan has grown without any State aid or Departmental aid, and only very weak aid from the Charte Culturelle\*.

The goal of Diwan is to "promote a cultural development in the Breton language, giving each child the maximum tools to forge his own future for himself, and permitting children of Brittany to take charge of their natural, social and economic environments" (Article 5 of Diwan's Charter). This objective is a common motivation for parents and support committees, but the everyday reality of making this realizable obliges them to work to find money through a variety of fund-raising activities (concerts, dances (festou-noz), sales, festivals...).

With 23 people working full-time for DIWAN, this cultural association employs the most salaried people of any in Brittany. Their salaries (2800 francs net per month), and operating expenses total a cost per month per school of between 6000 and 6500 francs. Each month it is necessary to raise these funds, and this is not done without difficulty. DIWAN supporters (parents, employees, and support committees) must spend considerable time organizing fund-raising activities.

Why must a family who decides to give to its children an education in Breton become super-militants to find a substitution for the National Education which does not take this responsibility? The 100,000 francs given by the Charte Culturelle (out of a total of 1,600,000 in 1980) cannot be considered a sign of good will by the State or the Region. When will DIWAN be integrated into a renewed and democratic service of public education in Brittany? When will there be Breton taught and teaching in Breton in all classes from pre-school to the university?

Created in 1977, Diwan has opened 17 schools in the Breton language, free of charge and open to all without discrimination on the basis of politics or philosophy. These schools are now run by the parents and financed by support committees. But defense of the Breton language necessitates the development of these schools in Breton and thus their integration into the National Education to permit DIWAN militants to spend less energy mobilizing to raise money and more energy on Breton language and pedagogy.

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\* The Charte Culturelle is a cultural charter for Brittany granted by the French State which has provided some financial support for Breton cultural organizations (to be treated in a future newsletter).

DIWAN (cont'd.)

*Diwan has worked to gain the support of labor unions and political parties in Brittany for a stronger support on the part of local governmental bodies. Diwan also works with Breton cultural organizations who share the desire to defend and revive the Breton language. Diwan hopes to work with Breton specialists on linguistic and pedagogical problems and to jointly organize fund-raising activities with other cultural organizations in Brittany.*

*It is thus with all these labor unions, political parties, and cultural associations that they will show to the government that the Breton people wishes to live with its language and that this desire is shown through schools in Breton.*

What can people in the U.S.A. do for DIWAN?

The most practical aid you can offer is financial. There are three different types of contributions you can make. The address for any one or a combination is as follows:

Oaled Diwan  
Treglonou  
29214 Lannilis  
FRANCE

- o Straight contributions: Make out a check to the Association Kevredigezh Diwan. I have sent Chase Manhattan checks which are more easily and quickly cashed overseas. These can be obtained at most banks for a small fee. Personal checks would be valid, but take a long time to process.
- o Subscription to An Had, a 20-page quarterly journal published by Diwan featuring articles on DIWAN schools as well as news of other language support activities for Breton. Regular subscriptions are 20 francs. Support subscriptions start at 50 francs. A subscription of 20 francs would just about cover boat-service to the U.S. (usually one to two months); air mail would require a subscription of at least 50 francs.
- o Purchase of a share in the S.C.I. Oaled Diwan. With this share you contribute to the capital of this cultural center for Diwan. Oaled Diwan is the site of the business offices for Diwan. It is a facility where people can meet for conferences and meetings, training sessions on linguistic issues and teaching of Breton. (I will be happy to supply additional information to anyone who wishes it on the activities of this center). One "share" costs 100 francs.

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NEWSLETTER LANGUAGE

Members of the U.S. branch of the ICDBL speak a variety of languages: Irish Gaelic, Scots Gaelic, Welsh, Breton, Cornish, French, German, Frisian, Spanish, Italian, Esperanto, and Catalan, to name a few. Most people who have answered the questionnaire seem to speak at least one other language besides English. English is the language we all have in common, so it will be the major language of our newsletter. However, in addition to carrying news about Breton, hopefully this newsletter will carry some news in Breton. Although only a handful of our members read and write Breton, many people have expressed a desire to learn Breton. Suggestions for a Breton column are requested from learners and those with fluency.



## DEGREE PROGRAM FOR BRETON TEACHERS

For ten years the University of Haute Bretagne in Rennes, Brittany, has regularly requested the creation of a degree for teaching the Breton language. This request has not yet been granted. Bretons have been hopeful that the incoming Socialist Party government would live up to its own statements in favor of the establishment of this degree program. Recently, however, the new socialist Minister of National Education, M. Savary, responded "no" to this request once more.

The establishment of such a degree program for Breton teaching is important for the obvious reason that it insures that teachers of Breton will be receiving high quality training. Members of the Socialist Party have pointed out in demands they made to those in power before them that an official degree program is necessary before teaching positions for Breton will be budgeted. Right now there are some people who teach Breton in the schools of Brittany, but on the side of their regular teaching duties, at odd hours of the day, and for less pay. A degree program would make Breton a regular part of Breton education.

The creation of a degree program is a very important part of the future of the Breton language. Bretons will continue to demand it. Your help would be appreciated since Bretons' demands seem to go unheeded even by those who have publicly expressed support for the degree program. You can help by writing to officials in France to ask them to grant the University of Rennes a degree program for training teachers for the Breton language. If you wish to support the Breton language in this way, send a letter or telegram (in English) to the following people and tell them of your support for the Breton language, and of your hope that France will live up to its international reputation as a country of liberty, equality, and fraternity:

Monsieur SAVARY  
Ministre de l'Education Nationale  
110, rue de Grenelle  
75007 Paris FRANCE

Monsieur le Premier Ministre  
Hotel Matignon  
Rue de Varennes  
75007 Paris FRANCE

To show Bretons that their demands are heard as far away as the U.S.A., send a copy of the letter to:

Kuzul ar Brezhoneg  
28 rue des Trois Freres le Goff  
22000 St. Brieuc FRANCE

Ar Falz  
Straed Kan ar Gwez  
29210 Plourin-Morlaix  
FRANCE

Oaled Diwan  
Treglonou  
29214 Lannilis  
FRANCE

Emgleo Breiz  
B.P. 17  
29265 Brest - Cedex  
FRANCE

## QUESTIONNAIRES

So far, only 30 people have sent in their questionnaires. Thank you to all who have sent it back. All others are requested to do so as well since it will help us get a better idea of your interests. If you are merely interested in receiving information, please let us know. Such support is welcome.



## NEWS OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

It is not surprising that the ICDBL would receive support from Celtic Language and cultural organizations in the U.S. But, support for Breton has come also from another organization which shares concern for the future of native languages: the Alaska Native Language Center.

Michael Krauss, the director of this center, whose personal interest in Celtic languages dates back many years, sent the following description of the work of the ANLC which I felt worth reprinting in our newsletter. He also sent several brochures listing available publications. Anyone interested is invited to contact me (Lois Kuter) or the Alaska Native Language Center at the address listed below.

### THE ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE CENTER

The basic goal of the Alaska Native Language Center (ANLC) is to provide for the future of Alaska Native languages, to maximize the heritage of Alaska Native languages for future generations. We believe that every Alaska Native language is of inestimable human value and worthy of preservation and cultivation. Accordingly we seek to document these languages in dictionaries, grammars, literary texts, and to provide leadership, training and materials for programs designed to strengthen the position of these languages in Alaskan communities, and their schools and media.

The Alaska Native Language Center is a research center based on the Fairbanks campus of the University of Alaska and administered under the Division of Community Colleges, Rural Education and Extension. ANLC was established in 1972 by state legislation to document the native Indian and Eskimo languages of Alaska. In conjunction with our research program, ANLC staff offer courses in native languages and related topics, regularly on the Fairbanks campus and by arrangement at community colleges and extension centers throughout the state.

ANLC is the major center in the United States for the study of Eskimo and Northern Athabaskan languages. The staff includes Michael Krauss (Alaska Native languages in general, specializing in Eyak and Athabaskan); James Kari (Athabaskan); Irene Reed (director; Yupik, cross-cultural and bilingual education); Lawrence Kaplan (Inupiaq); Jeff Leer (Athabaskan, Tlingit, Haida, Alutiiq); Edna Ahgeak MacLean (Inupiaq); Steven Jacobson (Yupik); Eliza Jones (Koyukon Athabaskan); Jane McGary (editor); a research assistant and a number of part-time language specialists.

The ANLC research library holds almost 5,000 items, virtually everything ever written in or on an Alaskan native language. An annotated catalog has been prepared and published for the Indian languages section, and the catalog of the Eskimo-Aleut section is now in preparation. In addition, a specialized bibliography of educational materials has been prepared and is available through the National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education.

During 1978-1983 the ANLC staff are preparing comprehensive dictionaries of the following languages: Haida, Tlingit, Eyak, Ahtna, Tanaina, Koyukon, Alutiiq (Sugpiaq), Central Yup'ik, Siberian Yupik, and North Slope Inupiaq. The project is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. There is also ongoing research in other dialects of Alaskan Inupiaq, and in Ingalik, Holikachuk, and Kutchin.

ANLC activities, in addition to research and teaching, include the training of native bilingual teachers and other language workers; translation of documents and informational materials into native languages; publication of native language texts (stories and history) for the general public and for use in schools; assistance to social scientists and others whose work requires dealing with native languages; and providing training and consultant services to school districts, materials centers, and state agencies involved in bilingual education. These activities are funded from a number of sources, including the University general fund, federal grants, and payments by agencies for services. ANLC publications are sold at prices which cover printing and handling costs.

We encourage anyone wishing to engage in linguistic research in Alaska to make contact with the ANLC staff and to take advantage of our research resources. Our office in 302 Chapman is open 8 to 5 weekdays. The research library is open to the public, but we cannot otherwise provide support services to researchers. Specific requests for bibliographic information can be answered, and a limited amount of material can be photocopied.

(907) 479-7874

Alaska Native Language Center  
University of Alaska  
302 Chapman Building  
516 Ambler Lane  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 USA

## NEWS OF THE ICDBL

Members might be interested to learn that we have received "publicity" in a variety of newsletters and journals. Many members have learned of the formation of a U.S. branch of the ICDBL through a notice in a newsletter or journal. The interest of the ICDBL to a wide variety of people in the U.S. is demonstrated in the "publicity" we have received in a diversity of publications.

Louisiane (a monthly newspaper published by the Fondation Louisianaise des Mass-Media) No. 39, October 1980.

Ninnau - The North American Welsh Newspaper, Vol. 6, no. 1, November 1, 1980

American Committee for Irish Studies (ACIS) Newsletter, Vol. X, no. 4.

The French Review - the official journal of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) Vol. 54, no. 3, February 1981.

Language Planning News - a newsletter published by the East-West Culture Learning Institute, East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii. Vol. 7, no. 1, February 1981.

Newodhow A Gescar Kernewek (News of the Cornish Diaspora) a newsletter published by one of our members, Peter Moyle. Issue 17, March 1981.

Carn. Quarterly of the Celtic League. No. 34, Summer 1981. This note mentioned that we are one of the most active branches of the ICDBL -- something for us to live up to!

A notice also appeared in the California Welsh Society Newsletter.

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### HOW TO JOIN THE U.S. BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE BRETON LANGUAGE

Anyone interested in joining the U.S. branch is invited to fill out the form to the right and mail it to Lois Kuter (312 West Dodds Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401). Membership dues for 1981 are a mere \$1. Larger contributions are encouraged since this does not cover expenses. A check or money order should be made out to Lois Kuter (Secretary-Treasurer). Indicate on the check that it is for the ICDBL.

\_\_\_\_ I wish to become a member of  
the U.S. branch of the ICDBL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please send information to the  
following people:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# INTRA-ICDBL EXCHANGE

On June 17, 1981, the four California board members of the U.S. ICDBL--Laurie O'Keefe Fadave, John Hennessey, Jr., Dennis King, and Lenora Timm--met with Eamann O'Ruairc, the official contact between the organization's mother group in Brussels and the North American branches. Mr. O'Ruairc, who works in the information service of the Commission of the European Communities, was on a brief tour of the U.S. with his wife and son; he had contacted the California board members in advance of his arrival so that arrangements could be made to meet with him. A dinner meeting was held at the house of L.A. Timm in Woodland. The gist of our consultation with Mr. O'Ruairc is as follows:

Mr. O'Ruairc stated at the outset that we were to step at the beat of our own drum--that is, that any activities we wish to engage in that are in line with the goals of the founding organization will be considered appropriate. The Belgian and Austrian branches have been active in writing letters of protest regarding the inferior status of Breton in France to ambassadors and to members of the French Assembly. O'Ruairc himself strongly favors this tack (of registering complaints at the diplomatic and governmental level), but he recognizes that this is not necessarily the most desirable approach to be taken by all branches.

The four board members present explained that we tend to view the U.S. branch chiefly as an information resource center that will occasionally turn its hand to fund-raising, particularly on behalf of Diwan. Mr. O'Ruairc was perfectly agreeable to this interpretation of our role, again emphasizing that we are free to do as we like. Our only obligation to the parent organization is to keep it informed of our activities as they progress.

While this summary has been on the dry side, I can only say that our ICDBL evening was anything but, laced with much laughter brought on by the ebullient Irishman's jokes and stories--of which he seems to have an endless supply, in several languages. By the way, O'Ruairc's son Liam, aged 6, is growing up bilingual: his two languages are French (Mrs. O'Ruairc is from Alsace-Lorraine) and yes, Irish.

Laurie Fadave is currently in Brittany, and on her way back home in August she plans to stop for a few days and stay with the O'Ruaircs in Brussels. We look forward to a report from her in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Lenora Timm and John Hennessey, Jr.

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## INITIATION OF THE NEWSLETTER - Lois Kuter, Editor for the First Newsletter

This newsletter has been put together to get such an enterprise initiated. Although several people have expressed enthusiasm and some good ideas for a newsletter, no one has jumped at the chance to be a managing editor for it. I hope that in the future newsletters will reflect the input of a larger number of people. As you can see from this one, quite a bit of information can be conveyed in only a few pages of simple format. Ideas and news for future issues are welcome at any time. For now, I will be happy to serve as the collector of news, but I would like to see someone else take on the job of editor. We can have regular columns on certain topics (book news, news of other ICDBL branches, etc.), or the newsletter can vary according to what members contribute and what the editor feels would make an interesting and informative publication supporting the Breton language. I personally feel that each newsletter should have a lead article on language problems or activities in Brittany--what Bretons are doing themselves to develop their language and what we can do to support them. A quarterly newsletter seems most plausible given both finances and the time necessary to put together a publication of quality. Your comments are welcome.



## Breton license

As the newsletter was being prepared for mailing I learned that the Breton license has been granted after all. Although the granting of a degree program for Breton teachers does not guarantee that Breton will automatically be given a larger place in Breton schools, it does make this at least a possibility for the future. The government's positive decision was learned by Bretons on July 22, just 20 days after the Minister of National Education said no to this request.

A letter to the Minister of National Education and to the Prime Minister of France would still be appropriate, but rather than urge them to grant the license, congratulate them on this positive step for the Breton language. Breton cultural organizations also deserve congratulations for their persistence and central role in gaining this important step for Breton.