

## Critical Moments of the GAS and Generational Change in GAIPAC

This excerpt from Juan Campos' "Milestones in the history of Group Analysis: The European Group Analytic Movement and the Question of Internationality of Group Analysis" (pp. 19-21) is to contextualize his "A Bystander's View" —1979 GAIPAC XII/2— and "Some Afterthoughts to the Copenhagen Meeting" 1981 GAIPAC XIV/1, April, and also explain why the reader will find in continuation some pages of the latter GAIPAC number where the critical moment GAS was going through is described: Reports to the Annual General Meeting from the then Honorary President Jane Abercrombie and the then Honorary Secretary Andrew Powell and related correspondence; (HC September 2010).

### Generational change in GAIPAC

This —1979—was a moment of "generational change", since an Institute Member of the first promotion was taking over the baton from old-timer Pat de Maré. I was concerned that GAIPAC may be heading for being a more traditional professional journal and, as I rightly guessed, a sort of international journal of group analysis, and far from the international workshop or large study group by correspondence that it was originally intended to be. So in the first issue under Harold Behr's editorship, a letter of mine to him of June 10th, 1979, appeared under the heading "Group Analysis, International Panel and Correspondence: A Bystander's View", where, after quoting the above mentioned last editorial of Foulkes, I showed my concern for the future of GAIPAC in the following terms:

*"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 institutionalized and the dynamics of power will take out the wit and soul of what it could have been. Hierarchical organization 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 organize a large meeting among overseas members and correspondents.*

To my surprise, the Committee of the Society took my proposal seriously, and once at the Copenhagen Congress, an informal meeting was improvised at lunch time where more than fifty people took part. Mrs. Jane Abercrombie, the then President of the Society, asked me to expand on my ideas and a very lively discussion followed. Later, she kindly asked me to report on the meeting in writing for GAIPAC, which I promptly did upon my return home in a paper of November 14, 1980, and which was published

under the heading "Some afterthoughts to the Copenhagen Meeting". At that time I could not understand, to save my life, why the Committee was taking so much interest in my initiative. But, as soon as this article of April 1981 issue XIV/1 appeared, I began to understand. This issue is a sign post of the most important changeover Group Analysis had made since its inception in Exeter in 1938. At the time, there was a great strain in London between two of the organizations founded in Foulkes' lifetime, the London Group Analytic Society and the Institute of Group Analysis. The third of these institutions, the printed arena of GAIPAC, was adopted to debate these issues. Seemingly, the debate between these two organizations had gained a sense of urgency as the pressure to expand and develop met the pressure to cut back in the face of a gloomy economic climate. So, the whole Correspondence Section of that issue was entirely taken up by letters concerning the past, present and future of the groupanalytic movement. The idea of using GAIPAC that way was stirred up by a letter of Robin Skynner of 29th of January, 1981, prompted by the Reports of the President and Honorary Secretary of the Group Analytic Society that were circulated in preparation of the Annual General Meeting of the Society. They were submitting their resignation since they felt that the status of the Society needed critical examination on three issues: the already mentioned financial dilemma, the relationship with the Institute and the relationship with Overseas Members. The general feeling was that the transference relationship with Dr. Foulkes has not yet been solved and that the loss of leadership had not yet found resurrection in their collaboration together. The chain of events, in a very short period, as they can be reconstructed now, are the following: In September 1980, three important things happened at Copenhagen: The above mentioned meeting of GAIPAC correspondents and UK and Overseas Members of the Society; then, two other informal meetings took place on my initiative, one between the Group-Analytic Society and the School of Social Psychology of Enrique Pichon-Riviére of Buenos Aires and another with Diego and Fabrizio Napolitani the organizers of the oncoming European Symposium of Group Analysis in Rome; and, last and most important, Malcolm Pines had been elected President of the IAGP. In December 1980, a joint meeting between the Society's Committee and the Council of the Institute took place where the President of the Society put forward a proposal that the Society and the Institute may combine to become one entity but having a number of facets. The facets would have reflected different aspects of Group Analysis, for instance therapy, training, education, research into normal as well as abnormal behavior. The idea had been debated and finally rejected. Those concerns, as usually happens, permeated the frontiers of the January Workshop of 1981, which curiously was entitled "Group Analysis: A Wider Role?", closely related to the problems with which the Committee had been struggling for the preceding year. It had to do, in the words of the Honorary Secretary Andrew Powell, with the re-examination of the *raison d'être* of the Society in the light of changes that went on all around. My concern was not at all about what went on between these two sister organizations of London but about how much that was impeding a smooth development of the dynamic matrix of the group-analytic community as a whole. As a matter of fact, my report on the Copenhagen meeting with which started the April issue, I closed with the following statement:

*"What I actually propose, is that among this broad network of people who have been influenced by Group Analysis, who are group analysts at heart, even if they never heard of it, a small number of them would get together and set themselves to think and to work towards such a sort of a (GAIPAC-like) association. For that I am asking for volunteers, and I think that our panel of correspondents could well serve as a launching point... I was neither qualified as a*

*psychoanalyst - of the International Psychoanalytic Association I mean to say - nor as a group analyst - of the Group Analytic Institute. Regardless of how many formal training certificates I obtained from other qualifying institutions, I feel basically a group-analyst. What is it to be a group analyst? To me it means to face the problems of the individual and of society in the nodal point where they meet and they may be solved—the small face to face group— led on analytical lines. It is also, to further communication at all levels by frank and open discussion. It is to function in the daily professional and associational life guided by group analytic-principles, as worded by S. H. Foulkes in Method and Principles. That is why he and this way of thinking are so dear and appealing to me and this is the sort of association I aspire to and envision.”*

GROUP ANALYSIS: International Panel and Correspondence

XIV/1

APRIL 1981

CONTENTS

<u>Editorial</u>		3
<u>Some Afterthoughts to the Copenhagen Meeting</u> - Juan Campos Avillar		4-6
<u>Annual General Meeting of the Group-Analytic Society (London)</u>		
Hon. President's Report - M. L. J. Abercrombie		7
Hon. Secretary's Report - Andrew Powell		8-9
<u>Correspondence</u>		
Robin Skynner, M. L. J. Abercrombie, James Home, Dennis Brown, Colin James, Gregory van der Kleij, George Renton, Lisbeth E. Hearst, Juan Campos-Avillar, Andrew Powell, Andrew Powell, Una M. Farrar		10-24
<u>Articles</u>		
The Emergence of the Mother in the Group	Lisbeth E. Hearst	25-32
Reflections on the Use of Memory in the Group Setting	Luiz Miller de Paiva & A. F. Faria Jr.	32-38
Research Issues in Group Psychotherapy	Dorothy Stock Whitaker	38-41
Authority and Leadership	Imre Szecsofy	41-50
Staff Responses to Patients with a Primary Disturbance of the Self	Luigi Caparrotta & Mario Marrone	50-56
A Model for Institutional Development towards Therapeutic Community	Goran Ahlin	57-63
<u>Commentary</u>		
On Book Review by Gregory van der Kleij XIII/3	Walter Schindler Gregory van der Kleij Raymond Bategay	64-65 65 65-66
On "Process without Structure" by Malcolm Ruel XIII/2	Patrick de Maré	66-67
"Group Analysis: An Israeli Experience" by Shamai Davidson & Harold Behr, XIII/2	Vivienne Cohen	67-68
"Reflections on the Use of Memory in a Group Setting" by Luiz Miller de Paiva & A. F. Faria Jr., XIV/1	Bryan Boswood Suzanna Burford	68 69
"Research Issues in Group Psychotherapy" by Dorothy Stock Whitaker, XIV/1	David Kennard Warren Kinston	69-70 70
"Authority and Leadership" by Imre Szecsofy, XIV/1	Wyn Bramley Patrick B. de Maré	70-71 71-72
"Staff Responses to Patients with a Primary Disturbance of the Self" by Luigi Caparrotta & Mario Marrone, XIV/1	Gregory van der Kleij	72
"A Model for Institutional Development towards Therapeutic Community" by Goran Ahlin, XIV/1	J. Stuart Whiteley Raymond Blake	73 73-75
<u>International Review</u>		
The State of Group Analysis in Catalonia and Spain	Juan Campos-Avillar	76-77

International Review - Continued

Société Française de Psychotherapie de Groupe	Claude Pigot	77-78
Comments on the International Congress of Group Psychotherapy, Copenhagen 1980, The Therapeutic Community Section	J. Stuart Whiteley	79-80

Reports

Group-Analytic Society (London) Scientific Meetings:		
Experience with a Group of Latency Boys who Soil - Sabina Strich & Christopher Shields	Jason Maratos	81-83
The Emergence of the Mother in Group Analysis - Liesel Hearst	Liza Hampton	83-85
In a Manner of Speaking - Gillian Parker	Barbara Ogden	85-86

Book Reviews

Books Received		87
Roy Lacoursiere	The Life Cycle of Groups - Reviewed by Andrew Powell	87-88
Henry Kelleman	Group Psychotherapy and Personality - Reviewed by Mario Marrone	88-89
Allen E. Ivey & Lynn Simek-Downing	Counseling and Psychotherapy Skills - Reviewed by John Cobb	89
Therese Spitzer	Psychobattery - Reviewed by Lionel Kreeger	90
Allen Hess	Psychotherapy Supervision - Reviewed by Imre Szecsofy	90-91
Larence Epstein & Arthur H. Feiner	Countertransference - Reviewed by Mario Marrone	92
Sol L. Garfield	Psychotherapy - Reviewed by James Atkinson	92-94
N. Woodman & H. Lenna	Counseling with Gay Men and Women - Reviewed by Wyn Bramley	94-95

Resumé

Raymond Blake & David Millard	The Therapeutic Community in Day Care - A Guide To Planning	96-97
----------------------------------	--	-------

Announcements

Institute of Group Analysis - Courses	98
Analytic Psychodrama Weekend Workshop	98
Self-Psychology and Group Analysis (Workshop)	99
5th European Symposium on Group Analysis and Workshop on Group Analysis	99
S. H. Foulkes Prize	99
The Fifth S. H. Foulkes Annual Lecture	100
Committee of the Group-Analytic Society (London)	100
Proceedings of the 7th International Congress of Group Psychotherapy	100

Index to Volume XIII

N.B. COPY DATE FOR XIV/2 - 15.6.81

---

EDITORIAL

---

Group analysis is prospering on the Continent, and it is also attracting new interest in the United States where until recently it had not made much of an impact. At the same time, and to some extent because of this rapid growth, there are signs of strain in the two London organisations which Foulkes founded to foster an interest and training in group analysis, the London Group-Analytic Society and the Institute of Group Analysis. A debate which has been going on for some time about the relationship between these organisations has gained a sense of urgency as the pressure to expand and develop meets the pressure to cut back in the face of a gloomy economic climate. The Correspondence Section of this issue of the journal is entirely taken up with letters concerning the past, present and future of the group analytic movement, letters which are far-ranging in their ideas and formulations but which sound a uniformly troubled note.

One theme which resonates through the correspondence is a question about the part played by S. H. Foulkes as a personality in shaping the institutions which he founded. Much of the debate has a quality of unresolved mourning about it, not unlike that seen in a family which has not yet come to terms with the loss of an idealised parent. The enmeshment of the Institute and Society, in which threats of disruptive separation are coupled with strong wishes for even closer merging, is quite characteristic of this sort of family. Only very tentatively is an effort now being made to examine Foulkes' limitations as well as his assets, and to link those with the theory and technique which he developed.

Part of the difficulty lies in the fact that Foulkes was undoubtedly a charismatic figure about whom very little is known before and beyond his professional life. In keeping with his philosophy of unobtrusiveness, which lay at the heart of his group analytic method, he drew a curtain around his early years, his family, his cultural roots, and the tremendous upheaval which he must have experienced in moving from pre-war Germany to England. All this may of course be none of our business, but it is fair to reflect that Foulkes was a great man in his field, and that great men deserve biographical attention, as much to throw light on their ideas as to enrich our understanding of themselves in their social and cultural context. In the case of the group analytic movement, biography could well have a liberating function. Foulkes' role in developing group analysis, and the part played by his immediate associates, could come to be seen from a more realistic perspective, and we would be able to dispose of some of the curious myths that have grown up within group analytic circles, not least the myth of the Founding Fathers which has drawn an inter-generational dividing line between those whom Foulkes gathered around him and those who came afterwards through a more formalised selection process. If this were done the way would then be cleared for a proper look at the very real practical and administrative issues which face us and which must in any case be confronted simultaneously.

Harold Behr

Harold Behr

London, March 1981

SOME AFTERTHOUGHTS TO THE COPENHAGEN MEETING

by: Juan Campos-Avillar

A creeping, uncanny feeling of *déjà vu* came all over me during the Closing Session of the VII International Congress at Copenhagen. I had never been before in one of those meetings and however, there was that feeling. Regardless of how hard I tried, I could not place its origins nor be free of the spell.

Today I spent my day trying to write the note for GROUP ANALYSIS that I promised at the end of the Group Analytic Society luncheon meeting we held at Copenhagen. I did not get very far. Sort of my ideas did not jell. I knew what I wanted to say, but I was not able to find the words nor to straighten out my thoughts. It has to do, of course, with my concern for the future of the Group-Analytic Society and its international projection. The International Panel and Correspondence was the last and maybe one of the most dear projects of S. H. Foulkes. So, I went through my collection of GAY's letters - I hate to call them issues of a journal - and I dug out its first number and read it through.

For those of our correspondents in GROUP ANALYSIS who do not know, this "Confidential. For circulation to registered subscribers only," which Michael sent us in January 1967, is the blueprint and foundation stone of what we have today in our hands. Well, as I was saying, I read it through and when I came to its last page, page 36 to be exact, there I found where my feeling of *déjà vu* sprung out. For S. H. Foulkes is saying to the Closing Session of the II International Seminar on Group Psychotherapy at Lausanne in 1966, ending paragraph: "... this 'Seminaire' will remain in my memory as one of the best organised I have ever attended, one of the most stimulating and at the same time socially agreeable I personally have experienced. This is certainly connected with the deliberately small circle of participants. ... I wish there would be more circles of psychoanalysts and group analysts so high in standard and quality in the world as this one is. It was a real pleasure and a great honour to participate on this occasion."

I was not certainly at Lausanne for this occasion; neither, unfortunately, was Michael in this one in Copenhagen. Had he been at Copenhagen, he could well have repeated the same words. Besides the theoretical importance of this example as a demonstration of how the communicational and transpersonal matrix of the group is built and having settled with this small piece of research a personal problem that haunted me for months, I will go from here into what is the main reason of this write-up. I would suggest, however, to our dear editor Harold Behr, to reproduce S. H. Foulkes' remarks from our first issue\* because I feel they are of general interest.

---

\* "It is hoped that the perusal of these preliminary communications will prove as interesting for the reader as it has been for me. I should not say 'reader' because you should all now join in the discussion. It seems to me that these communications fall naturally into certain categories.

- (1) General questions of a broader significance. Some of them more and some less specifically relating to group analysis.
- (2) Clinical observations and considerations in particular questions of method.
- (3) Concepts, e.g. group cohesion, group process.
- (4) Theory. It should be our special aim by common work of those interested to arrive at a unified theory over this field as I already stated but in particular the interdependence between method, practice, theory and

It was in the middle of the sixties when the international adventure of Group Analysis was started on the Continent. As I quoted in my "Bystander's View" (*GROUP ANALYSIS* XII/3, 1979, p. 107) from the last S. H. Foulkes Editorial to *GROUP ANALYSIS*, October 1975: "The eventual aim, of GAIPAC and its related enterprise of bringing together people in person once or twice a year, (meetings, workshops, symposia) has always been an international association of group analysts." And he adds in the same place "GROUP ANALYSIS (G.A.I.P.A.C.) was founded to bring together qualified psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, group psychotherapists and others concerned with social problems which share a basic conviction which corresponds to my own concept of group analysis and group analytic psychotherapy in theory and practice. This is a huge and varied field, held together by certain principles, from small to large groups, from groups for selected people to family groups, in all their diversity. While correspondents are not necessarily expected to be strictly trained as group analysts in our sense they were and are expected to be in sympathy with those principles and to understand them. After eight years, I think I may say that we have succeeded to bring together in this way, about five hundred colleagues and I see no reason why this number should not double or treble, although by contrast to most journals which aim to attract the highest possible number of subscribers, we shall continue to adhere to the principle of high selection."

Subscribers of *GROUP ANALYSIS* are today close to six hundred. Overseas members of the G.A.S. (London), close to one third of its membership. People who have attended workshops, symposia, and other activities all over the Continent can be counted by hundreds as well. How does it come that we do not yet have an international association?

Mind, I am not proposing to start a new school, neither do I think I can be accused of being cultish about my Michael's work and person, but I feel hurt hearing Otto Kernberg talk about Slavson and about Bion in the closing session of the Congress dedicated to the topic of "the individual and the group" and forgetting to mention S. H. Foulkes. There is, I think, a great need for a place, for an ambit, where people with an analytical orientation and who deal with groups could work towards a unified and comparatively simple theory over the whole field of human behaviour, including psychotherapy or group psychotherapy or community therapy of all sorts. That is exactly what S. H. Foulkes had in mind as an international enterprise. I am afraid I will have to quote again from the introduction of the first number, first page:

"In my observation there is an enormous waste of energy in that a multiplication of work takes place on the same problems by individuals or whole groups in this field, nationally and internationally. To link this effort by intercommunication will be a great step forward, will also lead to cross-fertilisation. There is a great need for such an exchange as to questions of methods, techniques and concepts. Problems should be raised and ventilated. An important task is the establishment of unified concepts and a unified theory which could be of practical use in this whole field, comprising not only therapy but the use - dynamic use - of small groups in teaching, education, industry and many other human endeavours."

What I would like, what I actually propose, is that among this broad network of people who have been influenced by Group Analysis and who are group analysts at heart, even if they never heard of it, a small number of them could get together

---

concept formation.

(5) Experimental. The present batch of communication has not referred to this important area but I know that work of this sort is going on and is no doubt of great interest for all."

S. H. Foulkes, *GROUP ANALYSIS* No. 1, January 1967, pp 32-33.



and set themselves as a task to think and to work towards such a sort of an association. For that I am asking for volunteers and, I think our panel correspondents could serve well as its launching point. I was neither qualified as a psychoanalyst - of the International Psychoanalytic Association, I mean to say - nor as a group analyst - of the Group Analytic Institute. Regardless of how many formal training certificates I obtained from other qualifying institutions, I feel basically a group analyst. What is it to be a group analyst? To me it is to face the problems of the individual and society in the nodal point where they meet and where they belong - the small enough face to face group - led along analytical lines. It is also, to further communication at all levels by frank and open discussion. It is to function in its daily professional and associational life guided by group analytic principles, as they were worded by S. H. Foulkes in *Method and Principles*. That is why he and his way of thinking were so dear and appealing to me; and that is the sort of association I aspire to and I envision.

Several events that took place during the Copenhagen Congress confirm me in these views and made me think we are not alone on this line of thinking. We met, for instance, with the Argentinians of the School of Social Psychology of Buenos Aires and we were stricken by the coincidences in thinking of its founders, Pichon Riviere and S. H. Foulkes. Kleinian the one, Freudian the other, what they had in common, those two psychoanalysts, was that when they worked in a small group they were well aware of the new situation and they faced it in a sound analytical attitude without having to recourse to borrowing from the psychoanalytical concepts in which they were trained and which belong to the dyadic situation.

The Napolitani brothers from Italy seem to be thinking in the same vein and during the Congress they were convening a task force towards a European Confederation of Group Analytic Organisation. In Spain, we are also working among our own autonomous nationalities toward an association of that sort. In sum, I feel the time is ripe for what were once the dreams of Michael to come through and to become a reality. The social climate is there, the ideas are there, and the people to think them through and to carry them out, are also there. All that is needed is that we get together and talk and work.

A last observation before I finish. I think parochial professionalism is the main pitfall on which most scientific, analytic associations get trapped in their historical development. Parochial professionalism is that sort of Church-like disease that has been affecting the International Association of Psychoanalysis since its inception and which has been transmitted also to all the sects that branched out of it. The exchange of ideas is what brings people together. But once teaching and training starts, a hierarchical clergy takes over in the disguise of sound theoretical orthodoxy. That is how parochialism is born and enters the scene. The alternative to grow or to perish is to grow and to stand still, which in my way of seeing, is a way of dying anyhow. It is my feeling that the sort of association of people and organisations that we are to aim at, should not be an international one, but most likely a transnational one in the same sense that S. H. Foulkes talks of transpersonal communications and interactions within the network - the matrix of the group.

I hope these thoughts, left-overs of our luncheon at wonderful Copenhagen and on which, like cudweed I have been chewing since then, can be of some use to other people and could well stimulate a joint effort which is so much needed.

Juan Campos-Avillar

14th November, 1980

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GROUP-ANALYTIC SOCIETY (LONDON) TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY, 1981, FROM THE HONORARY PRESIDENT

You will see from the Officers' Reports that a lot of useful work has been done in the last year and I am sure that you would wish us to extend our thanks to the Officers and other Members of the Society who put their shoulder to the wheel and kept it there. We can feel happy, for instance, at the vitality of our Scientific Meetings programme; with our European communications strengthening in our collaboration with the Italian Society over the Rome Symposium this year; at the indications we received at the Copenhagen Congress, of the increasing impact that group analysis is making on practitioners of other techniques of group psychotherapy; and with the fact that one of us, Dr. Malcolm Pines, has been elected President of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy. This will have a great influence on the Congress to be held in 1983.

However, you will also see that all is by no means well with your Committee. Many of us are offering our resignation to you, some because of conflicting engagements which cannot be altered but most of us are, to different extents, afflicted, as our Honorary Secretary expressed it, with a mood of anxiety and fatigue and are in need of a shake-up. We feel that the status of the Society needs critical examination - our financial dilemma, our relationship to the Institute and to Overseas Members. It is not my function here to elaborate on this but only to ask you all to help in clarifying issues and to throw your weight into re-vitalising the Society if, after due consideration, you feel that it should not be allowed to wither away. It is in the hope that new people may do better than we ourselves have done that we proffer our resignations. Although some current Members of the Committee may accept re-election as from the Annual General Meeting, this would spring from the new outlook that the Meeting might generate.

Whatever happened to group dynamics, you may ask. I think that the Honorary Secretary has indicated what may be at the root of our malaise. We have not yet resolved our transference relationship with Dr. Foulkes, our loss of leadership, and have not yet found resurrection in our collaboration together. Some of us are thinking favourably of the possibility of going into retreat for a day's free or associative discussion on our condition. This approach to our difficulties might be explored further in the discussion at our Annual General Meeting. It is my hope that as many Members as possible will come along to this Meeting to help us with our evaluation, that this Annual General Meeting might have a special part to play in shaping the future thinking and planning for our Society as a whole.

*M. L. J. Abercrombie*

M. L. J. Abercrombie (Mrs.)  
Honorary President  
Group-Analytic Society (London)

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GROUP-ANALYTIC SOCIETY (LONDON) TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 23rd February, 1981, FROM THE HONORARY SECRETARY

This will be a brief report because I do not want to take up valuable time at the Meeting which can be used for discussion about the future role of the Society and its Committee. I am therefore going to leave out the usual round of compliments to all those individuals who have worked hard to promote the activities of the Society and get on with mentioning some of the successful ventures and projects undertaken over the last year.

Dr. Morton Lieberman gave the 4th S. H. Foulkes Lecture in April, 1980, entitled "Group Therapy - Beyond the Therapy Group". The lecture was met with a mixed reception. Some Members found it stimulating and challenging, others less so to judge by the poor collection afterwards.

Our President, Mrs. Abercrombie, will be giving the 5th S. H. Foulkes Lecture, to be held on Monday, 18th May at the Royal College of Physicians, on the topic "Beyond the Unconscious: Group Analysis Applied". I am certainly looking forward to this very much and have no doubt that others of you who know of Mrs. Abercrombie's special area of interest, will be sharing my enthusiasm. It is expected that there will be a Workshop run jointly by the Society and the Institute of Group Analysis immediately preceding the Lecture, entitled "Self-Psychology and Group Analysis". This will, we hope, attract overseas members who may be coming to London for the occasion of the Lecture.

In August, 1980, the International Congress of Group Psychotherapy met in Copenhagen. The Society was strongly represented and in addition to the formal Agenda, the occasion was used to try to define an optimal relationship between English and Overseas Members of the Society.

In September, 1981, the 5th European Symposium on Group Analysis is to be held in Rome. The theme is "Aspects of Resistance in Group Analysis". The Group-Analytic Society is proud to be sponsoring the Symposium and is indebted to the Symposium's Chairman and prime organiser, Dr. Fabrizio Napolitani, and to Dr. Malcolm Pines, Co-Chairman, both of whom have already spent much time and thought on the planning.

Mr. Home's project of Workshops outside London, to be offered by the Society, which was outlined at the last Annual General Meeting, has been promoted and several offers of help by therapists, living away from London, have been received. You will remember the dual aim here, of helping to keep the Society solvent financially and of providing therapeutic and educational input where it might be of use locally or regionally.

Special mention must be made of the report on the Survivor Syndrome Workshop which had taken place in September, 1979, run jointly by the Society and Institute. An extra issue of GROUP ANALYSIS was published in November, 1980, devoted entirely to an account of the Workshop and is itself an outstanding contribution.

The 8th London Workshop, held in January, 1981, entitled "Group Analysis - A Wider Role?" was extremely successful and all praise must go to our convenor, Mrs. Sharpe, and her co-leaders for all their hard work and the stimulating outcome. The Workshop was over-subscribed, confirming the high regard which is held for this annual event and in due course a report will be forthcoming.

The title of this Workshop, together with that of the next Foulkes Lecture, happens to point to an area of concern that the Committee has been struggling with for several months. It has to do with a re-examination of the *raison d'être* of the Society, in the light of changes we see going on around us. Our problems present symptomatically as financial ones but the determinants go deeper of course. While recognising that a lot of time in Committee has to be spent on administrative

and other routine tasks, there must also be some sense of inspiration! The pace set by the Institute of Group Analysis has compelled the Society Committee to think again about its real aims and purpose. The respective roles of Society and Institute as they now stand had come up for discussion last November at the Post-Graduate Planning Activities Group in the Institute. Then, in December, at a joint meeting between the Society Committee and the Council of the Institute, our President put forward a proposal, which I personally supported, that Society and Institute might combine to become one entity but having a number of facets. The facets would have reflected different aspects of group analysis, for instance, therapy, training, education, research into normal as well as abnormal group behaviour and so on. This idea was debated closely and finally rejected.

At its best, 1981 will bring an increased awareness of how Society and Institute can complement each other's functioning, with a more systematic framework of liaison between them. At worst, the Society is at risk of being left stranded as new international developments spring up in Denmark, Germany and Italy for instance, with the possibility of a European Federation. If "accreditation" is not appropriate, what other kind of recognition might be desirable? If the Society is to remain uninvolved in training of therapists, why insist on selective academic and experiential criteria for admission to membership? Many of the close personal ties that held the Membership of the Society together are loosening over time. Indeed, a rapidly increasing number of Members (including myself) never knew Michael Foulkes and understandably, those members tend to look first to the Institute in London, both for personal contacts and the sharing of group analytic experiences. Perhaps, the Society should revert to the informal body it once was and get away from the power politics of group psychotherapy altogether. Then real camaraderie might revive and with it a new sense of purpose and direction. It does seem that, at present, our collective soul resides in the Journal and a handful of key events in the calendar year. Certainly, I have not felt it often in the Committee, where the prevailing mood has come over to me as one of anxiety and fatigue. My own initial response to this was to react by spending even more time and effort on the nuts and bolts of Committee work. The sad fact remains, to my mind ironically since we are all of us group analysts, that we have still not been able to sort out very well the dynamics of our own problem of identity together as a group in Committee and also perhaps in the Society as a whole, following on the death of Michael Foulkes. The need to understand and resolve this, if we can, becomes more and more urgent with the passing of time.

Over the year, I hope that I have done my best to see to the needs of the Committee regarding the office of the Secretaryship. I also hope that I have not been guilty of projecting too much of my personal self into my comments about the difficulties the Society is facing. I explained in the Committee before Christmas that I would be resigning from the Committee as from February. I do so with much regret because over the year I have developed a warm regard for the Society as I gradually came to understand its history and came to learn what it is really about. At the end of the day though, one must put first things first and other commitments which have developed over the year mean that I cannot give the Society the kind of dedication it will need if it is to survive and grow independently of the Institute of Group Analysis.

Perhaps it underlines the need for the Committee to be replenished from amongst the Membership of the Society who are not bound up with the future concerns of the Institute. I hope that the Membership of the Society will take the opportunity at the Annual General Meeting to face this challenge positively, to use our hard-won analytic skills to debate openly what is going on and to resist cosmetic changes which are only palliative and temporary.

Andrew Powell  
Honorary Secretary  
Group-Analytic Society (London)

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Robin Skynner  
88 Montagu Mansions  
London W1H 1LF

29th January 1981

Dear Harold

I am sure that many others, besides myself, will be both concerned and mystified by the troubled tone of the reports of the President and of the Honorary Secretary of the Group-Analytic Society circulated in preparation for the Annual General Meeting of the Society. I was present at the combined meeting of the Council of the Institute and the Committee of the Society in December, mentioned by the President in her report, where I remained very puzzled at the end of the meeting what the problem really was about, beyond the obvious fact that many feelings were not being expressed frankly.

Reading these reports now, I think the suggestion in both of them that there are unresolved transference problems in relation to the "Founding Father" of both Institutions, is correct. But how to approach the problem, when these unresolved problems "cannot be known" and so cannot be communicated?

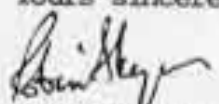
The reports cited our Journal GROUP ANALYSIS as the central link, and in addition it reaches a wide circle of people with shared interests, with much more independence and objectivity than is possible for those of us who worked together with Foulkes in London.

I would like to suggest that GROUP ANALYSIS might provide the solution to our difficulty, if we could throw our dilemma open to our colleagues in its pages. I therefore suggest that the reports of the President and the Honorary Secretary should be printed in GROUP ANALYSIS, if they give permission, and contributions invited from everyone towards a solution.

I have believed for many years that innovators in the field of psychotherapy pass on their most positive contribution through their ideas, while the limitations of which they are unaware (and of which their students are unconsciously taught to be unaware) are passed on in their technique. Thus, Freud's greatest contribution was his recognition of the centrality of the oedipal conflict for later development. And his limitation - his actual inability to deal with rivalry and jealousy - was passed on in a technique where those feelings never had to be encountered because the design prevented more than two people from being present at one time. I was attracted to Foulkes' ideas and techniques because he seemed to me to transcend this limitation of Freud's, thereby extending the technique further. And my interest in family therapy developed because it seemed to contain the possibility of carrying this resolution further still (this is why I have always been so concerned about the temptation for some among our number to "do a U-turn" back towards psychoanalysis and its limitations).

So, the question might be, what were Foulkes' limitations, which were transmitted in his technique? Do we want to be followers, which requires that we avoid seeing his limitations, or do we want to build on what he has been able to give us, which requires that we see him more objectively?

Yours sincerely

  
Robin Skynner

From: M. L. J. Abercrombie  
2 Bridge Lane  
Little Shelford  
Cambridge

14th February, 1981

Dear Harold

I am grateful to you for inviting me to respond to Dr. Skynner's letter simultaneously with its publication, so giving me an opportunity to try to dispel some of the mystification caused by the Reports to the Annual General Meeting of the Group-Analytic Society. As to his puzzlement at the December meeting, this encourages me to express again, but more forcibly perhaps, my own feelings - they were of sharp sadness and bewilderment at the Institute's elitist and short-sighted policy - as it seemed to me - that led it to reject the motion that closer neighbourly relations with the Society might benefit both organisations.

Those of us on the Committee of the Group-Analytic Society who offered our resignations did so in the hope that Members would respond just as Robin Skynner has done - promptly and provokingly. Allow me a few words of historical introduction. I first came under Dr. Foulkes' spell in the late forties and remained under it as patient and later co-therapist in his groups and was for some years scientific secretary of the Society. I saw the births of the Practice, the Institute and the Trust, but since moving to Cambridge in 1970 I had little to do with their development. When I accepted the invitation to become President of the Group-Analytic Society in 1980 I found a scene which was very different from that which Michael, with the strong, warm and sustained backing of Elizabeth, had created and presided over in his inimitable way.

The main issue hanging over the Committee like a suffocating black cloud was the financial one. Our sources of income are membership fees, profits from workshops and such windfalls as Michael's charisma was able to attract from generous well-wishers - all in hazard in this time of recession. The three organisations (the Society whose function is the wide dissemination of the principles of group analysis through meetings, workshops and the Journal; the Institute, concerned with professional training of group analytic psychotherapists, and the Practice, an association of practitioners of the art) seemed to have grown apart, despite their closely interrelated basic interests. In particular, the dissolution of the Trust in September 1980 threatened to increase the distance between Society and Institute whose interests had been previously united under its umbrella.

So I think that the Society needs to take a hard look at its present condition, its status, obligations and assets, and to find generous ways of achieving its full potential. We have to face the unfortunate fact that the spreading of enlightenment among the comparatively healthy is not so lucratively rewarded as is the treatment of the frankly sick. The Society cannot expect to continue to contribute to the extravagant overheads for accommodation and servicing that were appropriate for the joint enterprise. Following the line of thought in Robin's last paragraph, we might examine Michael's very personal style of leadership, which blossomed in the fat sixties, but may be has limitations in the austere eighties, bedevilled by greater complexity of organisation compounded with poverty.

Yours etc.

*M. L. J. Abercrombie*

M. L. J. Abercrombie

From: James Home  
The Coach House, Grove Park,  
Yoxford, Suffolk

13th February, 1981

Dear Harold

I should like to contribute to the debate on the state of the Group-Analytic Society to which you have so helpfully opened your pages.

As a Committee Member I have experienced some of the frustration and ~~anxiety~~ which Andrew Powell describes and some of the confusion about aims on which our President comments and which moved me eventually to resign.

For me, a Society like ours exists in the activities it promotes for its members and for those people in the world whom it wishes to persuade or interest or assist. Thought in the Committee should lead to action and the action should give food for further thought.

Arising from the Society's history its membership is very heterogeneous, comprising members from different professions and from none. At first there were no group analysts in it except in the functional sense that some members had occasion to treat groups in the Maudsley Hospital and elsewhere. By thinking about his work with groups as a psychiatrist and as a psychoanalyst Michael Foulkes created group analysis as a method of treatment and as a style. At first Michael was the only group analyst and provided almost all the activity in the Society and the Society existed mainly to support him. We met in his consulting room and listened to him. His travels in Europe and America made him friends who often became overseas members. His books and later his creation of GAIPAC made him and the Group-Analytic Society more widely known. His secretary kept the records. There was a committee but there was little for it to do and here, probably, began the tradition that an awful lot of time was spent on very little and that the glory of attending and participating was as valuable as anything. The Society could be heterogeneous because it rarely acted corporately but rather its individual members acted where and how they could and talked together about what each had done. As far as I remember, the Society has remained essentially the same until today. Training schemes were begun by Robin Skynner and Pat de Maré on their own initiative in the context of the Group Analytic Practice. It was only at the point where the Institute was founded that the Group-Analytic Society was involved and then only briefly to set up the Founding Committee. That having been done, the Society as such did little but promote scientific meetings and conferences on fairly conventional lines and finally, in 1972 the London Workshop which was devolved onto individual organisers, like myself, who found it easier to work outside the framework of the Committee because it enabled us to pick the most effective and well-known helpers and to create an integrated programme whereas in Committee the organiser was inevitably plagued by advice and the natural wish of older members to be included regardless of their personal or professional standing.

From this time on the Society was increasingly divided between those who participated in Courses and then training and those who did not. The only activity in which all members participated was the Scientific Meeting, which is still our chief corporate act and our most effective promotion in relation to our own membership.

The situation on the Group-Analytic Society Committee, although linked with the wider situation, is partly very local. Committee members want a creative role in a creative committee and I certainly want this for myself if I am to attend. Some, and among them some of long standing, seem first and foremost to want control and it is the steady pursuit of control though persistent attention to detail which needs attention at a different level, that makes Committee meetings boring and wastes the time of an exceptionally talented Committee and an exceptionally steady and even-handed Chairman. It has also run the last two Hon. Secretaries into the

ground.

I have glanced at some urgent and painful issues. There remain many others of great interest such as Robin Skynner raises in his letter. I hope they will be debated as time permits. His comment on innovators in the field of psychotherapy seems to me likely to be true though Freud can hardly be called an innovator, who first recognised and revealed the unconscious meaning of behaviour. Nor can I find it in me to patronise him who is my "father" and Michael's too. He made a lot out of his difficulties and was probably not more afraid of group situations than many "innovators" are of individual psychoanalysis. All "techniques" can be seen as a form of defensive acting out by the therapist who is bound to have his areas of intolerance.

Yours sincerely

James Home

James Home

TECHNIQUES  
The one who knows  
\*\*\*  
TEACHING

From: Dennis Brown  
88 Montagu Mansions  
London W1H 1LF

11th February, 1981

Dear Harold

The two issues raised by Robin Skynner are immensely important, and should be debated through the pages of GROUP ANALYSIS, as he suggests, but also face to face, perhaps in a large group. I would like to question the connection between, on the one hand, the need to review and perhaps change the relationship between the Group-Analytic Society and the Institute of Group Analysis, and, on the other hand, our relationship with the late Dr. Foulkes, his ideas and techniques.

I am surprised that Robin, a systems thinker if ever there was one, should dismiss the organisational problems of having Society and Institute developing different but overlapping functions, and manned by different but overlapping bodies of supporters, with different but overlapping loyalties. In my view, a clarification of boundaries is essential if the energy and enthusiasm of members of both organisations is to be fostered and channelled. The hints in the reports of the President and Honorary Secretary of demoralisation in the Society underline the need for such clarification. Whether this will lead to greater separation or integration I do not know; it will depend on what people decide is best for themselves and the organisations. My own inclination is to see them move closer, even aspects of the same body. At the November meeting of the Post-Graduate Activities Planning Group of the Institute, I expressed it as them representing the public and private faces: the Society would represent the public functions of education and application in wider fields, through scientific meetings, workshops, international links etc.; the Institute would represent the private functions of developing and maintaining standards of training to qualification. People could then be members of the Group-Analytic Society, as at present, because of their interest and experience in the field, but, additionally, members of the Institute of Group Analysis if they have submitted themselves to the full Qualifying Course training.

I am less surprised by Robin's views about psychoanalysis and the "limitations" of group analysis. He makes no bones about them; after all he is a trail blazer in developing family therapy with its greater emphasis on direction and action. I am not sure that I go along fully with his notion that psychotherapeutic ideas are always positive, while it is techniques which embody limitations. It is an interesting and provoking notion, though I would see theory and practice being too

By the way (to the Institute)



closely entwined, both in psychoanalysis and group analysis. Perhaps I am a timid revisionist, but believe that we do not have to change our techniques radically to improve them. True, family therapy, as Robin has shown us, can be immensely helpful in situations where psychoanalysis or group analysis are impossible. But our thinking about networks and transpersonal processes was largely started by Dr. Foulkes.

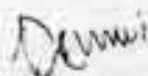
When it comes down to it, choice of therapy for the therapist can be determined by the latter's need as much as the patient's, properly so. Some therapists need to be more active, just as some patients need more active therapy. Perhaps the need for a balance between reflection and action determines whether more analytic or more active and directive treatments (such as family therapy) are chosen.

In his 1975 paper in GROUP ANALYSIS, on "Qualification as a Psychoanalyst as an Asset as well as a Hindrance for the Future Group Analyst", Foulkes pointed out that psychoanalysis discovered, in a two-body setting, 1) infantile sexuality and the power of (self) destructive forces. 2) Oedipal and pre-Oedipal conflicts, defence mechanisms, transference and repetition. 3) The structural model, especially unconscious aspects of ego and super-ego. Group analysis is based on communication and personal interaction, analysis in a multi-body matrix, transpersonal processes and a *transcending* of transference (rather than deliberately fostering it). How many of these ideas from psychoanalysis and group analysis can we do without? I would say very few. Our techniques work very well for the patients for whom they work.

If we consider a) the inner world, b) family relationships and, c) extra-family relationships as open systems, we could propose that we need theories and techniques which integrate these overlapping aspects of human beings. Perhaps psychoanalysis allows examination of a) and, indirectly, of b). Family therapy concentrates directly on b). Group analysis allows, by examination of c), an indirect examination of a) and b). It is healthy that we can strive to improve theories and techniques without aiming for panaceas.

Group-Analytic Society, Institute of Group Analysis and the outer world are likewise open systems. It may be that unresolved transferences to Dr. Foulkes have to be worked on. Doubtless these involve his offspring, the two organisations. But transference can be transcended as Foulkes always emphasised. Would killing one of these organisations off be patricide, matricide or infanticide? Would joining them together be incest? In reality they are now *our* organisations. Let us take responsibility for them, and if necessary, be revolutionary.

Yours in shared concern



Dennis Brown

\*\*\*

From: Colin James  
Rigshospitalet  
9 Blegdamsvej  
DK-2100 Copenhagen O  
DENMARK

13th February, 1981

Dear Harold

Thank you for sending me a copy of Robin's letter of 29th January. I am also concerned about the reports of the President and of the Honorary Secretary of the Group-Analytic Society and I would agree with Robin's suggestion that the reports

be printed in GROUP ANALYSIS and would welcome a wider discussion of the issues involved.

Whilst I am concerned with the present situation, I am optimistic that we will sort out our difficulties, though, like Robin, I am not at all clear as to what is at the root of the present dilemma in regard to the relationship between the Society and the Institute and the doubt even, of the future of the Society. I did however react to the phrase to "do a U-turn".

I reacted to the phrase "U-turn" and to the archaic notion of the analytic process which Robin refers to; this stimulated me to wonder about the possible link between different conceptualisations of group analysis *vis-à-vis* psychoanalysis and to ponder whether there was any link between this and the present dilemma in our institutions.

We ignore the contribution of psychoanalysis and analytic thinking at our peril. It is one thing for example to have a nodding acquaintance with the work of Winnicott and the transitional phenomena, and the "good enough mother" concept. It is quite another thing to live this out in the clinical situation with a group or a patient, and here I'm thinking about Masud Khan's commentary about regression to resourceless dependence for instance. It is my contention that issues such as this are as much to do with group analysis as with psychoanalysis, but it is psycho-analytic research of this nature which will eventually help us to deal with these problems in the group setting.

I think it is very premature to regard an interest in this type of analytic work as anything approaching a "U-turn", and I feel that to do so ignores important elements of the therapeutic process, that no amount of focusing on family or social process will alter.

Despite the emphasis that we who work with groups put on the development of the group, Foulkes certainly believed that the purpose of group therapy was the development of the individual in helping him to tolerate the demands and vicissitudes of constantly changing matrices. This is a point on which Henry Rey wrote very firmly and if we look for a moment at Bion's contribution to groups we immediately recognise that the anxiety that the individual has in relation to the group contributes considerably to group process, and has very deep-rooted origins.

I wonder whether we want to deal with the development of the individual *per se* or do we merely want to process people into the development of better, more coping, false-selves.

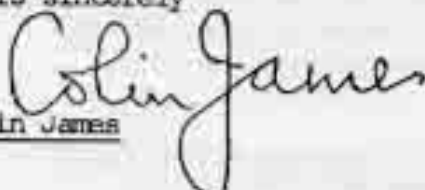
If we follow Foulkes and are concerned with the development of the individual privately and in relationship to others then we have no alternative but to follow the intricacies of this, at a deep individual level leading to a true self actualisation and a development of a true sense of self and of other selves. I would only say that the working through with a patient in psychoanalysis over a long period of time can only enhance our understanding, and the need to work through in minute details in an analytic situation is imperative, rather than to dodge the issue and to attribute so much to social factors or "systems". I think the emphasis which Robin refers to ignores the very personal and private world of the individual and removes him from the privacy of his own psychic world. An acquaintance with that privacy is a better position for him to be able to relate to the social world shared by others and the recent writings of Kernberg and others on the relevance of object relations theory to group analysis and group therapy is surely relevant.

I do not know why we have our crises. I am sure there are many factors and many levels which we need to examine but I wonder whether Foulkes' enthusiasm to look at groups and his refusal to look at the world of internal objects has set us on a track which has enabled Robin, with all his experience to refer to an interest in

in the psychoanalytic process as a "U-turn". To perpetuate and to risk reifying this notion I wonder seriously whether it would not help our present dilemma if a few more amongst our number "did a U-turn".

Is there any possibility of a link between our present position that we find ourselves in and in our having moved as group analysis too far from the analytic setting? Have we stopped doing group analysis and have we forgotten the individual? Is our organisational crisis telling of a despondence and despair of the individual disappointment with our group image?

Yours sincerely

  
Colin James

\*\*\*

From: Gregory van der Kleij  
North London Centre of Group Therapy  
Priory Close  
London N.14

Dear Harold

Thank you for asking me to comment on Robin's letter. It sounds a most interesting hypothesis: innovators innovate through their ideas but propagate their limitations through their techniques. But what substance is there in such a hypothesis? I do not see much there, except opinions - however interesting these are. Try the other way: what were Foulkes' limitations passed on in his technique? Unfortunately, I draw a blank. Is that because I am avoiding them in order to be a follower? But I do not think I am - why should I be? Nobody ever asked me to be one, leave alone made it a condition of membership or anything like that.

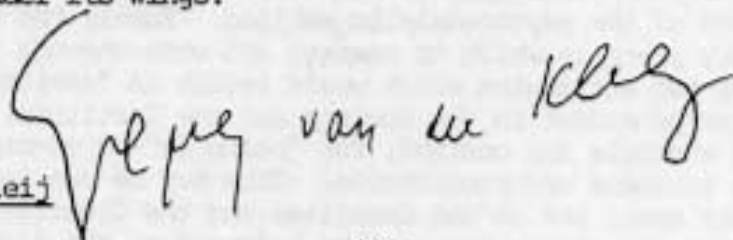
Not a very helpful reply, so far. But perhaps it explains why I went on a very, very different track after reading the reports. I am a colleague to a number of members of the Society of Analytical Psychologists who strike me as people for whom the S.A.P. comes first. A meeting is wanted for this or that and the reply comes promptly: no, I am at the SAP that night, an explanation everybody accepts totally and without questioning. I wonder why that is so, and have jumped to a conclusion (which I have not bothered to verify). The conclusion is: because they get their referrals from there. And then conclude further: neither the Group-Analytic Society members nor the Institute of Group Analysis members get referrals from the Group Analytic Practice, which is firmly in the hands of the eight members of its committee of management. Let me say at once that I do not stand in need of referrals and would have to turn down an invitation to become an associate, not having the time. Which is, perhaps, why I can afford to speak. The fact is that we have a structure in which you can only expect teaching "jobs" to come your way, at not exactly exciting fees (overseas excepted). And group analysts do have problems getting jobs within the National Health Service while it is very hard work to start a group when isolated in private practice, if not virtually impossible. Does all this play no role at all? I am sure it does, the moment we move away from the model which obviously dominated the Group-Analytic Society from its beginning - disciples gathering round the master and before this gets denigrating overtones, let me say I am grateful they did because they thereby made continuity possible. But this is history and the task today is about holding together a group of professional people - who begin from their professional interests if they are serious at all.

Solution? Surely the simple one of having one single body, the Institute. With

everything else under its wings.

Yours sincerely

Gregory van der Kleij



\*\*\*

From: George Renton  
1 Bickenhall Mansions  
Bickenhall Street  
London W1H 3LF

16th February 1981

Dear Harold

Thank you for your letter enclosing Robin Skynner's comments on the problems of the Society and Institute as reported in the President's (Jane Abercrombie) and Secretary's (Andrew Powell) annual reports.

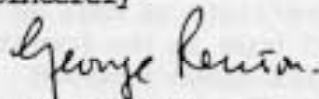
Change is already under way and I agree we need very seriously to consider the past, the present and the future of the Society and Institute.

We could perhaps consider the Trust's, the Society's, the Institute's and Michael Foulkes' leadership. Michael Foulkes was the uniting and unifying influence which in the beginning was necessary. I am wondering whether at a certain time that continued role allowed the Society and the Institute to work through separation of their functions in a constructive way and for creative growth to take place.

I agree with Robin Skynner that the pages of the journal could be a forum for discussion.

I wonder if the now ongoing process of change needs something like Jane Abercrombie's suggestion for creating space and time for thinking and discussion as well.

Sincerely



George Renton

\*\*\*

From: Lisbeth E. Hearst  
88 Montagu Mansions  
London W1H 1LF

18th February, 1981

Dear Harold

I am one of those members of the Society's Committee who resigned not because of conflicting engagements, but because I am "afflicted with a mood of anxiety and fatigue" in the Committee: our President and Secretary, in their respective reports to the Annual General Meeting, express my sentiments correctly. The question is, why should there be these feelings of impotence and anxiety?

Robin Skynner, whose letter on this subject you kindly showed me, professes to having been "very puzzled" after the combined meeting of the Council of the Institute and the Committee of the Society in December. Fortunately, his puzzlement did not persist, since he now offers an intriguing line of thought concerning our states of mind: That, as followers of our departed Father-Leader, we are now

enacting, unconsciously, his limitations, transmitted to us in his technique. He gives as an example Freud's inability to deal with rivalry and jealousy, which he enshrined in the dyad of the psychoanalytic setting. Surely the group analytic situation is the very place in which to unearth and work-through jealousy and envy, yet these are the two attributes which would result in "anxiety and fatigue": In any case, they are prominent in the Society and the Institute, and between them. Prominent is also a struggle for control, for "being in" on events, for keeping the circle of the Elect intimate and predictable. This may be one reason why the same people, or nearly the same, are on the Committee and the Council: At the joint meeting there was only one person present who belonged to the Society only. The need for power and control seems to me to be expressed in endless attention to details of arrangements, accounts, etc. in Committee meetings, which, though at times needful, seem empty and meaningless most of the time, as if they were not a means to an end, but the end itself.

Michael Foulkes was an innovator and a creator, and, I think, an artist at least as much as a scientist: Artists tend to feel that what they create comes entirely from themselves: in Dr. Foulkes' last book there are only ten references, of which three refer to his own writings. This is how it should be with a creator. It is said by some dreary scholars that the Odyssey and the Iliad were written by a committee, and not by a blind genius called Homer: I find this highly unlikely. There must be a sort of self-centredness in innovation. When I first came across the journal of GROUP ANALYSIS while a student on the first Qualifying Course, I had the sensation of eaves-dropping on the conversational exchanges of a group of brethren addressing each other *via* their founder. The founder is gone, but the Charmed Circle (though of course there are circles within the Circle) persists. Could it be that admission to the Institute symbolises the "belonging"?

Surely, the two areas of competence, that of the Institute and that of the Society, are fairly clearly definable: the Institute has the function of a training body which selects, qualifies and acts as an Association for professional group analysts, and I would like to add the word "Foulkesian". The Society, like others (such as, for example, the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts) exists for the advancement of its special area of interest - in our case that of the various aspects of groups, normal and abnormal, artificial and natural, therapy groups and work groups. I agree with Andrew Powell who suggests that if this were so, our present selection criteria are wrong. They are so to our detriment. We ought to be able to attract sociologists and anthropologists, managers of industry and, with a bit of luck, trade union leaders. Group Analysts from the Institute as well as differently trained group psychotherapists would find a natural home in the Society. The journal would, as it does now from time to time, reflect this wider interest without losing the specialised contributions on group analysis. The Workshops organised by the Society, as well as the yearly Foulkes Lecture, would reflect this broad base of the Society, and would be all the better for it. I think that there is wide and deep enough an area of interest and activity for the Society, distinct from the specialised one of the Institute, for the two bodies to relate to each other on equal autonomous terms.

Lisbeth E. Hearst

Lisbeth E. Hearst

\*\*\*

To: Andrew Powell

From: Juan Campos-Avillar  
Paseo San Gervasio 30  
Barcelona - 22  
SPAIN

12th February, 1981

Dear Andrew

I am an Overseas Member of many years who happens to live under the same roof with a recently qualified Member of the Institute who on those grounds has compulsorily become a Full Member of the Society. I have been paying higher fees than she actually pays and my knowledge of the Society is sound and seasoned, and I was unpleasantly surprised to discover that the enclosures she received with the announcement of this year's Annual General Meeting were attached to a leaflet that was not enclosed in mine.

As I understand, there is a mood for this year's Meeting to translate symptoms into their underlying problems and conflicts and an intention of trying to solve them the group analytic way. I think this mailing lapsus has the value of a symptom and that is why it should be reported - carried back - where it belongs, that is to the General Meeting of the Society. The leaflet reads as follows: "Please make sure you have read the enclosures. This is your Society and your participation in its affairs is vital." What does that imply? Does it mean *it is not mine* as well? What is the role of Overseas Members within the Society, then?

That brings to mind something that was associated at a meeting of a task group on "Context" during the last Workshop: "Group Analysis: a Wider Role?" to which I was invited as official reporter. In the middle of a discussion on the old North-South problem, somebody brought the following story: "The Greek peasant while he is shopping for an animal at the village market has this question in mind: is it to be kept or just to be killed?" Who is the peasant? Who is the vendor? Who the animal? And that, to be kept or just to be killed? In case, I, we, Overseas or plain Members of the Society are the ones to be killed, I appeal to the right of freely speaking first!

Do you have problems with money? Have you ever thought what the Society is offering to present or prospective members ... and mostly if sheer associate or overseas members? A journal for twice the price of the direct subscription to GROUP ANALYSIS. Some sort of accreditation? A cut in registration fees to workshops, symposia, scientific events that take place mostly in London and at the most odd dates of the year and days of the week? Nothing of the sort. It is not very appealing and it is no argument to recruit new members nor to keep old ones! Societies live out of membership fees and people adhere to societies because they offer them professional advantages, some support or services of some kind. Most of us are still in Group Analysis as a result of reminiscences or else out of commitment to an idea which we still consider worthwhile to keep and to fight for.

To grow or to perish is the dilemma the Society is facing today. There is plenty of space to grow, in case parochialism does not kill the plant. As a matter of fact at national and international levels there is a void for an ambit where Groupnics with an analytic orientation can thrive, where to enjoy themselves working together towards a general theory of group dynamics applicable to all group activities (T.T.T.) and to groups of any kind and any size. That I think is what Michael had in mind by "bringing closer together the active exponents and friends of group analytic psychotherapy. They are, as yet (June 1961) a small band, but of distinguished people in many lands. The contribution which can be made by group analysis, based on therapeutic investigation and theory as understood by us, is considerable, deep and wide. Thanks to a start of twenty years or so in organisation here in England and the willingness of some of us to give time and money and to take trouble we can now offer this News and Views and act as editors. With your co-operation it will live and grow, without this, it will die. Active

intercommunication is necessary. Let us begin!"

Twenty years more have elapsed since S.H.F. signed those words. GROUP ANALYSIS an International Panel first by correspondence and later through face to face contact was the child of News and Views. I hope there are still today enough among us ready to take trouble, put enough money behind, and time ... and blood and tears as for giving birth to a vigorous grandchild ready to face the end of the millennium. Do thoughtfully as you please at the General Meeting, but, please, be reminded not to throw out the baby with the bath water.

Let me finish this bloody long letter, which more than a letter is an Emergency Advance Report of the Wider Role? I see from the one you are submitting as Honorary Secretary that there are basically three alternatives being considered as future aims and purposes of the Society: One is based on the "Facets Theory" debated and finally rejected at a joint meeting of the Committee and the Council of the Institute. Two, is the European Federation sponsored by Rome and springing from international developments in Germany, Denmark, Italy and I would add here Spain; and three, is to revert to what you call the informal body and which I strongly feel is what is at the core of the international projection of Group Analysis.

If I were to bet, since by Constitution as an Overseas Member I have no right to vote, I would put all my stakes on the third option. Although not wanting to ride on Michael's coffin, I am convinced though that this is where he put most of his time and money since he founded GAIPAC. As a matter of fact, during the last two years here in Catalonia we have been giving this model a trial and we can tell you it works. It helped us run the First Residential Workshop in Groups Analysis, under the auspices of the Institute, it has radically changed the Catalan Section of the Spanish Society of Group Psychotherapy and Techniques, and we hope it will also contribute to solve the problems this Society has during the next Annual Symposium in May. Do you know what we do? Very simple. We apply General Group-Analytic Principles to our societal problems and we give ourselves enough time and enough space to examine the situation not only "as it appears to be, but as what it really is".

I hope I will not be prosecuted as a trespasser for having written this letter. Even if constitutionally I am not entitled, I feel that the Society is a little mine, ours, as well. Besides, having sat as an official reporter during the first week of the year at the boundaries of the Workshop and the Society and at those of "Group Analysis, a Wider Role", maybe I had a view from where the woods were not hidden by the trees. I do not know if everybody will like what is seen from there, but I feel after the storm the fields are greener and a rich harvest seems promised. Work hard at it ... and in case you need a hand, here we are the Overseas to help. The Rome Symposium could well be a fertile meeting ground. Please do not kill the animal yet ... maybe what is just needed is a feed with plenty of t.l.c.

With my best wishes to you all and to your work,

Yours,

*Juan Campos*

Juan Campos-Avillar

\*\*\*

To: Juan Campos-Avillar

From: Andrew Powell  
81 Fawnbrake Avenue  
London SE24 0BG

19th February, 1981

Dear Juan

I was very heartened to have your letter of 12th February, which I am passing on to Harold Behr because I very much hope it will get into the next issue of GROUP ANALYSIS. As you can probably guess, over the last year I have felt very confused about many things going on in the Society. I started off by knowing virtually nothing about it (like most other recently qualified graduates from the Institute), found the appeal to come on to the Committee as Honorary Secretary irresistible and then was up to my neck in something I didn't understand at all (at first). I found myself coming away from Committee meetings with headaches, indigestion and so on, carrying what seemed like a terrific weight of bureaucratic detail, in fact rather miserable!

People in the Committee seemed somehow very inhibited, there was no liveliness in the meetings, financial problems were plaguing us and it felt like a thoroughly "bad" group. I then began to wonder why, after all, the Honorary Secretary should have been voted in from outside the committee and suspected that there was some pathological inertia or weariness inside the Committee with a corresponding hope for some sort of imported revitalisation. Michael Foulkes was always "around" but in a kind of ghostly way. Malcolm Pines' departure from the group was never discussed. Instead people seemed to be in a state of disconnection, disembodied might be the right word. Then there was the dual identity of most of the Committee as Members of the Institute and Society simultaneously. Instead of this being a good bringing together of parts, it came across as weird and uncomfortable. People seemed afraid to speak their minds.

Every time I inwardly had a go at diagnosing the state of things, I found myself getting blocked, doubting my own perceptions, anxious that what I might do would be iconoclastic, or neurotic to say the least. Finally, I wrote that report for the Annual General Meeting, circulated it in advance in the Committee and used it to trigger a discussion about what on earth was really going on. It was like a spell being broken. Nearly everyone proffered their resignations in a kind of chain reaction. Then people admitted how stuck they had been feeling. Though I do not yet understand all of what the depression has been about, there certainly has been a lifting of the veil. I think that your own viewpoint from further away is all the more important now while this is going on. Perhaps you have not been caught up with the dependency needs of the (immediate) group, nor in problems of envy and rivalry which could never be expressed because somehow such talk wasn't allowable. How much of this is to do with the limitations of Michael Foulkes as a person I don't know. Some of the responsibility for working it through must be for us to carry as grown-ups in any event!

As you know, Jane Abercrombie and I tried to get at the "schizoid" dynamics by bringing the Society and the Institute together, not just in spirit but structurally. It didn't work. The Institute was afraid that its academic standing would be reduced and that unsuitable people would begin to abuse the privilege of the relationship! Malcolm Pines and Lionel Kreeger expressed this view at the Annual General Meeting of the Institute. To some other Institute Members, the Society is not much more than a very expensive subscription which they are compelled to pay. (This is certainly the outlook some people have in my generation of Graduates.)

From the moment that I announced my resignation from the Committee before Christmas, I felt a tremendous weight lift from me and suddenly I could think much better about what had been going on. I still hoped that the Institute might open itself to the Society and had one more go at this at the Annual General Meeting of



the Institute last week. I put forward a resolution that the Institute might welcome an approach from the Society to collaborate more closely. This was rejected and the amendment which was passed had the word 'closely' deleted! Perhaps it was my appreciation of the vacuum in the Society Committee that drove me to look for this kind of answer, because the Institute seemed to be so full of bounce and vitality (many people are drawing on the metaphor of the aged parent and the lusty child). In any case, I begin to think that if there is going to be a loss, it will be the Institute's because I rather fear that the Institute might just become something of a ticket machine to what in London is the most respectable qualification in group psychotherapy.

So, back to the Society, and the deadening bureaucratisation that has been holding it together (locally, that is) and holding it back. Last year the overheads of the Trust were quite staggering (14% being carried by the Society). We have excellent secretaries and administration but should the Society be operating at this complex organisational level? The resulting deficit for the Society over the last year of more than £3,000 was only offset by the profit from the January Workshop of over £3,500. I don't think it is right that an annual Workshop should have to balance the books to this extent.

From what I can make of the journal's accounts for the year, this produced a loss of about £400 of its own which is a problem but not our greatest problem. Where to hold workshops if we didn't have premises with the Institute? Perhaps people with more spacious accommodation would make their homes available occasionally! What about the important issue you raise about the overseas membership having no vote and no say? You are right in pointing out the mailing lapse as a symptom. We have been so embroiled in our local difficulties that we could somehow think only of those people physically to be there at the meeting, which is to lose sight of the presence of yourselves. Indeed, why don't you have a vote? (By the way, I rather think this is the first time that there were my reports going out ahead of the Annual General Meeting at all because Jane and I are at least trying to convert it from a stultified ritual where everything is prepackaged into a real debate.)

A couple of other things come to mind. Someone has made the point that Society membership should not be conferred on Institute members unless they apply for it just like everyone else. To be in the Society would be a privilege, not a persecution! The argument against this is that there are now so many Institute members that if they all withdrew, the finances of the Society would collapse. I think this may be a strong fantasy, it presupposes that the Society must continue to be structured financially in the way that it has been so far and also maybe neglects the fact that though the Society may be running at a loss, it has been going in tandem with the even greater financial losses being incurred on the Institute's side. A second suggestion is that the Committee should essentially be composed of non-Institute members. Are there enough keen people in this category (in England at least)? We shall find out at the Society Annual General Meeting. I don't myself want to make too much of this because I think that if the attachment to the Society was voluntary, one would be just hoping for the best people interested in the task who might be around, never mind whether they have been qualified from the Institute or not. What I do think is that as it rests at present, there is an egocentrism in London which people cannot help but get stuck in which is antipathetic to holding on to the international community.

The 'facets theory', though it won't lead to any deep unification after all, does look as if it is yielding some joint ventures at workshops which is surely a good thing. Perhaps that's enough after all. As to the European Federation, I suspect this will in time get tangled up with recognised qualifications and trainings so that the same muddle will repeat itself. If that kind of thing is going to happen, it will be better for the Society to make a deliberate stand for another level of discourse and that is, to be always informal and spontaneous. It's taken me a long time to come round to seeing what this really can be. I think possibly the Institute training, however liberal in principle, may actually deflect people away

from being receptive and entering into the kind of thing the Society offers. In Sweden there is a law several hundred years old called *Allemanslag*. It means that every person has the freedom to walk wherever he pleases (across your neighbour's garden if you like) so long as he doesn't do any harm. And the Swedes do look after their countryside, I can tell you! I suspect that with a 'training' the infantilisation, competitiveness, eruption of transferences, etc. all go towards obstructing this sense of openness which you are concerned with and which Pat de Mare calls *koinonia*.

With very warm regards,

Yours,

Andrew Powell

Andrew Powell

\*\*\*

From: Andrew Powell  
81 Fawnbrake Avenue  
London SE24 0BG

19th February, 1981

Dear Harold

An idea I've had, which I hope others will take further or dispute may be, is to do with the residual transferences I suspect Michael Foulkes left behind him. I rather think Malcolm Pines' personal presence in the Society Committee may have had a specially 'binding' effect on the Society. As Michael's analysand, then friend and collaborator, I wonder if his presence served an apostolic function, sustaining a cohesiveness which is now lacking. But may it also have added to the difficulty in mourning for him and getting a true perspective on the man and his work, which is only now beginning? The Institute, Michael's 'child', perhaps misses him less than his 'wife' - the Society (if Elizabeth will excuse me!) which has to feel the bereavement in full, those past and present committee members at least.

I think Juan Campos-Avillar and others have had to be reconciled to the fact of Michael Foulkes' death, resolving what to keep of him and what to let go, in a way that the Committee, still meeting in his old room, has yet to sort out. But the rush of resignations is like something that has been dammed up. As Jane Abercrombie put it in her report, it's time for the shake-up and we need the help of our (less conflicted) members.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Powell

Andrew Powell

\*\*\*

From Una M. Farrar  
2 The Orchard  
Bramley Road  
London N14 4HB

2nd February, 1981

Dear Harold

I would like to reply to Andrew Powell's Annual Report to the Group-Analytic Society for 1981.

Yes, at last, I am glad to hear the question of a 'Wider Role' has been voiced. How

THE STATE OF GROUP ANALYSIS IN CATALONIA AND SPAIN

By: Juan Campos-Avillar

If I am not mistaken, the first time we ever heard of group analysis in Spain was during the 1958 Congress of Group Psychotherapy in Barcelona. Michael Foulkes was there and so were Pat de Maré and I think Malcolm Pines and, maybe, others I do not remember. The spotlights were not of course on group analysis but more on the line proposed by "The Morenos". Some of the Catalans there, however, were clever enough to catch a glimpse of group analysis.

I followed Michael Foulkes to the Maudsley that same year and there I went through the most exciting experiences of my life. Working for him at his Unit was like a breath of fresh air. Circumstances, though, did not allow me to continue my training in London and I had to leave for the U.S.A. In the middle of the 60s I returned from America to my own town of Barcelona with a title of Psychoanalyst and Analytic Group Therapist from the Post Graduate Center for Mental Health under my arm. By that time, I think, at least four of us had joined the Group-Analytic Society of London. The people who were active in group therapy in Barcelona then decided to set up a group that would meet weekly; something very similar, I think, to what S. H. Foulkes did in London after World War II when people there were interested in groups. Our experiences lasted for a whole year and unfortunately did not jell into a continuing work group.

For several circumstances, among them of no little importance, the Franco régime, group work in Spain was difficult during those years. Totalitarian states do not gladly accept psychoanalysis and still less I think group analysis on group analytic lines. Even so, I was able to build up a busy private practice in group analysis and family therapy and managed to set up a Family Oriented Psychiatric Unit at a Children's Hospital. This latter enterprise, led in a spirit that followed the steps of what I had learned with S. H. Foulkes at the Maudsley, took almost all my time for seven years and partially diverted my attention from what was going on in group psychotherapy here for a while. I was not able to attend the First European Symposium of Group Analysis in Lisbon to which I had been specially invited, because at the time I was busy heading a project which was to take all my time for a while. The project was an attempt to introduce dynamic concepts in the teaching of psychiatry and psychology at the Schools of Medicine and Psychology of the newly opened so-called Autonomous University of Barcelona. As the first psychoanalyst appointed Professor of Psychiatry and Head of the Department I thought I had a chance. To no avail though, there I learnt a lesson: not only are totalitarian states reluctant to allow analytic views, but also Medical Schools and traditional hospitals are too prone to take a "Personalised Psychiatry" I have learned through Foulkes and my American colleagues.

Fortunately for the Spaniards, Franco was not as immortal as he would have thought to be. After putting up a long fight he said "Good bye" to us. Before departing however, he did his best to leave everything *atado y bien atado* - securely tied up, an attempt he also did not succeed in. During the last years of his dominion, psychoanalysis like a virus was creeping into the psychiatric culture and atmosphere. Then, with a brand new democracy which coincided with the fall of democracy in South America, we started to have an invasion of Argentinian psychoanalysts who had heard of group therapy and had had experiences as group psychotherapists back home. These two single patterns, the end of Franco's era and the transfusion of South American blood, helped us get out of the standstill.

Meanwhile, as far as group analysis is concerned, some things started to happen during the last five years. I got back in touch with the Group-Analytic Society in

London, Fernando Arroyave started to travel to Santander and trained people there; I did the same in Bilbao, some visits were paid by Ana Maria Patalan and Mario Marrone to Leon and Hanne Campos, my wife, was flying to London to get her training as a group analyst. In the middle of March 1980, with the help of Malcolm Pires, Fernando Arroyave and Ana Maria Patalan, Hanne and myself set up the first Residential Spanish Workshop on Group Analysis, in the Hotel Jaime I de Aragón in Castelfelers. Forty people came from all over Spain and there something unknown in Spanish history happened. To think that forty Spaniards, with different levels of training and different orientations could live for three days and a half in the same place and go through a workshop without bloodshed is something unthinkable. But we did, and we did it so well that after that we still are on talking terms. That was possible among other things because for a whole year before, here in Barcelona, a group of people had been working on a group project. The project was to prepare the main topic of the Annual Symposium of the Spanish Society for Group Psychotherapy and Group Techniques. We have decided to carry this study on group lines and the theme was *A Group Approach to a National Health Service*.

We succeeded in both, the study and the presentation at the Annual Symposium. So much so that the Spanish Society decided to take as the main theme for its next Annual Symposium the Institutional Analysis of the Society itself and two of the members of the Barcelona group were elected for office, one as President of the Society and the other as Representative of its Catalan Section. It is my feeling that the Group Analytic approach in Spain, at the moment, is serving as a safe umbrella under which group psychotherapists of all kinds can meet and conduct a dialogue.

I do not think that we Spaniards are going to be "converted" to group analysis. However, I do think that group analysis is a safe environment where group psychotherapeutic ideas with an analytical orientation can finally be introduced in Spain. The Spanish Society of Group Psychotherapy and Group Techniques is changing. In Catalonia our work group is considering starting a general course in group work for people in the health services. In Madrid, Seville and Bilbao they are working towards similar models of development. We are heading towards a Second Spanish Workshop in Group Analysis and also we will soon start a circular newsletter which could lead to a national Panel of Correspondence. I am sure that when the Rome Symposium of Group Analysis will be held and the Workshop that precedes it, many things will be said in Spanish and some of them, I am sure, will be worth hearing.

Juan Campos-Avillar  
Paseo San Gervasio 30  
Barcelona - 22  
SPAIN

---

From: Claude Pigot  
Société Française de Psychothérapie de Groupe

Here is a short account of the history and of the activities of the Société Française de Psychothérapie de Groupe; several factors led to its creation:

- 1) The first point was the fact that, not long after the war, a certain number of psychoanalysts and other categories of persons engaged in psycho-social work had started groups in France. Their number was rising. The main technique was psychodrama.
- 2) The second point was that official group societies were cropping up in different countries and a certain number of persons were eager to follow the same tendency.
- 3) Third, the two international societies were asking for an official French representation.

Another factor was the need for an understanding of group dynamics which appeared