

Correspondencia I

Prof. Dr. Raymond Battegay

Y su trabajo:

**"The Predecessors
and the Beginnings of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy"**

Psych. Prof Dr. R. Battegay
Kantonsspital Basel.
Universitätsklinik
Petersgraben 4
CH-4031 Basel. ~~Switzerland~~ **Switzerland**

Barcelona, September 7, 1986

Dear Prof. Battegay,

Many thanks for your kind and prompt letter as of 1st of September, the reference of the Revista de Psicología y Psicoterapia de Grupo and the title of your "El hombre y el Grupo". In case you were interested in having a review of the book for our journal here, please ask the Spanish Editor Hender to send us two copies and we will arrange for review and publication.

It was also a great pleasure for me to meet you again in Zagreb and particularly I enjoyed the knowledge I gathered from you and from Max Rosenbaum about the origins of the Council and the Association at our breakfast table at the Intercontinental. I think it would be of great interest to our membership to know those facts through the Newsletter and, as I already suggested to you both, to organise a main event for the next Amsterdam Congress, a fishbowl discussion "On the Origins of Group Psychotherapy".

I ignore if an Edition of Constitutional By-laws with the last amendments is being prepared to be distributed between old and new members. If it is not I am going to suggest it to the Executive. If you have one, I would appreciate having a copy of it, so as not to have to consult you at every moment. By the way, do you know if ever any complementary Rules and Regulations or Procedures were written up?

With kind regards to your wife and you, also from Hanne,

Cordially yours,

Prof. Dr. Joan Campos i Avillar
Psg. de Sant Gervasi 30, 66
08022 Barcelona, (Catalunya) Spain

Andubzde:

Battegay. Tx +
vrl 18PA.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY
Xth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY
Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Aug. 27 - Sep. 2, 1989

ABSTRACT FORM

Please give a *summary of your presentation* in the outlined space, in no more than 250 words, typed clearly without alterations, double-spaced and suitable for photo-printing. Type *title* in CAPITAL LETTERS and *author(s) name(s)* in normal type letters. Underline name of first author. Add name and address of institute.

Index details

- Please indicate below by no more than two words under each heading the *keywords* to describe your presentation.
Topic: Predecessors International Association
(e.g. Transference, Group Leadership, Acting-out)
- Area of Interest: all group approaches
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THE PREDECESSORS AND THE BEGINNINGS OF THE
INTERNAT. ASSOCIATION OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY

R. Battegay, M.D.
University Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic
Basle, Switzerland

Having heard from two eminent workers and researchers in the field, S.R. Slavson and J.L. Moreno, I began to work in 1953/1955 with therapeutic groups and entered into contact with S.R. Slavson, who encouraged me to become corresponding editor of the International Journal of Group Psychotherapy.

The steps from the 2nd International Congress of Group Psychotherapy in Zurich, 1957, to the 3rd in Milan, 1963, the 4th in Vienna, 1968, to the 5th, again in Zurich, 1973, are described. Parallely the development is shown from the International Committee of Group Psychotherapy (up to 1957) to the International Council of Group Psychotherapy (from 1957 on) and its preparation of a constitution for the International Association of Group Psychotherapy which was found in 1973 with the help especially of J.L. Moreno, S. Hadden, J. Fidler, S.H. Foulkes, A. Friedmann, W.J. Warner and may others at the Zurich Congress. Perspectives for the future are discussed.

20.5.88 cydick

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Xth International Congress
Amsterdam, Netherlands, Aug. 27 - Sept. 2, 1969

GRUP D'ANALISI (BARCELONA)

Passeig de Sant Gervasi, 30; 08022-BARCELONA; SPAIN; Tel. (93) 417.55.39.

Prof. Dr. Raymond Battegay
Marschalkenstrasse 25
CH-4054 BASLE
SUIZA

Barcelona, Mar 27, 1969

Dear Raymond,

Do you remember that morning at breakfast at the Intercontinental in Zagreb with Max Rosenbaum when I started to question you both regards the early days of the I.A.G.P. and the three of us to play with the idea of setting up in Amsterdam a space where to inform the "newcomers" about our history? Well, I made a formal proposal to the Program Committee in this respect which was in principal approved. It will go under the title of "Pioneers' Re-encounters: The Fathers of our Constitution in a Fishbowl".

It seems that the idea has prospered, Stewart liked it and it will take the form of a pannel for which I will need all your possible cooperation. I understand that you have written something about it as also did Dr. Hadden. We will need a complete list of the people who were at the International Council or Committee ever since Toronto 1954 or maybe even earlier, in London 1948 or in Paris 1950 when the ideas of an International started to jell.

My idea was to correspond with all these people and ask them to either write or send us a taperecording with their memories, facilitate any written or photographic documentation they would be ready to share and with that we will set up an exhibition. Besides, with those who are ready to come we will establish a pannel which I volunteer to coordinate and where you and Max will act as main exponents.

Thanks to Max I established contact with Alfreda S. Galt of Trigant Borrow's 1927 Lifekynn Foundation. Also, I am in contact with Pat de Maré, one of the survivors of the 1935 Society of Creative Psycholog. Those are the two first groupanalytic societies I know, which even though they never were very active in our Association, Amsterdam would be a good occasion to introduce them in our network.

I hope that the idea is as enticing to you as it is to me and I very much hope that among your many occupations you may find time to contribute to this project with the same enthusiasm that you put into building up this Association.

Enclosed you will also find my circular follow-up letter to the SAGA/GAAS project. The phantoms of the old feuds between Moreno and Slavson are still haunting us. But I will hope it will go ahead in the next Executive Meeting in Europe. I thank you very much for your support and I agree entirely with you that the right to establish a Section should be for every line of thought and not only for Foulkesian Group Analysis.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Cordially,

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Xth International Congress
Amsterdam, Netherlands, Aug. 27 - Sept. 2, 1989

Juan Campos, M.D.

Basel, April 5th, 1988

Grup d'analisi

Passeig de Sant Gervasi, 30

08022-Barcelona Spain

answered 16.4.88

Dear Juan

For your letters of February 12 and March 27, 1988, I thank you very much. Concerning the establishment of a group analytic section of our International Association I can say that I would participate, if one is founded, but I think, we must keep attention that the International Association keeps all directions together.

Concerning your formal proposal to the Program Committee of the forthcoming X. International Congress in Amsterdam, Aug. 27 - Sept. 2, 1989, I agree very much to participate in a symposium "Pioneers' Re-encounter: The Fathers of our Constitution in a Fishbowl". I have only written about group therapy in Switzerland, but could also write about "The Predecessors and the Beginnings of our International Association of Group Psychotherapy".

Cordially yours,

Raquel Battegay
Prof. R. Battegay

Prof.Dr. Raymond Battegay
Marschalckenstrasse 25
CH-4054 BASLE
SUIZA

Barcelona, Apr 16, 1988

Dear Raymond,

Just a note in a rush, with copies of the Summary we are submitting for the Abstract Book in Amsterdam and of the Memo on the converstions we mantained over the phone with MAX. We, I do hope will have a chance for talking al those subjects calmly in Windsor next September.

I just wanted to handle you this, just in thje case that Max gets in touch with you during this European tun, as he hoped. How is your write up on "The Predecessors and the Beginnings of our International Association of Group Psychotherapy". Any chances of seeing at least the outline in September? As you see, Max and mayself had the cheek to promise the participants a copy.

With best wished for the Summer,

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Cordially,

P.S. Grete Leutz, told me there is a lot on the history of the IAGP in the Handbook of Group Psychotherapy edited by Battegay and Moreno? This book is not here available, in case that you have a copy, may you please xerox what relates to the subject and have have it sent to me at the above adress? Thank You

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Xth International Congress
Amsterdam, Netherlands, Aug. 27 - Sept. 2, 1989

Juan Campos Avillar, M.D.
Grup d'analisi Barcelona
Passeig St. Gervasi 30
08022 Barcelona
Spain

Basel, April 26, 1988

Dear Juan

Thank you for your letter of April 16, 1988. I could speak at the Congress about "The Times before Onset of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy". Certainly I will have to write a summary and send it to Dr. Stuart Whiteley.

Cordailly yours,


Prof. R. Battegay

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Xth International Congress
Amsterdam, Netherlands, Aug. 27 - Sept. 2, 1989

Basel, July 29, 1988


Juan Campos, M.D.
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Dear Juan

Hereby my paper which I have prepared for the Xth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy in Amsterdam (27. Aug.-2.Sept. 1989) about the theme "The Predecessors and the Beginnings of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy".

Concerning the International Handbook of Group Psychotherapy I shall xerox the historical parts and send them to you.

Cordially yours,


Prof. R. Battegay

Prof.Dr. Raymond Battegay
Marschalkenstrasse 25
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SUIZA

Barcelona, August 22, 1988

Dear Raymond,

Thank you so much for your prompt and generous response to my note of Apr 16th. Both "The Predecessors ...," and the xeroopies on the historical part in the Handbook are also with me. As we agreed in Windsor I will send copies of your paper to the rest of contributors to the Fishbowl. This common ground will help, I hope, to build a frame of reference and a jumping board for cross fertilization of ideas among us all. I will procede to circulate all the materials as they arrive, so that, once in Amsterdam, we can meet and prepare we are actually going to say at the Panel.

Elisabeth Foulkes, Zerka Moreno and Ana Quinoga accepted to contribute, find enclosed copy of the letters of the first two and also from the one being send to Anne A. Suchtzenber. Max wrote from the States August 3rd, unfortunately he did not have a chance of seeing you as he hoped and neither of comming to Windsor, so we will have to resign ourselves to correspond with him.

I was not very pleased regards the outcome on the Sections proposal. I do not think I managed to convey my point, but I understand the actual Executive is not ready to go farther than we did. I would appreciate if you would share your thoughts about my "report" and the meaning of this "section of professional interest in group analysis???" that was suggested intead of a Section. Do you have any hint regards what is the reason for all this fright? Since you were one of the few to support the SAGA/GAAS initiative, I would like to ask your advice regards what to do next. My feeling is that the developments at hand are asking for adequate interpretation before to proceed again to take further action. Thanks, anyhow, for your help.

Looking forward to hear from you, with my warmest regards to your gentle wife.

cordially,

Enclosures: Malcolm's report of 1973
Correspondence with Elisabeth and Zerka
Letters to Anne Ancelin Schuthsenberger and Max

The Predecessors and the Beginnings of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy

Raymond Battegay, M.D.*

When in 1953 I was a young psychiatric assistant in the University Psychiatric Inpatient Department of Basle, my former chief, Prof. Dr. John E. Staehelin, once in the daily assembly where all the doctors of the staff and the two head-nurses of the female respectively the male parts of the hospital had to attend, said in a bad mood: "It is a pity that in our hospital nobody cares for group psychotherapy, nobody reads the books written by Mr. Slavson and by Mr. Moreno." After this session I asked my chief who these two men are. He instructed me that they are important researchers and treating the patients in groups and that they have placed their kind of approach each one on a scientific basis. I read then at first Slavson's (1950) book "Analytic Group Psychotherapy" and then Moreno's (1946) monograph on the "Psychodrama". As a further step, first in all silence, 1953, then officially, 1955, I began to take whole hospital wards of 20 to 25 patients together as a group and I used to read a short fairy tale or another short legend which I thought to be representing the problem of some patients in a symbolic way. I was very

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attracted by the fact that the participants soon began to speak about their own difficulties, wishes and desires as well as about their manifold anxieties.

The 2nd International Congress of Group Psychotherapy (Stokvis, 1959) took place in Zurich, 1957, after the International Congress of Psychotherapy. I was glad to have the opportunity to meet now Sam Slavson, one of the most eminent group analysts of that time and J.L. Moreno, the founder of Psychodrama, his wife Zerka T. Moreno, Wellman J. Warner from the USA, Berthold Stokvis from the Netherlands, W.C. Hulse, USA, Prof. Dr. Adolf Friedemann Biele/ Bienne, Switzerland, personally. It was a great opportunity to see also other well known workers in the field as S.H. Foulkes, one of the leaders of group psychotherapy in Great Britain, Serge Lebovici, one of the eminent leaders of group psychotherapy in France, Joshua Bierer, London, the proponent of therapeutic social clubs. I remember that in Zurich the existing International Committee of Group Psychotherapy made proposals and took action for a provisional "International Council of Group Psychotherapy". It was supposed that the enlarged Council will then proceed to elect its officers and to set up "the appropriate machinery to perform the following three functions (in addition to others that may be needed):

(a) to prepare a constitution of the projected International Society.

(b) to define the qualifications for membership or organizations

in the various countries and the qualifications for the membership of individuals.

(c) to stimulate the development of organizations concerned with group psychotherapy in the national areas throughout the world."

It was further stated: "The Council will decide the time when this preparatory work has reached the stage when the International Society of Group Psychotherapy will come into operation as an organization. At that time, the Council will set up the machinery for carrying out the provisions of the constitution as approved by the Council.

1957 I published about my group psychotherapy experiences (Battegay, 1957) and have sent my paper for evaluation to Sam Slavson. He has sent me back the following letter:

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY

Official Publication of

THE AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

321 East 18th Street
New York 3, N.Y.

February 1, 1958

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Dr. R. Battagay
Psychiatrische Klinik Friedmatt
Basel, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Battagay:

Our Editorial Committee is attempting to develop a system of correspondents from various parts of the world who would keep us informed of the current activities and developments in group psychotherapy in their respective countries, as well as to summarize briefly articles that may appear during the year.

I wonder if you could undertake this chore, and if not, could you suggest someone who is sufficiently in contact with the field, and interested enough to do it for us? This would take up only a very reasonable amount of time.

Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter,
I am,

Very sincerely yours,

S. H. Slavson
S. H. Slavson
Editor

SRS:rps

Many thanks for your "offer!"

I have answered with the following text:

Switzerland

February 11th, 1958
xxx 39,28,00

Dr. S. R. Slavson
Editor of the International Journal
of Group Psychotherapy
321, East 18th Street

New York 3, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Slavson,

You are very kind in offering me to collaborate with your Editorial Committee which pleases me and honours our clinic very much. Therefore I am willing to accept this offered task hoping that I will fulfill it to your content.

Thanking you once again, I am

very sincerely
Yours

Dr. R. Battegay

Since then I am corresponding editor of the International Journal of Group Psychotherapy. At the Zurich Congress I was rather impressed on one hand by this will to international collaboration and comprehension but on the other hand also by the personal tensions between the protagonists of the American group psychotherapeutic scene. Slavson with his outstanding knowledge, his almost obsessional working and observation of rules and techniques, his mastership in applying analytical principles on groups but also his sometimes authoritarian attitude and Moreno with his unlimited capacity for intuition, for dramatic acting out and his enormous empathy but also his personal ambitions represented two different worlds which had necessarily to come to clashes. Whereas Moreno with his manifold initiatives was more active for the formation of an international body, Slavson was more a systematic worker in building up, also in combination with the International Journal of Group Psychotherapy, an international network of interested people in this field. But there were other researchers with a more quiet nature, always ready for collaboration in this field who worked very hard in the International Council of Group Psychotherapy for the formation of an International Society. I think in this respect especially of the already named Wellman J. Warner of the United States and of Adolf Friedemann of Biel/Bienne, Switzerland.

The work in the International Council continued and since my experiences in Zurich I got very interested in it. Moreno was its

president, its 1st Vice-President was S.H.Foulkes, its 2nd Vice-President Serge Lebovici, its Secretary Berthold Stokvis and its Treasurer Adolf Friedemann. As directors acted: Joshua Bierer, J.H. Schultz, the founder of the Autogenic Training, and Zerka T. Moreno, Wellman J. Warner.

I was asked on January 8, 1964, to be an auxiliary secretary helping Prof. A. Friedemann in his tasks as Secretary which he took over in addition to his office as treasurer after the too early death of B.Stokvis in 1963.

The 3rd International Congress was organized in Milan, Italy, July 18-21, 1963. Thanks to the enormous efforts of Enzo Spaltro, Milan, this congress became a great success. Moreno together with his wife, Zerka T. Moreno, in association with A. Friedemann and myself published the proceedings together with general considerations about group psychotherapy itself as a Handbook of Group Psychotherapy (Moreno et al, 1966). Moreno was optimistic when he stated in this book: "This volume clearly shows the growing tendency towards convergence between the various schools, however, the interactional trend dominates the field, even in the work of analytic orientation.

Group psychotherapy is striving to attain the status of a vigorous science in its own right. But in the work of many practitioners it is still immature and parasitic, leaning upon other disciplines for its concepts and terminology - psychoanalysis,

group dynamics and existentialism, to name a few. The three mysticisms to be combatted are: 1) psychoanalytic mysticism - the mysticism of the individual psyche as the sole source of group analysis; 2) group mysticism - when the group becomes a self-propelling entity independent of the individuals who comprise it; and 3) existential mysticism - when existential concepts are used instead of those gained through empirical investigation."

In his great design Moreno recognized that the insight in psychodynamics gained in the dual psychotherapeutic situation cannot be blindly applicated in the group situation but also that the individual in the group can not be neglected by addressing only the group as an entity. He also saw that a group ideology can never be as worthful as a knowledge gained through empirical investigation of group psychotherapy.

At the 7th International Congress for Psychotherapy in Wiesbaden, FRG, August 21-26, 1967, it was Sam Hadden and Alice Peters of the United States who organized a meeting "to plan an international forum for discussion of the practice, research, training and problems of group psychotherapy in the respective countries of the participants". This meeting was intended to seek an international comprehension in the framework of the American Association of Group Psychotherapy. There was an intensive discussion and there were many tensions since some of the persons present seeked more for an international association without a

link to national societies.

The 4th International Congress of Group Psychotherapy, organized by Raoul Schindler and his coworkers, took place in Vienna, Sept. 16 - 21, 1968. One of the most remarkable facts was that the proceedings were already available during the congress. It was an enormous success. We were welcomed by the President of the Republic of Austria, Dr. h.c. Franz Jonas, with other words, group psychotherapy was recognized not only in the United States and Great Britain but now also on the old continent. The International Council met for a Committee Meeting. Present were among others the following members of the Council: J.L. Moreno, W.J. Warner, G.K. Sturup, A. Friedemann, R. Sarro, J. Bierer, Raoul Schindler, E. van Emde Boas, Zerka T. Moreno, Martensen Larsen, Ann Ancelin Schutzenberger, S.H. Foulkes, F. Knobloch. I took part only as the assistant of A. Friedemann. But also other representatives of international organizations attended the meeting. J.L. Moreno started the proceedings and asked W.J. Warner to function as chairman. It could be seen that an enormous development in the field of group psychotherapy has taken place. The International Council contained 130 members. They were spread over the entire globe. A stationary was printed which showed this international participation.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DE PSYCHOTHERAPIE DE GROUPE
INTERNATIONALER RAT FÜR GRUPPEN PSYCHOTHERAPIE
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE PSICOTERAPIA DE GRUPO

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ADDRESS:
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It was stressed that it would be unwise and unfair to make decisions alone by the directors "without allowing the balance of the Council membership to voice their opinion. Any formal decision will have to be made by popular vote, upon suggestions arising out of our discussion here today."

Prof. Friedemann and Dr. Warner prepared a constitution and Dr. Warner read his draft in English and Dr. Friedemann in German. Dr. Foulkes translated the version of Dr. Friedemann into English. The suggestion was made to pull together both constitutions, making them into one as there were many overlapping points, but each offered something which was not as well covered by the other versions. I myself suggested at the meeting that no one be excluded from membership for not belonging to any other society, as otherwise many worthy persons might be eliminated. I stated that membership should be open to all who are practicing group psychotherapists.

S.H. Foulkes, originating in Frankfurt a.M., who had to emigrate out of Germany to England, was, besides of Slavson and Alexander Wolf in the USA, one of the pioneers of group analysis. He was not only very active in the field of training young group analysts but also very much interested in the setting of a constitution for the International Association of Group Psychotherapy. Many times when he came for vacation to the Bürgenstock, a marvellous mountain in the center of Switzerland, overlooking the

several arms of the Lake of Lucerne, he invited me to come and pass the day discussing with him. He was accompanied by his wife Elizabeth. The object of his interest was always to come to an international exchange of views of qualified people. He named each time his Group Analytic Society of London and his many disciples among others Malcolm Pines, the later president of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy from 1980 - 1984. Foulkes was also invited for international seminars on group analysis in Lausanne in the sixties, where he made a lasting impression with his knowledge and his well-balanced personality.

The elaboration of the constitution lasted approximately until the 5th International Congress of Group Psychotherapy which was held in Zurich from Aug. 19 - 24, 1973, organized mainly by A. Uchtenhagen, Zurich, assisted by A. Friedemann and myself. A. Uchtenhagen had done a marvellous job. There were approximately 1'300 people who attended the Congress. At this meeting in Zurich the present International Association of Group Psychotherapy was founded. Moreno could still attend the Congress but he was already signed by his illness. He could anyway address some words to the whole plenum and was visibly touched by the extension of the attendance. Sam Hadden chaired the session at the Zurich Congress in which the constitution was adopted. After years of probatory work it was a wonderful feeling to have also a formal organization unifying the group psychotherapists and the

theoretical workers in this field all over the world. One of the outstanding assistants for helping to create the International Association in Zurich was Jay Fidler, later on for years Secretary-Treasurer and President of our Association, 1984 - 1986. He could make clear to the many attendants that group psychotherapists throughout the world need this international cooperation in the framework of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy not only for organizing congresses but also for the exchange of news in this field.

It was for Moreno certainly a good feeling to see that group psychotherapy had developed to such a point that the International Association of Group Psychotherapy became a democratic reality. Not only that he could see that this international body was to organize the International Congresses for Group Psychotherapy which in the past partly he and his wife had organized themselves, only with a small group of co-workers, but it also guaranteed continuity for the future.

When I overlook now this time which preceeded the foundation of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy, I can say that everybody who co-worked was motivated by high spirits with a great design for the future of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy. We thought really that such an international body would not see its only task in organizing congresses but also in being a soil on which manyfold scientific and personal

exchanges would be possible. If we consider now what we have done, we have to ask ourselves: are we now doing already enough? Should we not also organize besides the congresses, e.g. periodically training seminars in different areas of the world or should we not have financial resources and create a foundation which would be able to sustain scientific projects. It is not possible to design now all possibilities which could be realized, but I hope that this few words about the predecessors of our International Association of Group Psychotherapy may help us to keep a strong motivation for the further development and division of our knowledge in that field.

SUMMARY

Having heard from two eminent workers and researchers in the field, S.R. Slavson and J.L. Moreno, I began to work 1953/1955 with therapeutic groups and entered into contact with S.R. Slavson, who encouraged me to become corresponding editor of the International Journal of Group Psychotherapy.

The steps from the 2nd International Congress of Group Psychotherapy in Zurich, 1957, to the 3rd in Milan , 1963, the 4th in Vienna, 1968, to the 5th, again in Zurich, 1973, are described. Parallely the development is shown from the International Committee of Group Psychotherapy (up to 1957) to the International Council of Group Psychotherapy (from 1957 on) and its preparation of a constitution for the International Association of Group Psychotherapy which was founded in 1973 with the help especially of J.L. Moreno, S. Hadden, J. Fidler, S.H. Foulkes, A. Friedemann, W.J. Warner and many others at the Zurich Congress. Perspectives for the future are discussed.

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