

ICASSI 1971, Bad Kissingen, Germany

The site of the fourth International Summer School was Bad Kissingen, a famous old spa with a beautiful garden-lined stream flowing through the town, separating the hotels which surrounded a central area where participants lived.

The Summer School was organised under the sponsorship of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Individual Psychologie. Most of the participants were from German speaking countries, including Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Holland, but there was a significant number from North America, as well as participants from Greece and several other countries.

The program format included morning sessions in the Kurhalle, where Dr Dreikurs or another Staff person gave the lecture or demonstration, smaller mid-morning classes, and afternoon personal problem solving groups in the various hotels. Evening sessions were few, partly because many of the German group not living in Bad Kissingen, went home at the end of the afternoon.

Dr Dreikurs, in spite of the severity of his grave illness, or perhaps because of it, was exceedingly anxious that his presentations and the summer session should meet the needs of all those attending. According to the correspondents, there were many impressive highlights: the Marriage Counselling of a young Canadian couple; a deeply moving life style experience conducted entirely through interpreters; and a unique use of paintings of family groups for self- understanding. However, a heavy feeling was borne by those who were close to Dr and Mrs Dreikurs, in the knowledge that their teacher, colleague, and friend was so desperately struggling against the difficulties of his terminal illness.

Although Dr and Mrs Dreikurs were not able to join the participants on the farewell river trip to Würzburg, they were on hand to meet the group as they returned by bus. In a large restaurant overlooking the river, gifts and accolades were exchanged, and finally there was singing with Horst Groener playing his guitar. A most touching moment was when Dr Dreikurs asked Horst if he could play the old Viennese song "The Fiaker". The song is about the driver of a fiaker, a horse-drawn carriage that one sees in Vienna. The driver asks that when he dies it will be made clear that he was "ein echter Wiener" – a true son of Vienna. When the going got heavy Horst merely told Dr Dreikurs that he didn't know the words, because he knew he would break into tears if he tried to sing the second verse. These were saddened, heart rending moments to recall.

Many who attended Bad Kissingen travelled to Israel for a second summer session with Dr Dreikurs and his dedicated staff. The reason for two schools that year was that Achi knew Dr Dreikurs was dying. Knowing that this was the last year Dr Dreikurs would be with us, they decided to have two ICASSI's , one in Bad Kissingen, August 1-13, and a second in Israel, August 15-29.