

**GROUP ANALYSIS, INTERNATIONAL PANEL AND
CORRESPONDENCE?
A Bystander's View...**

by
Juan Campos Avillar

GR/AN 1979 XII/2 pp. 107-108

10th June 1979 Barcelona

GROUP ANALYSIS is means to an end and part of a related enterprise, whose "eventual aim has always been an international association of group analysts". The correspondence is an exchange in writing, *a large group as it were, in correspondence with each other*, while meetings, symposia or workshops serve the personal exchange by talking together, working together, making more intimate acquaintance. I am freely quoting and underlining what Michael said in his last Editorial (GROUP ANALYSIS VIII/3, October 1975).

In the issue of April 1979, Pat invites us correspondents to tell the Editors if we feel the material submitted to GROUP ANALYSIS is relevant to our interests. At the same time he expresses his concern about the scarce number of active participants and reminds us that "articles" do not have to be formal - we look for fresh rather than highly "scientific" contributions, spontaneous, short rather than long - and preferably not more than five pages. I will stick to the three-page top that figured in the original instructions of GROUP ANALYSIS and try to answer to the appeal of our last convener.

Well, "correspondence" today is much better edited than it was in the old days. The materials in general are of great interest, but I find that I do not read them with the same eagerness I used to. Why? There are two main reasons for it: 1) GAIPAC used to be for me like a home letter. I could hear the tone of voice and see the expression on the face of my friend-colleagues behind the printed words, it was a very personal thing and even corresponding it was still a relatively large, small face to face group. 2) The longer, more sophisticated, well edited and specialised the "articles" grow, the more difficult it becomes to react spontaneously to them and test our half formulated thoughts on the open ground - the larger and larger empty space of faceless correspondents. So, when I receive GROUP ANALYSIS, I glance through it, I read the Editorial, Correspondence and the News, and pick out some article "to read at a later date". There goes GROUP ANALYSIS to pile up with the rest of professional journals I receive, waiting for the free time which will never come to go over "very interesting things". As a rule, there is an exception to that and it is when I participated in some face-to-face event. Reports on workshops and symposia and meetings always come alive when one knows the people who participated. I do not know how many people at GROUP ANALYSIS are in this same boat, and less if any of you share my concern. It would be very sad, if GROUP ANALYSIS - originally GAIPAC - turned into just another "professional" magazine. There is a place, maybe, for something like the International Journal of Group Analysis, but that would be very far away from what GAIPAC was originally intended for. So I would suggest to the Editorial Board to find out what our interests are, perhaps through a questionnaire.

Now back to the issue I want to talk about. What are the prospects of an international association of group analysts? Or, without being so ambitious, what is left of our intended international workshop or study group by correspondence? It is my feeling that

without face-to-face contact, without free and thorough discussion of all of us concerned with this common adventure, GROUP ANALYSIS runs the risk of becoming institutionalised and the dynamics of power will take out the wit and the soul of what it could have been. Hierarchical organisation will kill the possibilities of growth that our affiliative association had at its beginning. In the preliminary issue of GAIPAC are the blueprints of what it was supposed to be. It was thought to be guided by group analytic principles. Are we still running GROUP ANALYSIS on the same track? More active participation among us is needed in order to do the necessary task of reflection to know where our large group will go. I wonder if the next International Congress in Copenhagen would not be a good occasion for the Group-Analytic Society (London) and GROUP ANALYSIS to organise a large meeting among their overseas members and correspondents. As a member of the silent majority, I would like to thank Pat, our last convener, for all his efforts and the magnificent job he has done as Editor of GROUP ANALYSIS. Also, I would like to congratulate Harold for the job that has fallen on his shoulders and promise him all our help. Let us see if we correspondents dare to unfasten our seat belts of silence and stop being readers for the sake of this new era of GROUP ANALYSIS. Best wishes to them all.

Juan Campos

[This letter appeared in the 1st issue edited by the newly appointed Dr. Harold Behr, Member I.G.A., answered in the following one.]

From: Martin Grotjahn
416 North Bedford Drive
Beverly Hills
California 90210



The Paper Group

Greetings to the Paper-Group!

"To Juan Campos:
I have unfastened my seat
belt and try to express my
response to the twice born
Paper-group".

GR/AN 1979 XII/3 PP. 191,
Martin Grotjahn