

SUPERCAMP 1989

Last event to mark the Movement's 125th anniversary

“Supercamp 1989” was the final celebration of the Movement’s 125th anniversary. It was held from 1 to 10 September 1989 in Castiglione and Solferino in Italy and continued in Geneva from 11 to 14 September. Organized jointly by the League, the ICRC, the Italian Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross, Supercamp brought together 511 young people from 132 National Societies around the world. Activities were directed by Mrs. Joanna MacLean, head of the League’s Youth Department assisted by Mr. Serge Caccia, head of the ICRC’s Public Relations Service, as well as Mrs. Clotilde Manuelli, head of the General Affairs Service, and Mrs. Manuela Lavagnino, head of the International Affairs Service, of the Italian Red Cross.

Supercamp’s purpose was threefold:

- to attract world attention to the important role played by the young people in the Movement’s humanitarian work;
- to demonstrate and strengthen young people’s commitment to the Movement’s seven Fundamental Principles;
- to allow young people more direct participation in running the Movement and implementing the Principles in the 21st century.

At the invitation of Professor Luigi Giannico, *Commissario Straordinario* of the Italian Red Cross, the opening ceremony took place on 2 September in Castiglione. It was attended by the young people themselves and many leading officials from the Movement and government including Mr. Lattanzio, the Italian Minister for Civil Defence, Mr. Cardamone, the Prefect of Mantua, Mr. Mario Villaroel, President of the League, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the ICRC, Mrs. Mariapia Fanfani, Vice-President of the League and head of the Red Cross Museum in Castiglione, and Mr. Hubert Bucher, Secretary General of the Swiss Red Cross. Speaking to the assembled group, Mr. Villaroel said, “We are here to listen to new ideas and to feel the

dynamism of young people, since you are the ones who will keep this federation strong and dynamic in the future”.

The delegations taking part in Supercamp consisted of one to five members aged between 18 and 22. They were divided into seven sub-camps, each having as its name and its theme one of the Movement’s seven Fundamental Principles.

Each Principle gave rise to a stimulating exchange of views between the delegates who, depending on their abilities and cultural background, used dance, mime and artwork to convey their ideas. These “workshops” all joined in formulating a **message from the Movement’s youth**, which was the purpose of Supercamp.

All observers were struck by the strong motivation and keen interest shown by the participants in humanitarian work and by their spirit of solidarity and co-operation both at work and at leisure.

On 9 September, the closing ceremony took place on the *Piazza della Repubblica* in Castiglione. At the ceremony, the delegates presented the Fundamental Principles before giving a colourful cultural concert. To ensure that the memory of Supercamp 89 lives on, a tree was planted on a small hill in Castiglione which will henceforth be named “Red Cross and Red Crescent Hill”.

On 11 September, the participants retraced the footsteps of Henry Dunant to Geneva and assembled in front of the United Nations building in Geneva to hand over Supercamp’s message to leading officials of the Movement and UN representatives in Geneva. They were welcomed there by Mr. Guy-Olivier Segond, Administrative Councillor of the City of Geneva, ICRC President Sommaruga, Mr. Karl Kennel, President of the Swiss Red Cross, Mr. Pär Stenbäck, Secretary General of the League, and Mr. Luigi Giannico, *Commissario Straordinario* of the Italian Red Cross. The young people’s message (*see below*) affirms their commitment to humanitarian ideals and action in today’s world and is intended to lay the foundations for the future of the world’s biggest youth organization (90 million members).

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Federal Councillor Kaspar Villiger, representing the Swiss Federal Council, and Mr. Jan Martenson, Director-General of the Office of the United Nations in Geneva, who both addressed the gathering. The ceremony ended with the presentation by the participants of a series of tableaux portraying the seven Principles and an appeal from film actress Nastassia Kinski to young people in the Movement to continue universal fight for peace and the relief of suffering.

MESSAGE FROM THE MOVEMENT'S YOUTH

Conflict, Destruction, Pain, Pollution, Famine, Oppression — even at this very moment.

Does it have to continue?

Look at us, we are the living proof of peaceful co-existence, united by our common commitment to alleviating human suffering.

We are the young members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, representing 131 nationalities. We live by the seven fundamental principles and we rejoice in our differences.

Let us stop playing with human lives.

Let us stop destroying the earth.

Let us break down the barriers of prejudice.

Let us work together to achieve equality and respect for human dignity.

Our world needs both the experience of older generations and the energy, idealism, and hope of the young.

Listen to us as we call upon you, Nations of the World, to build with us a better future for humanity.

Death of Mr. Eustasio Villanueva Vadillo

Mr. Eustasio Villanueva Vadillo, former Treasurer General of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and former member of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, died on 11 September 1989 in Madrid at the age of 72.

Mr. Villanueva, who obtained a doctorate in law from the University of Valladolid, taught political economy and practised law. He was the founder of the Bank of Madrid and Vice-President of its Board of Directors.