

## CORRESPONDENCE

Sir,

Every year historical Schloss Leopoldskron, built in 1736 by the Archbishop of Salzburg, and its adjoining Meierhof (the recently renovated rustic building adjacent to the Schloss), provide a venue for seven different sessions, lasting either three or four weeks, each on a different subject. The sessions are designed to bring together potential leaders of Western and Eastern European countries as well as American authorities, thus providing a unique and open forum for the mutual exchange of information and international opinion.

The Salzburg Seminar was established in 1947 by the student council of Harvard University. It is an independent, privately-financed, non-profit corporation, responsible only to the spirit of free inquiry. It has its own Board of Directors and a European Advisory Council composed of Seminar alumni. Most of the funds supporting the Salzburg Seminar are gifts and grants from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Each summer, a session on 'American Law and Legal Institutions' is held, lasting four weeks. The aims of this session are threefold:

- (i) to provide a panoramic view of the most important aspects of the American legal system,
- (ii) to impart an understanding of the patterns of legal reasoning used by American lawyers, and
- (iii) to give Fellows an opportunity to go more deeply into a particular legal area of their own expertise or choosing.

These aims are accomplished partly by morning lectures followed by discussion for the entire group of Fellows, averaging 50, with small group seminar meetings in the afternoons intended for specialisation, and partly by the amiability and complete freedom of expressing opinions that characterise the session, as well as the comparative work that is facilitated by a library supplemented by texts made available by the Faculty members – distinguished American judges, professors and practising lawyers.

The topics normally dealt with in the legal session cover the judicial process and the role of the judge in the American legal

system; remedies against the government, raising issues of administrative and constitutional law; criminal law, including the functions of police agencies and sentencing and treatment practices; public interest law, with reference to selected controversial issues; and anti-trust laws, including the measurement of monopoly power, the limits on collaboration among competitors, the limitations on permissible mergers and joint ventures, and the extra-territorial application of American anti-trust law.

Though the work done at the Schloss is intensive, this is carried out in a thoroughly relaxing atmosphere that is enhanced by the natural beauty of the surrounding countryside and by an intermingling of cultural and social activities sponsored by the Seminar, including classical candlelight concerts and excursions to the Alps. Besides, the Schloss contains its own Bierstübe, and lies only a twenty minute walk from the centre of Old Salzburg. The staff and Faculty themselves play no small part in maintaining this informal atmosphere throughout the respective sessions.

At the completion of each session, the Fellows become Alumni of the Salzburg Seminar and, inter alia, participate in Alumni Reunions at the Schloss.

From my attendance at session 163 on 'American Law and Legal Institutions' the past summer, I cannot but agree with Dr. Thomas H. Eliot's, president of the Seminar, description of the Salzburg Seminar, description of the Salzburg Seminar as a focal point for a better understanding among people of many nations. It truly provides a continuing voice of 'sanity and friendship' amidst worldly strife, acting as a small but significant binding force bringing and KEEPING people together.

(David Scicluna)  
Alumnus of  
the Salzburg Seminar  
in American Studies  
(1975)