



*April 14, 1992*

La Branche aux U.S.A. de Kuzul Etrevroadel Evit Kendalc'h ar Brezhoneg (Comité International pour la Sauvegarde de la Langue Bretonne) vous communique ci-joint une lettre (avec traduction anglaise) adressée par nous à M. le Président Mitterrand, M. Jack Lang, et M. Alain Savary.

The U.S. Branch of Kuzul Etrevroadel Evit Kendalc'h ar Brezhoneg (International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language) sends to you attached a letter (with English translation) sent to French President Francois Mitterrand, Minister of Culture Jack Lang, and Minister of Education Alain Savary.

312 West Dodds St.  
Bloomington, Indiana  
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*Lois Kuter*  
Lois Kuter  
Secretary  
for the U.S. ICDBL



KUZUL ETREVROADEL EVIT KENDALC'H AR BREZHONEG  
International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language

*United States Corporation*

le 9 avril 1982

Président François Mitterrand  
Palais de l'Elysée  
55A57, rue du Faubourg-Saint-Honoré  
75008 Paris FRANCE

Monsieur le Président,

Au nom de la Section Américaine du Comité International pour la Sauvegarde de la Langue Bretonne (Kuzul Etrevroadel Evit Kendalc'h ar Brezhoneg), j'ai l'honneur de vous adresser l'expression de notre reconnaissance pour les sentiments favorables que vous avez exprimés à l'égard des langues et des cultures nationales et régionales à l'intérieur de l'Etat français.

Membres d'une organisation créée aux Etats-Unis en octobre 1981 pour soutenir les Bretons qui veulent parler leur langue maternelle, nous trouvons encourageantes les déclarations du Ministre de la Culture et de l'Education Nationale, ainsi que les vôtres. Nous nous inquiétons néanmoins de voir que ces paroles n'ont pas été suivies d'actions en faveur de la langue bretonne. Nous tenons à exprimer notre attente et notre grand espoir que des actions concrètes de la part du gouvernement français assureront l'avenir de la langue bretonne.

Vous avez déjà reçu des demandes persistantes des Bretons eux-mêmes au sujet des décisions requises. Nous soutenons les Bretons dans leurs demandes que soient créés en Bretagne les instruments indispensables à la sauvegarde de la langue bretonne. Pourquoi, par exemple, ne pas accorder une augmentation significative des programmes en breton à la radio et à la télévision, et ce, dès maintenant? Parce que l'avenir d'une langue dépend des enfants, nous sommes aussi d'accord avec les Bretons dans leurs demandes que le breton figure au programme des écoles de Bretagne, à tous les niveaux, de la maternelle jusqu'à l'université. Nous souhaitons également que le gouvernement français fasse tous les efforts nécessaires pour financer les écoles DIWAN ou pour les intégrer à l'enseignement public. Ceux d'entre nous qui ont séjourné en Bretagne peuvent témoigner des efforts sérieux de la part des parents et des enseignants pour assurer la qualité de l'enseignement dispensé dans les écoles DIWAN. Tout en nous réjouissant de l'autorisation habilitant l'Université de Haute-Bretagne à délivrer les diplômes de licence et de maîtrise de Breton, nous déplorons l'absence d'efforts pour créer les postes d'enseignements correspondant aux effectifs inscrits. Quand les enfants de la Bretagne auront-ils le droit et la possibilité d'apprendre leur langue dans les écoles de Bretagne?

A en juger par les déclarations du nouveau gouvernement français, nous devons estimer que vous pensez aussi qu'une réponse aux pétitions que les Bretons présentent depuis des années n'a que trop tardé.

Les projets de loi débattus et votés au sein du Parlement européen et du Conseil de l'Europe, tout comme notre propre activité en tant que section d'une organisation internationale fondée et animée par des personnes qui, en grande majorité, ne sont pas bretonnes, ont démontré que l'intérêt pour l'avenir de la langue bretonne et des autres langues nationales et régionales de l'Europe n'est pas limité aux "fanatiques" bretons.

Nous exprimons l'espoir que vous voudrez bien accorder une sérieuse considération à nos réflexions au sujet du rôle que soit assumer le gouvernement français dans la sauvegarde de la langue bretonne. Notre intention n'est pas de critiquer, mais d'inciter à l'action nécessaire pour appuyer vos sentiments si positifs à l'égard d'un héritage linguistique qui appartient à toute la France.

Nous voulons espérer que l'expression de notre intérêt pour l'avenir de la langue bretonne encouragera une action favorable à cette langue, et nous vous prions d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'expression de nos sentiments les plus respectueux.

Gant hor gwellañ gourc'hemennoù,

Robin Brendan Mackey  
President  
U.S. Corporation of the  
International Committee for the  
Defense of the Breton Language

P.O. Box 341  
Vaughn, Washington  
U.S.A. 98394



KUZUL ETREVROADEL EVIT KENDALC'H AR BREZHONEG  
International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language

*United States Corporation*

April 9, 1982

President François Mitterrand  
Palais de l'Elysée  
55A57, rue du Faubourg-Saint-Honoré  
75008 Paris FRANCE

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the U.S. Branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language (Kuzul Etrevroadel Evit Kendalc'h ar Brezhoneg), I have the honor of extending to you our appreciation for the favorable feelings you have expressed for the national and regional languages and cultures within the French State.

As members of an organization created in the United States in October 1981 to support Bretons who want to speak their native language, we are encouraged by the declarations of the Minister of Culture and the Minister of Education, as well as your own. However, we are concerned to see that these words have not been followed up by actions in favor of the Breton language. We wish to express our great hope and expectation that concrete action on the part of the French government will insure the future of the Breton language.

You have already received persistent requests on the part of Bretons themselves concerning necessary actions. We support Bretons in their demands for the implementation of the necessary tools for the defense of the Breton language in Brittany. Why, for example, not accord a significant increase in Breton language programming on the radio and television, and why not now? Because the future of a language depends on children, we are also in agreement with Bretons in their demands that Breton be given a place in the schools of Brittany, at all levels from pre-school through the university. We also hope that the French government will make all possible efforts to finance the Diwan schools or to integrate them into the public educational system. Those of us who have spent time in Brittany can attest to the serious efforts made by Diwan parents and teachers to guarantee the quality of the education given in these schools. While pleased with the authorization allowing the establishment of Breton degrees at the University of Haute Bretagne, we deplore the absence of efforts to create teaching positions corresponding to the enrollments in these training programs. When will the children of Brittany have the right and the possibility to learn their language in the schools of Brittany?

To judge from declarations made by the new French government, we must conclude that you also feel that a response to petitions presented by Bretons for many years is long overdue.

The resolutions debated and voted by the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, as well as our own activity as a branch of an international organization founded and operated in great majority by people who are not Breton, have demonstrated that an interest in the future of the Breton language and other national and regional languages of Europe is not limited to Breton "fanatics".

We express our hope that you will seriously consider our thoughts on the role that the French government must assume in the defense of the Breton language. Our intention is not to criticize, but to stimulate action in line with your positive feelings towards a linguistic heritage which belongs to all of France.

We hope this expression of our interest for the future of the Breton language will encourage favorable action towards this language. With our respect.

Gant hor gwellan gourc'hemennou,

Robin Brendan Mackey  
President  
U.S. Corporation of the  
International Committee for the  
Defense of the Breton Language

P.O. Box 341  
Vaughn, Washington  
U.S.A. 98394

*A French version of this letter was sent to President Mitterrand and also to Jack Lang, Minister of Culture and Communication, and Alain Savary, Minister of Education.*

KUZUL ETREVROADEL EVIT KENDALC'H  
AR BREZHONEK

International Committee for  
the Defense of the Breton Language

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. BRANCH



### Breton

Breton is a Celtic language. With Cornish and Welsh it makes up the Brittonic branch of Celtic languages; Irish Gaelic and Scottish Gaelic make up the Gaelic branch. The Celtic character of Breton is found in both its vocabulary and its structure. Breton is the everyday language of approximately 500,000-700,000 Bretons living primarily in western Brittany (Breizh Izel), but also dispersed in eastern Brittany (Breizh Uhel) and Breton emigrant communities throughout the world. Estimations for the language which include those who know it but do not regularly speak it would include approximately 1,200,000 persons. Due to Brittany's location in the highly centralized state of France where French nationalism has demanded cultural standardization, the Breton language is today threatened. Schools, military service and the media in France have worked to make French speakers of Bretons and to turn Bretons against their own language and culture. Through the long and hard work of Bretons themselves, attitudes are changing in Brittany. Although at first the Breton linguistic and cultural revival was the work of a handful of intellectuals, today it has become the cause of a much wider population.

### The ICDBL

The ICDBL 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 was set up and operates today on a voluntary basis by non-Bretons who in this way show that, while the future of the Breton language does not directly concern them, they consider it to be a cause meriting their support. The

ICDBL is concerned with the defense of cultural rights; it is non-political and non-ideological. Branches of the ICDBL have been established in Canada, France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Denmark, Ireland, England, Wales, Norway and Austria. The newest branch is our own, officially incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation by the State of Indiana, Office of the Secretary of State, October 20, 1981.

### U.S. Branch Newsletter

Published quarterly (February, May, August, November) this 20-25 page newsletter is designed to inform people in the U.S. about the Breton language and the work of Bretons to support it. Regular features of the newsletter include:

- news of Breton language and cultural organizations
- a column in Breton
- short book reviews and bibliographical notes
- notes on Breton language learning materials
- news of other Celtic languages and organizations
- news of European and International groups to defend Breton and other national and regional languages
- a recipe column
- an information exchange column
- various notes on ICDBL activities

The aim of the newsletter is to be both a source of and a source to information about the Breton language and culture.

### Membership

Members of the U.S. ICDBL receive the newsletter automatically for the year of their membership. Two membership categories exist:

**Voting members** have the right to cast one vote for their membership on all issues brought to vote. Groups or several individuals may hold a membership in common. Dues are \$5.00 per year.

**Non-voting members** have no voting rights but are welcome to be active in all branch activities. This category is primarily for those who would like to show support, but who do not want decision-making responsibilities. Dues are \$3.00 per year.

With the primary aim of promoting education in and about the Breton language, the U.S. ICDBL will be initiating the following activities in 1982: a bibliography project, the development of classroom materials about Brittany and the Breton language for use in U.S. schools, work to make books and journals published in Brittany more accessible in U.S. bookstores and libraries, and the planning of festivals and concerts featuring the Breton language to benefit organizations in Brittany such as the Diwan schools.

#### Subscription to the U.S. ICDBL NEWSLETTER

I would like to subscribe to the U.S. Branch ICDBL Newsletter beginning with No. 2, February 1982. Enclosed is the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a one-year subscription to the newsletter (\$5.00/year for U.S. and Canada; \$6.00 surface rate overseas; \$7.00 A.O. Printed Matter rate overseas). I have checked the appropriate box below to indicate whether you should renew my subscription automatically when it expires and bill me accordingly: Automatic renewal - Yes  No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Make checks or money orders payable to: Lois Kuter/ICDBL

Mail to: Lois Kuter, Secretary-Treasurer, U.S. ICDBL, 312 West Dodds Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

#### THE U.S. ICDBL: MEMBERSHIP

I would like to become a member of the U.S. Branch of the ICDBL and enclose the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a voting / non-voting membership for 1982. (circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: Subscription to the newsletter is included in membership dues.  
Make checks or money orders payable to: Lois Kuter/ICDBL.

Mail to: Lois Kuter, Secretary-Treasurer, U.S. ICDBL, 312 West Dodds Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.