

FROM: JUAN CAMPOS, member of the Board of IAGP

AMSTERDAM

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AMSTERDAM MEMO AT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 27, 1987 (No leido)

On behalf of a large enough group of "individual members" of our Association and in accordance with article 10 of our Constitution we are submitting this application to the Board of Directors to initiate a permanent specialized section of Group Analysis in the IAGP.

This initiative parts from the conclusions of a Seminar held at the Sacro Coeur of Rome on April 3rd 1987, among groupanalysts, members of different affiliate organizations and experts in organization. Later, April 9th, this decision was communicated to several psychoanalysts, actual or prospective members of our Association attending the European Forum of Psychoanalysis held in Barcelona on April 10th. Similar meetings and equal conclusions have been reached at "ad hoc" meetings held in Madrid, April 11th, Bilbao April 34th, Valencia, June 12-15th, and we hope they will be seconded as well by the one we hope to maintain during the Oxford Symposium of Group Analysis, September 1-7th, just before submitting the application in Amsterdam.

Since there is no precedent of such a situation we are well aware that by taking action in favor or against will have to set up procedure. On discussing this subject with President Gretel Leutz we coincided on that it would be wise to inform members of the Executive by letter before we meet in Amsterdam and, if possible, submit a draft on aims and regulations for the Section. The first I did by sending the memorandum and a personalized circular letter, which was made extensive to former and past Presidents and Members of the Board of Director, and to representative persons of groupanalytic organizations, affiliated or not to our Association, which may be interested in supporting or opposing the proposal. We also sent copies to people invited to back our petition.

On second thought, we feel however that the drawing of a definite outline for constitutional by-laws or regulations of the Section's organization, financial accountability and representativity, should be the prerogative of the founding members of that Section, to which purpose the Executive and Board of Directors should make explicit the adequate framework and limits of delegated responsibility and autonomy.

In principle, however, we may advance that it is felt that membership to SAGA/GAAS should be personal, that it be open exclusively to "individual members" of the Association in good standing, but not to "organizational members". People indirectly related to our Association, such as are members of "affiliate organizations", in order to join the Section have to apply as well for "individual membership". That way we hope to increase and enrich in individual membership instead of decreasing. All these topics will be discussed by the promoters of the Section at a meeting in Barcelona possibly late this Autumn and certainly before the next Winter Meeting of the Executive.

The response to our consultation has been most enthusiastic, with many people sponsoring the initiative by signing the petition. Some others questioned the opportunity or showed some reluctance based on the fear that it result detrimental to growth, the unity or the ultimate aims of our Association. Opposition is likely to be aroused as well among those who think the development of such a Section may collide with interests of the "affiliated organization" to which they belong or interfere with the international projection and politics of their own local or national organizations.

I am a Fellow of the A.C.P.A and a Full Member of the G.A.S.(London) who just finished serving a four year term as a full member of its Committee of Management. For many years I remained a "foreign member" of the first and "overseas member" of the second without ever being encouraged to join the IAGP. It is to be noticed that both organizations were promoters of the IAGP since the years of the International Council and before. It was not until an "individual member" of the Association, Malcolm Pines, became the chairman of the Program Committee of the Copenhagen Congress and asked me to contribute that I joined the Association. I maintained by quite expensive membership sub-

cription in those two "prestigious anglosaxon organizations" of my speciality even though I hardly can benefit from their facilities or activities and it neither facilitated contacts or communication with specialists in my own country, language and culture simply because locally or at the international level in the Spanish speaking area we lack that sort of specialized organizations. As I understand Article II, the ultimate purpose of our Association is to "effectively assure co-operation between all those organizations and persons concerned with the use and study of group resources in psychotherapy and in dealing with human problems" and that may be achieved equally by promoting mutual communication between representatives of different theories and practice" as between those with similar orientation which remain separated because of power struggles over political, nationalistic, economical, linguistic or socio-cultural interest.

We ignore if the establishment of a specialized Section in Group Analysis may fit the "ecumenic spirit" of the IAGP, or wether the IAGP will or shall be a good enough continent and the adequate facilitating environment required for the comprehensive development of Group Analysis we envision, but we are ready to give it a trial. We assume that our commitment with honest and sound communication among equals will not be a deterrent for free asociacionism among equals within our Association!