

Dissemination seminar for National Societies of Europe and North America

A seminar on the methods and means of disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Red Cross was held in Baden, near Vienna, from 8 to 14 June 1986. It was organized by the Austrian Red Cross and the ICRC, in co-operation with the League, and brought together forty-four representatives from 25 European and North American National Societies.

The opening ceremony was held in the presence of Dr. Heinrich Treichl, President of the Austrian Red Cross, Mr. Jacques Moreillon, Director General at the ICRC, and Mr. Hans Hoegh, Secretary General of the League. The ICRC was also represented by Mr. Alain Modoux, Head of the Information Department, and five other staff members. The League had furthermore delegated Mrs. Yolande Camporini, Technical Adviser, Statutory Matters and Dissemination.

Each day's discussions were devoted to a specific target group: National Societies, the armed forces, government circles, academic circles, young people, the mass media and the general public.

Each topic was first introduced by an expert from outside the Movement, fully acquainted with the problems of how best to approach the target group in question, and then dealt with by a representative from one of the National Societies taking part. The participants were later divided into four groups to examine dissemination methods relative to the target group in question, and in the afternoon practical or rôle-playing exercises were carried out and commented on.

Summaries of the discussions, which proved very fruitful, were included in the final report distributed to the participants at the end of the seminar.