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## **Report of the Standing Committee on the STUDY GROUP FOR GROUP ANALYSIS**

Prepared for the European Meeting of the Board of Directors of the IAGP at  
the Hotel Tivoli, Lisbon, September 6-8, 1991

by Juan Campos Avillar

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The Report will cover three main points:

1. A short history of the establishment of this Committee.
2. The institutional significance of the concept of "Study Group" as an alternative to the establishment of "Sections" contemplated in Article X of the Bye-Laws in regard to the attainment of the general purpose of the IAGP.
3. Undertakings and projects contemplated by this Chair, proposals for the organization of the Committee and philosophy and line of action to be implemented by the Study Group for Group Analysis.

### **1. A short history of the establishment of this Committee.**

This Committee was set up on recommendation of the Board of Directors Meeting at Cumberland Lodge, England, on September 3, 1988 and its Chairmanship, later, entrusted to me by President Fern Cramer-Azima on November 15, 1989. It is not clear to this Chair if the role, functions and purpose for the "Group Analytic Study Group Standing Committee" are the same than those suggested by the above mentioned Board of Directors resolution under the denomination of "Study Group for Group Analysis" but we take it they are and prefer the latter, abbreviated SGGA. Since in the specialized field of practice under the denomination of group analysis the question of names and their meanings as they relate to communication are important, I suggest we start by re-reading what has been officially published up to now in this respect.

On page 5 of the Cumberland Lodge Minutes, under the heading "Special Section of the IAGP" it says:

"Juan Campos expanded on his previous proposal for a permanent section of Group Analysis within the IAGP. A Brief was distributed to the Board in advance of this meeting which contained statements from various Board members as to the viability of his proposal. In the following discussion various members spoke mainly of the difficulties that might ensue from a Section formation and that the IAGP remain not partisan. Cramer-Azima introduced the concept of Study Group for Group Analysis, or for that matter a technique for other groups who wish to explore interests in group properties, research, etc.

"The Study Group may be disbanded after a period of time when its function has been completed, or may continue over time. In this format sections are not permanently created in any competitive fashion. Different group theoretical models

may thus exist in loyal harmony within an interactional organization. The consensus of the Board was that the Study Group was a good solution for this and other petitions. Campos agreed and asked that the Study Group be announced in the next Newsletter".

Correspondingly on page 3, of the **IAGP Newsletter**, Vol. VIII, No. 1 of January 1989 appears the following statement under **HIGHLIGHTS: IAGP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CUMBERLAND LODGE, ENGLAND, SEPTEMBER 2-4, 1989:**

"A petition for the creation of a Formal Section within the IAGP of Group Analysis was put forward by Dr. Juan Campos. It was felt that the creation of a field sub-group within the organization would not be advantageous in view of our small membership. The concept of Study Group for Group Analysis was then proposed and accepted as a viable alternative for members to bond together for a certain period of time for common professional interests."

This settles the question of the SAGA/GAAS proposal: to my understanding it was approved, although under a different administrative category and a new denomination. I think it would be helpful, however, to quote here in full the content of the proposal where the original aims are stated. On May 29, 1987, I circulated among my fellow-members of the Executive Committee a memorandum notifying them that on behalf of a group of twenty-five individual members of our Association, headed by myself, we were getting ready to submit to the Board meeting the following September at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, a petition to establish a Permanent Specialized Analytic Section in Group Analysis of the IAGP (the SAGA/GAAS project) in the following terms:

"Ever since 1970, and specially since 1980, an important number of group-analysts, individual members of our Association, have been trying to establish an **international network of communication in order to further develop the work that in favor of the development of Group Analysis in theory and practice they perform in their local or national societies, institutes and organizations.**

"Most of these activities have taken place so far at events coinciding with the World Congresses organized by our Association and/or at the European Symposium in Group Analysis. At this point of history, however, and after serious consideration, the below signing members of the Association believe that the aims by them pursued will be better served under the auspices and coverage offered by a Specialized Section considered under Article X of the IAGP Constitution.

"The Statutes for this Section will adopt... the blueprint designed originally by S. H. Foulkes for the organization of GAIPAC in 1967, that is, the one of a large continuous study group and continuous seminar constituted by a network of operative local groups linked together by correspondence and periodical face to face meetings."

This memorandum to the Executive was accompanied by a personal letter asking their opinion about this project and was made extensive also to Past presidents and other senior members of the Association asking them their honest opinion regard the viability of the project and its appropriateness for the whole of the Association. That was part of the procedure that back in Zagreb in 1986 President Leutz had advised us to follow in order to avoid resistances to its approval. Some of the commentaries received and the whole argumentation justifying the petition were summarized in the report supporting the application before the Board of Directors Meeting at the Vrije Universiteit in September 1987. Other members' response was so positive as for signing the petition themselves. (An outline of this procedure, the draft of the Amsterdam presentation and of the above mentioned Brief have been re-edited and brought up to date and ~~are available for the Lisbon 1991 meeting~~). *accompany this Report.*

Those are the official texts. They cannot reflect, though, all the work done nor the emotions kindled by the question of "Sections of the IAGP" which extends itself, in our case, as far back as 1979 and, in the case of Foulkesian Group Analysis proper, maybe as far back as before the Vienna Congress in 1967. It is striking, however, that after a long roundabout in the case of the SAGA/GAAS project, our organization came to grant permission for the development of the initiative as originally intended, namely the one of ~~a large continuous~~ study group in Group Analysis - paradoxically, the same outcome which Foulkes was forced to follow in the previous attempt: **The GAIPAC project.**

Some points of caution before we proceed to the question of Sections in the IAGP. **Firstly**, even though in the above text there is no reference to it, the question of a Section within the IAGP was prompted by events within the European Group-Analytical Movement, initiated at an encounter between "UK-members" and "Overseas-members" of the Group Analytic Society (London) and active correspondents of GAIPAC that took place during the 1980 Congress of Group Psychotherapy in Copenhagen. **Secondly**, regardless of their society membership, the people who sponsored the initiative for a Section within the IAGP, the concept of group analysis they adhered to is not the restrictive one equivalent to group-analytic psychotherapy but the slightly more comprehensive one adopted by Foulkes himself during the First European Symposium of Group Analysis in 1970 in Lisbon referring to the various methods and theories essentially compatible with psycho-analytic and group-analytic assumptions. <sup>1</sup> **Finally**, it has to be considered that many of the people interested in this approach are neither members of the G A S nor of the IAGP but would be likely candidates for the latter in case it included such a specific interest area.

Of course, for people who are not familiar with the history of Psycho-Analysis and Group Analysis and who have not lived in their own flesh the difficulties involved in taking such a step, the actual developments we are considering are not easily understandable. In my own case, my familiarity with these matters and the reflection upon my own experience has helped me to develop the concept of "professional plexus" which I consider my most serious theoretical contribution to Group Analysis.

2. The institutional significance of the concept of "Study Group" as an alternative to the establishment of "Sections" contemplated in Article X of the Bye-Laws <sup>2</sup> in regard to the attainment of the general purpose of the IAGP.

One of the obvious facts that comes from reading the whole of literature generated by this proposal is that the main source of concern expressed and the kind of difficulties manifested in accepting the petition for a Section in Group Analysis are more directly related to a matter of principles involved in setting up sections - "...the difficulties that might ensue from a Section formation and that the IAGP remain not partisan" - than with the opportunity and viability of the concrete proposal under consideration as should be expected. What the Group-Analytic Section unleashed could have been prompted by any attempt at section forming regardless of denomination, Psycho-Analysis, Psychodrama, or whatever... There is no disguise either that the remedy, the "...concept of Study Group for Group Analysis, or for that matter a technique for other groups who wish to explore interests in group properties, research, etc.", in Cramer-Azima's words, was intended and understood as a foolproof panacea as well as a preventive measure for all future attempts, "... The consensus of the Board was that the Study Group was a good solution for this and other petitions." and "a viable alternative for members to bond together for a certain period of time for common professional interests." (The Newsletter) - January 1987

It was over this topic, and not about Group Analysis, that the discussion at the Board came to a deadlock. It had very little to do with the temporal or permanent character of the petition for a Section, eventuality foreseen in Article X and easily solved by accepting it on a temporary basis or even after a time of probation. The solution of a Study Group for Group Analysis had the virtue of solving once and for ever a bothering problem without having to amend the constitution. So now that Article X is no longer applicable, if a group of members wants to set up an interest section the only thing to do is to ask for the establishment of a Committee. This "salomonic verdict", unless it changes nothing but names, is unlikely to satisfy neither those in favor nor those against the approval of that particular Section. It escapes my comprehension why that solution, more akin to an ad hoc committee contemplated in Article XI-H.<sup>3</sup>, is more acceptable than to one of a Section, unless it is because the former is under the direct surveillance of the Presidency.

Also, I find questionable the logic behind the argument that we cannot allow for Sections because of the small number of members in our Association and, for the same token, those which claim that "the IAGP is far from reaching the level of organization which would allow for differentiation". Certainly most of the threats to the "integrity" of the Association and of the risk of "fragmentation" are based on these premises. I also ask myself how many more decades have to go by before we reach the number of members and the degree of maturity which allows a safe enough differentiation. Could it not be that precisely those biases and fears are the ones restraining the Association from growing and attaining higher degrees of organization? Are we not precisely forcing people to go out and form their own international organizations, formal and independent of the IAGP, as Dr. Fidler would recommend to Psychodrama and Groupanalysis?



Finally, regard the social projection of our work, I wonder if by avoiding to face those "secessionist" issues, we are not failing as well to investigate a problem highly relevant to society today, at a point of history when, with the cold war melted and the wall of Berlin demolished, states and blocks of nations cannot find a better alternative than the upsurge of nationalisms and integrisms and as an only response war - civil or world wide - theme very much akin to the one which gathers us in Montreal. Could we - specialists in group living - not find healthier solutions? The Catalan definition of health says that health is a way of living which is autonomous, solidary and joyful, the joy that comes from coping successfully with internal and external problems. Would that do for our group living? Is that what we think of when we talk of Study Groups?

The concept of Study Group has different meanings according to the context in which it is used, and needs further clarification. Could this not be one of the first tasks of such a Committee? For instance, within the psychoanalytical framework, study groups always have been forerunners of societies and, in this sense, the **Psychologische Mittwoch Gesellschaft** of Prof. Freud in Vienna could be understood as one, the same than the **Group of Freudian Researchers** - or Physicians - in Zürich. Even today, the IPA calls Study Groups its Societies in the making, when they are on probation and under the surveillance of more senior societies. That was not the case in the early days of the American Psychoanalytical Association, when direct membership to it was still allowed. A similar situation to the one of the IAGP with IM's and OM's.

Quite on the contrary, within the group-analytic framework, the **Lifwynn Foundation for Research in Analytical and Social Psychiatry** constituted by Trigant Burrow and collaborators in 1927, may as well be considered a Study Group and, we could also consider a Study Group the **Monday Group at 7, Linnell Close**, convened by S. H. Foulkes, where those practicing group psychotherapy in London used to meet from 1946 onwards. Finally, as was mentioned in the application, the model firstly considered by the SAGA/GAAS project was the "continuous large study group", launched by S. H. Foulkes in 1967 with GAIPAC when he no longer could maintain the hope of establishing a Section of Group Analysis within the International Council. Maybe the phantom of that unsettled business is still pending! 4

In English "study" refers to "applying the mind as to acquire knowledge or understanding, as by reading, investigating, etc... and also the careful attention and the critical examination and investigation of any subject, event, etc...", to me all good enough descriptions for the group task of a Study Group for Group Analysis. In other words, an attempt of applying our own special knowledge and skill to the "group settings" where we gather, the same sort of task **Hernán Kesselman** and myself set out to perform when we studied the consonances, dissonances and resonances between Foulkes and Pichón-Rivière with our Operative Group Analysis (Zagreb Congress 1986), or the definition **Fabrizio Napolitani** used for Group Analysis as a Training Network in Action (European Symposium of Group Analysis, Zagreb 1984).

I would like to add that my interest in what can be described as a Study Group started in my own country as soon as 1979 in the more senior of our group association, the SEPTG

(Sociedad Española de Psicoterapia y Técnicas de Grupo) which became an Organizational Member of the IAGP as a result of applying this sort of study in its own organization from the 80'ies onwards. For example, the "Colectivo de trabajo grupal Barcelona", while reviewing the group work done in that country during the 70'ies in preparation of the theme of the Symposium of the SEPTG in Mallorca in 1980 on "The Group Approach for a National Health Service", for more than one year constituted itself as a Study Group. Then, in the early 80'ies, we formed **Convergencia Analítica Internacional** and later **Grupo Análisis Operativo**, two professional groups in the making, Study Groups in the proper sense, seeking an international context to develop and which could fit neither into the AGPA nor the IAGP because there was room for individuals or organizations but not for groups. All these experiences are the material from which my concept of "professional plexus" developed and which in turn inspires the creation of <<Grup d'Anàlisi Barcelona>> and the Jornadas Internacionales from which **Sociedad Española para el Desarrollo del Grupo, la Psicoterapia y el Psicoanálisis**, another Organizational Member of the IAGP sprang.

Summing up, as I understand, the aim to be achieved with the Study Group for Group Analysis is to operationally take measures and effectively establish means that favor at an international level the sort of communication and interactions which better serve the development of that branch of science and body of practice that goes under the denomination of Group Analysis. I hope that this definition fits with the one employed by the Board of the IAGP. For Group Analysis certainly this is good enough. After all, the first paper ever presented by the Linnell Close group back in 1948 at the London Congress for Mental Health was "The Study of Communication in a Group by a Group" (TGA, p.269).

Meanwhile, I think that the time has come to report on the work done under this denomination, regardless of the definition, and to concretize its actual organization and the work to be done in the future.

### **3. Undertakings and projects contemplated by this Chair, proposals for the organization of the Committee and philosophy and line of action to be implemented by the Study Group for Group Analysis.**

What do we understand by Group Analysis? and, who is interested in Group Analysis and in what way? would be the first questions to answer by this Committee in order to start its task. A first step in this direction was given by the Membership Directory 1986-89, where individual members identified themselves with a particular denomination and had a chance for a self-presentation.

We will use this source to start a correspondence in relation to these questions, informing of the existence of this Committee and convening a face to face encounter at the Montreal Congress.

There are two other tasks arising from previous Congresses which I propose this Committee to assume: The one of PLEXUS Editore(s), whose first meeting took place

during the Amsterdam Congress and the one of Group Analysis Mare Nostrum, a Panel which has been running since Opatija in 1985 and also met in Zagreb and Amsterdam. Both endeavors have in common the attempt of building a bridge across language barriers and orientations between group analysts at an international level.

The Committee contemplates the establishment of an international center of information and documentation in Group Analysis addressed at linking those existing already in different language areas, asking their institutional support and fostering cooperation between them.

We are well aware that all these activities imply a dedication of time and money that cannot be expected to be absorbed by the budget of the IAGP and that people joining the Study Group will have to pay a small subscription on top of their membership fees.

The Committee will encourage members to do group work on the theme of the Intl. Congresses, foster workshops to that effect in between Congresses in their local or national associations and favor group presentations, true symposia, at the Congresses. We have experimented with this approach facing the Amsterdam Congress with two Spanish societies: the Sociedad Española de Psicoterapia y Técnicas de Grupo and Sociedad Española para el Desarrollo del Grupo, la Psicoterapia y el Psicoanálisis with very good results. As mentioned above, not only the societies benefitted from the experience but they joined the IAGP as organizations as many of their individual members did. Finally, we completely agree with the recommendation that Dr. Fidler made in reference to Specialized Sections in that the responsibilities assigned to them and the privilege afforded them should be clearly defined and we think that this would equally apply to this Committee. *STUDY GROUP IN GROUP ANALYSIS COMMITTEE.*

Contemplating the schedule for the Lisbon Meeting, we see that there is plenty of time for discussion groups to be arranged, so we ask now for meetings of our Committee to be scheduled for Friday afternoon and Saturday in order to further develop our program and to concretize questions such as appointments of members to the Committee, relationship with the Executive and the Presidency, subscription fees, etc. So, that what we report back on Sunday morning can be circulated among the people who formally signed the petition and others who have shown interest in the project ever since.

Barcelona, August 1, 1991



Copy of this Report goes to:

Officers of the Executive,

Past Presidents and Members of the Board who were consulted about the project and/or who signed the petition.

<sup>1</sup> S. H. Foulkes, 1970: "The Symposium in retrospect: An introduction to the discussion in GAIPAC" (GR/AN 4-1-1971). "I have adopted the term "group-analysis" only after it had been relinquished by Trigant Burrow and for many years I was the only one to use it. Later I spoke more specifically of group-analytic psychotherapy, ~~after giving~~ *over* ..."

much thought to what was the best term to be used in order to express the fact that this method is based fundamentally on the group... I used the terms group-analysis and group-analytic psychotherapy as synonymous, but have more recently found it useful to use group analysis as a slightly more comprehensive term for various methods and theories as they are on a basis essentially compatible with psycho-analytic and group-analytic assumptions." \*

**2 ARTICLE X - SECTIONS** "The Board of Directors may in its discretion establish temporary or permanent sections based on specialized interest in order to serve the purpose of our Association and to provide for the cooperation in the organization of congresses. Under such conditions as the Board of Directors may set up, sections may be organized for their individual cooperation in ways consistent with the organization of the International Association and its broad purposes. The range of sections will depend upon present and future needs. Action to initiate a section may be initiated by an application to the Board signed by twenty five members of the Association"

**3 Art. IX, H. Ad-hoc Committees** - Can be appointed for certain purposes by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee, informing the Board of Directors within sixty days.

<sup>SCHILDER, E.R.</sup>  
4 In my Brief I quoted the letter from Foulkes to Raul Schilder of October 10, 1967, written while they were working at the Constitution of the IAGP and for the Vienna Program. Foulkes complained there in these terms: "At first sight I have no particular criticism to make about the program in principle except that what was agreed in Birnne, has not been implemented, namely that we should have separate sections, in particular in Group Analysis...". The interim of the International Council work between Vienna and Zürich was the one when Foulkes' enthusiasm for the IAGP grew to the lowest. January 1967 is when he launches the No. 0 of GAIPAC which he himself edited for the following eight years. In all these years, not a single comment, news or announcements about the activities of the International Council or Congresses appeared in GAIPAC, and mind he was the Vice President of that Council. The only exception to this rule of silence was a very brief report by Malcolm Pines (GR/AN VI/3 November 1973, pp.190-192) covering the International Congress of Group Psychotherapy when the final draft of the Constitution of the new Association was approved and its first Board of Directors was elected. In the first issue after he retired as editor (GR/AN IX/1 March 1976, p.66), besides stating that the eventual aim of GAIPAC has always been an international association of group analysts, in his obituary of Dr. Werner Kemper, a psychoanalyst who introduced group psychotherapy in Brazil, Foulkes made the following comment: "Kemper and I met again at International Congresses of Group Psychotherapy, forerunners of those to be organized by the recently founded IAGP, which I supported in order to provide a forum for all kinds of group psychotherapy, including an independent analytical section." As Kemper wrote, in the last issue of Group Analysis, he well remembered a talk we had during the 1963 Milan Congress and the need we felt for an international groupanalytic organization to run parallel with the other."



# THE SAGA/GAAS PROJECT A BRIEF ON THE SPECIALIZED INTEREST SECTION IN GROUP ANALYSIS

Board of Directors, Cumberland Lodge September 2-4, 1988

(Proposal submitted by Dr. Campos)

Barcelona, August 20th, 1988, Reprinted for Lisbon August 2nd, 1991

On behalf of twenty six "individual members" of our Association and in accordance with Article X<sup>th</sup> of our Constitution I was commissioned to submit an application to the Board of Directors to initiate a permanent specialized section of Group Analysis in the IAGP. Most of you have been already duly informed about the situation of that proposal and, also, you may be aware of the reasons why the applicants at the Amsterdam Meeting decided, for the time being, to withdraw the application.

There is the precedent of a similar petition being made by a group showing interest for a section in Psychodrama, during the Mexico Congress but, I am told, "the proposal was withdrawn to avoid fragmentation of this small Association". See below Dr. Fidler's commentary who was by then President of the Association. Nevertheless, the outcome was the same that for us in Amsterdam: name to deter applications of that sort to have the chance of being considered by the Board of Directors!

It seems that those negative attitudes against setting up Sections go back to the early days in our Association, when competition between founding organizations was always a threat and the chances to get into a single social body were very small. It is understandable then that initiatives as such were systematically put aside and even purposefully avoided. A good example of what I mean is in the letter of S. H. Foulkes to Raoul Schindler of 10 October 1967. While still the Constitution was being drafted and facing for the Vienna Congress, it reads: *At first sight I have no particular criticism to make about the program in principle, except that what was agreed between us at Bienne, has not been implemented, namely that we should have separate sections, in particular in group analysis. I would not be at all surprised if it was Dr. Foulkes himself the one who sponsored the "idea of sections"*

As you will see, the matter concerning such a proposal is complicated indeed. It implies questions of principles, of ideology and politics and strategies related to organizational developments that have a long history: the whole history of our Association may be! Do we have to remember for example that the decision of holding together a single "First World Congress at Toronto instead of two separate ones (AGPA and ASGPP) came not as a free decision of the International Committee but as a salomonic solution imposed by the hosts, the organizers of the 2nd International Congress of Mental Health? It is because of that early imprinting we are still, institutionally, fighting old battles around the pseudo problem, a false dilemma, the phenomena of group polarization on spontaneity versus standards, or revolutionary movement versus responsible professionalism, which personified by our founders is just a nonsensical clash? If that is so, is more easy to understand why questions likely to evoke "secessionisms" stir so much negative feeling while the problems and interests that may be behind this negative reactions remain unspoken. My statement in "Brainstorming for New York": *"Questions of standards and the related issue of professionalization takes us back to the first twenty-five years feud between Slavson and Moreno which I am afraid is not settled and has to be taken up anew. The alternative is not either standards or orthodox but standards for a sound heterodoxy"* was misunderstood as if I were proposing to rekindle those old feuds. Nothing more contrary in my mind! What I was preaching then, and still maintain now, is that once and for all we stop suffering from reminiscences, and start doing something to remedy our "phylogenetic neurosis", our collective "I-person complex". Maybe it is precisely from there where come all those not to be spoken problems, irrational fears which justify our institutional phobic allergy to sections!

I do not know any longer if initiating a specialized interest section in the IAGP was a good idea or the better of solutions for the development of Group Analysis internationally. Neither do I know if the aims sought by the applicants were that way better served or not. The fact is that we have been to no avail trying to attain those aims, the GAIPAC way, within the context of one of the organizational members of IAGP -The Group Analytic Society (London)- since 1981. That was why we wanted to give it a trial under the auspices of the IAGP. Maybe that also is a wrong step, but after so much time and work it is hard to conceive that it was a precipitated move. Maybe it is not a question of time, but of political circumstances and the balance of power which are not yet ripe for such a step.

Maybe, having gone so far as we did this time, it was not so wise that we did not go ahead with the application while in Amsterdam. Had we done so, we will have now a "public decision" on a "test case" The Board would have had to take a stand on the viability and soundness of Art. X, and then according to Art. VI (*"...actions of the Board of Directors shall be reported at each general assembly of membership and annually by mail to each individual member and to each organizational member"*), the only guaranty that members hip has against the Board taking whimsical or arbitrary decisions in matters left "to its discretion".

The SAGA/GAAS process, however, generated a correspondence which is worth being reviewed since it clearly shows, to my understanding, which are the beliefs and the prejudiced attitudes influencing us when actually having to take a decision for or against establishing sections of the IAGP in general. Of course that conflict becomes activated with any particular case. As you may well imagine, the range of responses covers a broad scope from enthusiastic or precautionary acceptance to well thought or acritical rejection. Let me show you what I mean in the words of most authorized persons.

Former President and Chairperson of the By-laws Committee Prof. Dr. Raymond Battegay's views are plainly and squarely stated: *"I agree with your proposal to form a special section in Group Analysis. Naturally, also all other directions are allowed to constitute a special section"* What Dr. Battegay, our expert in By-laws, finds so natural -- a constitutional right after all -- from which no group of members can be deprived unless Art. X I was amended -- to others is cause of emotionally tinted reactions and serious concern. Past-president Dr. Jay Fidler's epitomize what I mean, since they are the most significative of one of the other extremes. He makes it a question of principles and his immediate reaction on July 23rd 1987: was *"My reaction is less than enthusiastic for your special section of the AGPA. I recall a similar proposal for a psychodrama section being made when we were in Mexico. That was withdrawn to avoid fragmentation of this small Association. ... Once we get 1000 members in the IAGP we can consider the specialized sections. However they would preferably be held as special sections of the regular Congress. By that time we might hope to hold a Congress every year and a regional one the odd years. In the meanwhile I think your proposal would seriously wound the IAGP."*

Close to a year later, in response to my letter of March 14th, Dr. Fidler had sort of mellowed the tone of his statements even though I be continued as definitive on his opinions and adamant in his judgments as always: *"I'm not sure of all the point I made in my previous response to this propo-*

nal. My reactions are several and they focus on the integrity of IGPA. I am aware there is a formal international structure for Transactional Analysis. I know there is international structure (informal?) for Psychodrama which keeps people in the field in contact with each other. It is my strong impression that in London is the focal point for a strong network of people involved in Group Analysis. My first recommendation would be to make the Psychodrama and Group Analysis organizations formal and independent of IAGP. When considering the internal structure of the IAGP I feel we should not have asymmetrical structures in the subdivisions that develop. If there is a Specialized Section in Group Analysis, we should simultaneously insist on a Specialized Section in Psychodrama, one on Psychodynamic Group Psychotherapy, and one on Transactional Analysis. That would be acceptable to me if simultaneously WE DEFINE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THOSE SPECIALIZED SECTIONS TO THE IAGP and THE PRIVILEGES AFFORDED THEM. Unless that is done with all specialized sections to IAGP and all are started simultaneously, I am definitely opposed to a lopsided and ill defined development\*.

President elect Dr. Fern Cramer-Azima, even if she shams, as we all do Dr. Fidler's concerns regards "the IAGP integrity" and possible negative effects brought along by the establishment of sections, commented: "I can see positive and negative aspects to the proposal. On the positive side, there is identification and homogeneity for the section membership. On the negative side, there is the splintering of the whole group of the IAGP - and further sections may be quickly formulated by competitors. One of the values of the IAGP, is its identity as an umbrella or overall group to which societies and associations with diverse group theory identities join with equal ease. Since our membership is so small, such splitting will likely reduce cohesion and loyalty\*"

Finally, so as not to be accused of being lopsided in favor of presidents, I will end by quoting the opinion from to Committee Chairpersons who show in a more gentle manner their doubts. Dr. Raquel Berman, Chairperson of Membership writes to me on May 30, 1988 (my translation) "I am still interested in a Specialized Section in Group Psychoanalysis; but I am still worried regards the effects on the IAGP to count with specialized sections based on different theoretical orientations. In the AGPA where I am a member there are no sections. I would like to know about the experience of other societies where the diverse tendencies are housed in specialized sections, f. e. the American Psychological where there is a special section in psychoanalysis. I wish we could broadly discuss the subject"

And, Nominating Committee's Chairperson, Dr. Lise Rafaelsen's opinion was on May 30th: "I feel very much inclined to join you in your ideas because I know, how much work you have done and because I do appreciate your way of thinking. However, I think as you mentioned yourself in your letter that it is premature. IGPA is far from reaching the level of organization which would allow differentiation. We are working hard to keep the organization running, and I therefore think a too early fragmentation will be unhealthy. I much prefer the informal getting together of "group analytic people" as I believe you did in Copenhagen\*"

Opinion which ties up with a commentary I heard Dr. Max Rosenbaum, actually Chairman of the Committee on Ethics recently, August 3rd, which I sure, since it is so much to the point, he will not mind me quoting: "There is a lot of work to be done to make of the IAGP a really viable organization...They have a tendency to depend on AGPA for the USA input. But the AGPA has not grown since I was membership chairman and helped double membership\*"

Since leaving things as they are at this point certainly would not pave the way for more fortunate tentatives of that kind in a future, but rather there is the risk of being taken as a well thought precedent against them -what I am proposing is that, in the light of the ideas exposed, we examine carefully the general issue of specialized sections based on theoretical or methodological orientations and we pronounce ourselves in principle regards the limits and conditions set up for sections to organize for their individual cooperation in ways consistent with the organization of the International Association and its broad purposes. Once we have done so, we may define rules and regulations and procedures for sections being initiated. On the other hand, if as a result from reviewing the tenets and philosophy implicit in the activation of Art. X, we come to the conclusion that establishing specialized sections based on theoretical directions goes against the spirit of the letter of our Constitution, then we will have to make that explicit and propose the according amendments.

The common denominator of the objections mentioned above, in my view derive from a deeply engrained conviction that unhealthy competition among us is inevitable and, what is worse, if unchained it leads into ineludible collision and fragmentation of our social body. All the other arguments, considerations regards number of members, concerns about "equal rights opportunity", and "envy prevention measures" check on the viability and soundness of Art. X. \*\*, I see them all rather as symptoms or consequences of defensive mechanisms of a community engaged in a hopeless "as if cooperative action". If that is so, we rather look for some group therapy for ourselves. I do think, we should be really worried about the small number of members and the rapid turnover of membership -individual and organizational. Also, if after forty years, since in London we started to contemplate the convenience of an International Group Association, and another fifteen since it was founded in Zurich, it has not reached the level of organizational development that allows for "individuation differentiation" then we are engaged in a very sick sort of group interaction and cooperation and, mind, we are the experts in that field!

I still maintain some hope regards the possibility of healthy competitiveness for cooperation in our human kind, as against the multinational cooperation for competitiveness of the "conservative revolution" of our days. My feeling is that we have taken as a model for "International cooperation" the one of the United Nations, and that we are confused as to the means and ends and the narrow and broad purpose of the Association.

If the purpose of the AGO was exclusively to organize "International Congresses", we could say that we have been quite successful. We managed to lead a good program and gather around 1500 every three years. But, in case that congresses are only one among the many means used to promote communication, we should rather think of developing the rest.

My question though is if our basic assumption that mutual respect in communication between representatives of different theories and methods is extendable as well to the very professionals who share the same theories and practice. My conviction is that this should be so. This is why I sponsored the establishment of sections of that kind. What is more, I do not believe that this is being achieved at a local, or national level in our own professional groups of identification and belonging.

What is needed is a group of reference safe enough to make true Foulkes' 1954 dictum "We are not here to iron out differences, but to contrast our hypothesis in the operative area of the group". My guess is that this cannot be achieved unless each of our members reaches his or her own individual and collective identity as a professional. In this direction a step has been given with the self presentation of individual members in the Directory during the actual period, which could be improved if individual members were asked to say to which professional organization they are affiliated.

## Procedure

CIRCULAR as August 22, 1988

So, as far as procedure is concerned things cannot be more clear, even though they are quite time-consuming, expensive, and complicated if the initiative is taken in between Congresses and has to collect the 25 signatures by correspondence. To give you an idea in our case, we coincided with President Dr. Grete Leutz with 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 steps were as follows:

1. The initiative parted from conclusions reached at a Seminar held at the Sacro Cuore, of Rome, on April 3rd, 1987, among group analysts, members of different affiliate organizations and experts in organization which had been implied from the beginnings and for years in the both, or either the development of COIRAG, the Confederation of Italian Organizations concerned with group analytic research and of European Group Analysis. Later, April 10th, this decision was communicated to several psychoanalysts, actual or prospective members of our Association attending the European Forum of Psychoanalysis held in Barcelona. Similar meetings and equal conclusions were reached at "ad hoc" meetings held in Madrid, April 11th, Bilbao April 24th, Valencia, June 12-15th, and finally during the Oxford Symposium of Group Analysis, September 1-7th 1987, just before going taking the application to Amsterdam.

2. Since there was no precedent of such a situation we were well aware that, by taking action in favor or against a special interest section we were likely to set up procedure we agreed with President Dr. Grete Leutz 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 personalised circular letter attached to all Executive Officers and Councillors, which were made extensive to former and past Presidents and Members of the Board of Directors who were likely to be concerned and also to representative persons of groupanalytic organizations, regardless if they were affiliated not to our Association or members in good standing, but who may be interested in supporting or opposing the proposal. We also sent copies to people whom we had invited to sign the application or to support our petition.

On second thought, however it was felt that it would not be advisable to draw of a definite outline for regulations of the Section's. Its organization, financial accountability and representability, should be the prerogative of the founding members of that Section once the Board of Directors was to make explicit the adequate framework and limits of delegated responsibility and autonomy. With this restrictions and as a matter of principle, it was understood membership to Section limited exclusively to "individual members" of the IAGP in good standing, and not to "organizational members" or "members of affiliated organizations". That way it was hoped to increase and enrich in individual membership to the Associations instead of decreasing it. As a matter of fact some people already became apply for membership under the assumption there was in the Association such sort of sections... 3. Had the SAGA/GAAS group submitted the duly signed application then it the Board's at its discretion to decide if to establish or not the section and to report on the action taken to the next General Assembly and to all its members by now... They do not so they save the Directors from the tricky question of having to pronounce themselves regards if to establish this particular section serves or not the purpose of our Association and to provide for the cooperation in the organization of congresses... 4. The explicit motivation of people signing the application was, namely, "to establish an international network of communication in order to further develop in theory and practice the work in favor of Group Analysis (that is to say all group theories and praxis in accordance with the Fundamental principles of Psychoanalysis and of Group Analysis) and the enthusiastic response of those who support the project even if have adhere to the project -some non members of the Association considered membership in case we counted with a Section.. ..



# Report of the Standing Committee on the STUDY GROUP FOR GROUP ANALYSIS

Prepared for the European Meeting of the Board of Directors of the IAGP  
at the Hotel Tivoli, Lisbon, September 6-8, 1991

by Juan Campos Avillar

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The Report will cover three main points:

1. A short history of the establishment of this Committee.
2. The institutional significance of the concept of "Study Group" as an alternative to the establishment of "Sections" contemplated in Article X of the Bye-Laws in regard to the attainment of the general purpose of the IAGP.
3. Undertakings and projects contemplated by this Chair, proposals for the organization of the Committee and philosophy and line of action to be implemented by the Study Group for Group Analysis.

## 1. A short history of the establishment of this Committee.

This Committee was set up on recommendation of the Board of Directors Meeting at Cumberland Lodge, England, on September 3, 1988 and its Chairmanship, later, entrusted to me by President Fern Cramer-Azima on November 15, 1989. It is not clear to this Chair if the role, functions and purpose for the "**Group Analytic Study Group Standing Committee**" are the same than those suggested by the above mentioned Board of Directors resolution under the denomination of "**Study Group for Group Analysis**" but we take it they are and prefer the latter, abbreviated SGGGA. Since in the specialized field of practice under the denomination of group analysis the question of names and their meanings as they relate to communication are important, I suggest we start by re-reading what has been officially published up to now in this respect.

On page 5 of the Cumberland Lodge Minutes, under the heading "**Special Section of the IAGP**" it says:

"Juan Campos expanded on his previous proposal for a permanent section of Group Analysis within the IAGP. A Brief was distributed to the Board in advance of this meeting which contained statements from various Board members as to the viability of his proposal. In the following discussion various members spoke mainly of the difficulties that might ensue from a Section formation and that the IAGP remain not partisan. Cramer-Azima introduced the concept of Study Group for Group Analysis, or for that matter a technique for other groups who wish to explore interests in group properties, research, etc.

"The Study Group may be disbanded after a period of time when its function has been completed, or may continue over time. In this format sections are



not permanently created in any competitive fashion. Different group theoretical models may thus exist in loyal harmony within an interactional organization. The consensus of the Board was that the Study Group was a good solution for this and other petitions. Campos agreed and asked that the Study Group be announced in the next Newsletter".

Correspondingly on page 3, of the **IAGP Newsletter**, Vol. VIII, No. 1 of January 1989 appears the following statement under HIGHLIGHTS: IAGP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CUMBERLAND LODGE, ENGLAND, SEPTEMBER 2-4, 1989

"A petition for the creation of a Formal Section within the IAGP of Group Analysis was put forward by Dr. Juan Campos. It was felt that the creation of a field sub-group within the organization would not be advantageous in view of our small membership. The concept of Study Group for Group Analysis was then proposed and accepted as a viable alternative for members to bond together for a certain period of time for common professional interests."

This settles the question of the SAGA/GAAS proposal: to my understanding it was approved, although under a different administrative category and a new denomination. I think it would be helpful, however, to quote here in full the content of the proposal where the original aims are stated. On May 29, 1987, I circulated among my fellow-members of the Executive Committee a memorandum notifying them that on behalf of a group of twenty-five individual members of our Association, headed by myself, we were getting ready to submit to the Board meeting the following September at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, a petition to establish a Permanent Specialized Analytic Section in Group Analysis of the IAGP (the SAGA/GAAS project) in the following terms:

"Ever since 1970, and specially since 1980, an important number of group-analysts, individual members of our Association, have been trying to establish **an international network of communication in order to further develop the work they perform in favor of the development of Group Analysis in theory and practice they perform in their local or national societies, institutes and organizations.**

"Most of these activities have taken place so far at events coinciding with the World Congresses organized by our Association and/or at the European Symposiums in Group Analysis. At this point of history, however, and after serious consideration, the below signing members of the Association believe that the aims by them pursued will be better served under the auspices and coverage offered by a Specialized Section considered under Article X of the IAGP Constitution.

"The Statutes for this Section will adopt... the blueprint designed originally by S. H. Foulkes for the organization of GAIPAC in 1967, that is, the one of a large continuous study group and continuous seminar constituted by a

network of operative local groups linked together by correspondence and periodical face to face meetings."

This memorandum to the Executive was accompanied by a personal letter asking their opinion about this project and was made extensive also to Past presidents and other senior members of the Association asking them their honest opinion regard the viability of the project and its appropriateness for the whole of the Association. That was part of the procedure that back in Zagreb in 1986 President Leutz had advised us to follow in order to avoid resistances to its approval. Some of the commentaries received and the whole argumentation justifying the petition were summarized in the report supporting the application before the Board of Directors Meeting at the Vrije Universiteit in September 1987. Other members' response was so positive as for signing the petition themselves. (An outline of this procedure, the draft of the Amsterdam presentation and of the above mentioned Brief have been re-edited and brought up to date and accompany this Report.

Those are the official texts. They cannot reflect, though, all the work done nor the emotions kindled by the question of "**Sections of the IAGP**" which extends itself, in our case, as far back as 1979 and, in the case of Foulkesian Group Analysis proper, maybe as far back as before the Vienna Congress in 1967. It is striking, however, that after a long roundabout way in the case of the **SAGA/GAAS project**, our organization came to grant permission for the development of the initiative as originally intended, namely the one of a large continuous study group in Group Analysis - paradoxically, the same outcome which Foulkes was forced to follow in the previous attempt: **The GAIPAC project**.

Some points of caution before we proceed to the question of Sections in the IAGP. **Firstly**, even though in the above text there is no reference to it, the question of a Section within the IAGP was prompted by events within the European Group-Analytical Movement, initiated at an encounter between "UK-members" and "Overseas-members" of the Group Analytic Society (London) and active correspondents of GAIPAC that took place during the 1980 Congress of Group Psychotherapy in Copenhagen. **Secondly**, regardless of their society membership, the people who sponsored the initiative for a Section within the IAGP, the concept of group analysis they adhered to is not the restrictive one equivalent to group-analytic psychotherapy but the slightly more comprehensive one adopted by Foulkes himself during the First European Symposium of Group Analysis in 1970 in Lisbon referring to the various methods and theories essentially compatible with psycho-analytic and group-analytic assumptions<sup>1</sup>. **Finally**, it has to be considered that many of the people

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<sup>1</sup> S. H. Foulkes, 1970: "**The Symposium in retrospect: An introduction to the discussion in GAIPAC**" (GR/AN 4-1-1971). "I have adopted the term "group-analysis" only after it had been relinquished by Trigant Burrow and for many years I was the only one to use it. Later I spoke more specifically of group-analytic psychotherapy, after giving much thought to what was the best term to be used in order to express the fact that this method is based fundamentally on the group... I used the terms group-analysis and group-analytic psychotherapy as synonymous, but have more recently found it useful to use group analysis as a slightly more comprehensive term for various methods and theories as they are on a basis essentially compatible with psycho-analytic and group-analytic assumptions."

interested in this approach are neither members of the G A S nor of the IAGP but would be likely candidates for the latter in case it included such a specific interest area.

Of course, for people who are not familiar with the history of Psycho-Analysis and Group Analysis and who have not lived in their own flesh the difficulties involved in taking such a step, the actual developments we are considering are not easily understandable. In my own case, my familiarity with these matters and the reflection upon my own experience has helped me to develop the concept of "professional plexus" which I consider my most serious theoretical contribution to Group Analysis.

## **2. The institutional significance of the concept of "Study Group" as an alternative to the establishment of "Sections" contemplated in Article X of the Bye-Laws <sup>2</sup> in regard to the attainment of the general purpose of the IAGP.**

One of the obvious facts that comes from reading the whole of literature generated by this proposal is that the main source of concern expressed and the kind of difficulties manifested in accepting the petition for a Section in Group Analysis are more directly related to a matter of principles involved in setting up sections - "...the difficulties that might ensue from a Section formation and that the IAGP remain not partisan" - than with the opportunity and viability of the concrete proposal under consideration as should be expected. What the Group-Analytic Section unleashed could have been prompted by any attempt at section forming regardless of denomination, Psycho-Analysis, Psychodrama, or whatever...There is no disguise either that the remedy, the "...concept of Study Group for Group Analysis, or for that matter a technique for other groups who wish to explore interests in group properties, research, etc.", in Cramer-Azima's words, was intended and understood as a foolproof panacea as well as a preventive measure for all future attempts, "... The consensus of the Board was that the Study Group was a good solution for this and other petitions." and "a viable alternative for members to bond together for a certain period of time for common professional interests." (The Newsletter, January 1989).

It was over this topic, and not about Group Analysis, that the discussion at the Board came to a deadlock. It had very little to do with the temporal or permanent character of the petition for a Section, eventuality foreseen in Article X and easily solved by accepting it on a temporary basis or even after a time of probation. The solution of a Study Group for Group Analysis had the virtue of solving once and for all a bothering problem without having to amend the constitution. So now that Article X

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<sup>2</sup> **ARTICLE X - SECTIONS** "The Board of Directors may in its discretion establish temporary or permanent sections based on specialized interest in order to serve the purpose of our Association and to provide for the cooperation in the organization of congresses. Under such conditions as the Board of Directors may set up, sections may be organized for their individual cooperation in ways consistent with the organization of the International Association and its broad purposes. The range of sections will depend upon present and future needs. Action to initiate a section may be initiated by an application to the Board signed by twenty five members of the Association."



is no longer applicable, if a group of members wants to set up an interest section the only thing to do is to ask for the establishment of a Committee. This "salomonic verdict", unless it changes nothing but names, is unlikely to satisfy neither those in favor nor those against the approval of that particular Section. It escapes my comprehension why that solution, more akin to an ad hoc committee contemplated in Article XI-H<sup>3</sup>, is more acceptable than to one of a Section, unless it is because the former is under the direct surveillance of the Presidency.

Also, I find questionable the logic behind the argument that we cannot allow for Sections because of the small number of members in our Association and, for the same token, those which claim that "the IAGP is far from reaching the level of organization which would allow for differentiation". Certainly most of the threats to the "integrity" of the Association and of the risk of "fragmentation" are based on these premises. I also ask myself how many more decades have to go by before we reach the number of members and the degree of maturity which allows a safe enough differentiation. Could it not be that precisely those biases and fears are the ones restraining the Association from growing and attaining higher degrees of organization? Are we not precisely forcing people to go out and form their own international organizations, formal and independent of the IAGP, as Dr. Fidler would recommend to Psychodrama and Groupanalysis?

Finally, regard the social projection of our work, I wonder if by avoiding to face those "secessionist" issues, we are not failing as well to investigate a problem highly relevant to society today, at a point of history when, with the cold war melted and the wall of Berlin demolished, states and blocks of nations cannot find a better alternative than the upsurge of nationalisms and integrisms and as an only response war - civil or world wide - theme very much akin to the one which gathers us in Montreal. Could we - specialists in group living - not find healthier solutions? The Catalan definition of health says that health is a way of living which is autonomous, solidary and joyful, the joy that comes from coping successfully with internal and external problems. Would that do for our group living? Is that what we think of when we talk of Study Groups?

The concept of Study Group has different meanings according to the context in which it is used, and needs further clarification. Could this not be one of the first tasks of such a Committee? For instance, within the psychoanalytical framework, study groups always have been forerunners of societies and, in this sense, the **Psychologische Mittwoch Gesellschaft** of Prof. Freud in Vienna could be understood as one, the same than the **Group of Freudian Researchers** - or Physicians - in Zürich. Even today, the IPA calls Study Groups its Societies in the making, when they are on probation and under the surveillance of more senior societies. That was not the case in the early days of the American Psychoanalytical Association, when direct membership to it was still allowed. A similar situation to the one of the IAGP with IM's and OM's.

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<sup>3</sup> Art. IX, H. Ad-hoc Committees - Can be appointed for certain purposes by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee, informing the Board of Directors within sixty days.



Quite on the contrary, within the group-analytic framework, the **Lifwynn Foundation for Research in Analytical and Social Psychiatry** constituted by Trigant Burrow and collaborators in 1927, may as well be considered a Study Group and, we could also consider a Study Group the **Monday Group at 7, Linnell Close**, convened by S. H. Foulkes, where those practicing group psychotherapy in London used to meet from 1946 onwards. Finally, as was mentioned in the application, the model firstly considered by the SAGA/GAAS project was the "**continuous large study group**", launched by S. H. Foulkes in 1967 with GAIPAC when he no longer could maintain the hope of establishing a Section of Group Analysis within the International Council. Maybe the phantom of that unsettled business is still pending!<sup>4</sup>

In English "**study**" refers to "*applying the mind as to acquire knowledge or understanding, as by reading, investigating, etc... and also the careful attention and the critical examination and investigation of any subject, event, etc...*", to me all good enough descriptions for the group task of a Study Group for Group Analysis. In other words, an attempt of applying our own special knowledge and skill to the "group settings" where we gather, the same sort of task Hernán Kesselman and myself set out to perform when we studied the consonances, dissonances and resonances between Foulkes and Pichón-Rivière with our Operative Group Analysis (IAGP Zagreb Congress 1986), or the definition Fabrizio Napolitani used for Group Analysis as a Training Network in Action (European Symposium of Group Analysis, Zagreb 1984).

I would like to add that my interest in what can be described as a Study Group started in my own country as soon as 1979 in the more senior of our group association, the SEPTG (Sociedad Española de Psicoterapia y Técnicas de Grupo) which became an Organizational Member of the IAGP as a result of applying this sort of study in its own organization from the 80'ies onwards. For example, the

<sup>4</sup> In my **Brief** I quoted the letter from Foulkes to Raul Schindler of October 10, 1967, written while they were working on the Constitution of the IAGP and for the Vienna Program. Foulkes complained there in these terms: "At first sight I have no particular criticism to make about the program in principle except that what was agreed in Bienne, has not been implemented, namely that we should have separate sections, in particular in Group Analysis...". The interim of the International Council work between Vienna and Zürich was the one when Foulkes' enthusiasm for the IAGP grew to the lowest. It is in January 1967 when he launches the No. 0 of GAIPAC which he himself edited for the following eight years. In all these years, not a single comment, news or announcements about the activities of the International Council or Congresses appeared in GAIPAC and, mind, he was the Vice President of that Council. The only exception to this rule of silence was a very brief report by Malcolm Pines (GR/AN VI/3 November 1973, pp.190-192) covering the International Congress of Group Psychotherapy when the final draft of the Constitution of the new Association was approved and its first Board of Directors was elected. In the first issue after he retired as editor (GR/AN IX/1 March 1976, p.66), besides stating that the eventual aim of GAIPAC has always been an international association of group analysts, in his obituary of Dr. Werner Kemper, a psychoanalyst who introduced group psychotherapy in Brazil, Foulkes made the following comment: "Kemper and I met again at International Congresses of Group Psychotherapy, forerunners of those to be organized by the recently founded IAGP, which I supported in order to provide a forum for all kinds of group psychotherapy including an independent analytical section. As Kemper wrote, in the last issue of Group Analysis, he well remembered a talk we had during the 1963 Milan Congress and the need we felt for an international groupanalytic organization to run parallel with the other." □

"Colectivo de trabajo grupal Barcelona", while reviewing the group work done in that country during the 70'ies in preparation of the theme of the Symposium of the SEPTG in Mallorca in 1980 on "*The Group Approach for a National Health Service*", for more than one year constituted itself as a Study Group. Then, in the early 80'ies, we formed **Convergencia Analítica Internacional** and later **Grupo Análisis Operativo**, two professional groups in the making, Study Groups in the proper sense, seeking an international context to develop and which could fit neither into the AGPA nor the IAGP because there was room for individuals or organizations but not for groups. All these experiences are the material from which my concept of "professional plexus" developed and which in turn inspires the creation of <<**Grup d'Anàlisi Barcelona**>> and the Jornadas Internacionales from which **Sociedad Española para el Desarrollo del Grupo, la Psicoterapia y el Psicoanálisis**, another Organizational Member of the IAGP sprang.

Summing up, as I understand, the aim to be achieved with the Study Group for Group Analysis is to operationally take measures and effectively establish means that favor on an international level the sort of communication and interactions which better serve the development of that branch of science and body of practice that goes under the denomination of Group Analysis. I hope that this definition fits with the one employed by the Board of the IAGP. For Group Analysis certainly this is good enough. After all, the first paper ever presented by the Linnell Close group back in 1948 at the London Congress for Mental Health was "**The Study of Communication in a Group by a Group**" (TGA, p.269).

Meanwhile, I think that the time has come to report on the work done under this denomination, regardless of the definition, and to concretize its actual organization and the work to be done in the future.

### **3. Undertakings and projects contemplated by this Chair, proposals for the organization of the Committee and philosophy and line of action to be implemented by the Study Group for Group Analysis.**

What do we understand by Group Analysis? and, who is interested in Group Analysis and in what way? would be the first questions to answer by this Committee in order to start its task. A first step in this direction was given by the Membership Directory 1986-89, where individual members identified themselves with a particular denomination and had a chance for a self-presentation.

We will use this source to start a correspondence in relation to these questions, informing of the existence of this Committee and convening a face to face encounter at the Montreal Congress.

There are two other tasks arising from previous Congresses which I propose this Committee to assume: The one of PLEXUS Editore(s), whose first meeting took place during the Amsterdam Congress and the one of Group Analysis Mare Nostrum, a Panel which has been running since Opatija in 1985 and also met in Zagreb and Amsterdam. Both endeavors have in common the attempt of building a bridge across

language barriers and orientations between group analysts at an international level.

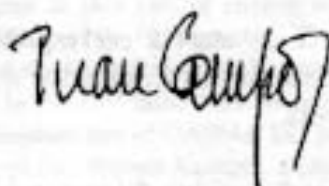
The Committee contemplates the establishment of an international center of information and documentation in Group Analysis addressed at linking those existing already in different language areas, asking their institutional support and fostering cooperation between them.

We are well aware that all these activities imply a dedication of time and money that cannot be expected to be absorbed by the budget of the IAGP and that people joining the Study Group will have to pay a small subscription on top of their membership fees.

The Committee will encourage members to do group work on the theme of the Intl. Congresses, foster workshops to that effect in between Congresses in their local or national associations and favor group presentations, true symposia, at the Congresses. We have experimented with this approach facing the Amsterdam Congress with two Spanish societies: the Sociedad Española de Psicoterapia y Técnicas de Grupo and Sociedad Española para el Desarrollo del Grupo, la Psicoterapia y el Psicoanálisis with very good results. As mentioned above, not only the societies benefitted from the experience but they joined the IAGP as organizations as many of their individual members did. Finally, we completely agree with the recommendation that Dr. Fidler made in reference to Specialized Sections in that the responsibilities assigned to them and the privilege afforded them should be clearly defined and we think that this would equally apply to this Study Group Committee.

Contemplating the schedule for the Lisbon Meeting, we see that there is plenty of time for discussion groups to be arranged, so we ask now for meetings of our Committee to be scheduled for Friday afternoon and Saturday in order to further develop our program and to concretize questions such as appointments of members to the Committee, relationship with the Executive and the Presidency, subscription fees, etc. So, so what we report back on Sunday morning can be circulated among the people who formally signed the petition and others who have shown interest in the project ever since.

Barcelona, August 1, 1991

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Juan Campo", is written over a vertical line that serves as a signature separator.

**Copy of this Report goes to:**

Officers of the Executive, Past Presidents and Members of the Board who were consulted about the project and/or who signed the petition and members attending the GASG Meeting at Motreal.