

ICASSI 1975, Eretria and Athens, Greece

Greece, the cradle of democracy, housed the eighth International Summer Institute. This was the second time it was held in Greece and thus an excellent opportunity existed to see the growth of the ICASSI Summer Institute. In Crete in 1969, approximately 125 participants were enrolled, while in 1975 in Eretria and Athens, the participants numbered over 450.

In-depth involvement was evidenced in all areas of the program: in the three Education Centres (Family, Marriage and Teacher Education); in the courses for University credit; in the areas of business and industry; and in the classes and general discussions.

Dr Eva Dreikurs Ferguson and a team of co-workers made a special impact with a workshop held for Greek businessmen where Adlerian principles were applied to business and work relations – an area in which her father, Dr Dreikurs, was most interested. There were also scheduled sessions with Greek women whose intense study of Adlerian psychology and changed views of equality had inadvertently disrupting effects on family life.

The first week in the hotels at Eretria afforded opportunities for swimming in the warm Mediterranean Sea, for enjoying the pleasant countryside and visiting local villages and tavernas. The second week in Athens combined the busy conference proceedings with sightseeing, shopping, nightly entertainment, and visits to the Plaka at the base of the ancient Acropolis. Long days of study were interspersed with tours to Delphi, Corinth, Epidaurus and Piraeus.

Many attended, along with 50,000 other people, the outdoor concert of the famous and controversial Greek singer and Nationalist, Theodorakis.

The Farewell Party was held in the outdoor courtyard of the neighbouring school where a sumptuous repast of Greek food was served, and a lively concert, dancing and singing lasted late into the evening. For some, a capping finale afterwards was a Mediterranean cruise of the Greek Islands that included Mykonos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini, as well as mainland landings such as Alexandria and Cairo.

ICASSI '75 in Greece was reported as a “unique experience”, a “most worthwhile happening”, a conference “of such magnitude, never before privileged to attend”.