

Office of the President  
405 North Bedford Drive  
Beverly Hills, California

October 23, 1961

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Presidents of Societies  
 Directors of Institutes and Training Centers  
 Deans of Educational Committees  
 Executive Councilors  
 Fellows of the Board on Professional Standards  
 Members of the Coordinating Committee  
 Committee on Psychoanalytic Education

FROM: Leo Rangell, M. D., President  
 For the Executive Committee

SUBJECT: Resignation of the Consultants in Education,  
 Dr. Bertram D. Lewin and Miss Helen Ross

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This is the second Memorandum being sent to you, for informational purposes, on the subject of the recent resignations of Dr. Bertram D. Lewin and Miss Helen Ross. In the first notice sent you on September 11th, it was indicated that the subject would come up for discussion at the Meetings of the Coordinating and Executive Committees on September 30th and October 1st, following which you would be notified of the results of these deliberations. More detailed information, as well as copies of the actual relevant correspondence, will be available to you when the Minutes of these two Meetings are distributed. Due, however, to the length of the time which such Minutes take in preparation and distribution, this Memorandum is being sent now to give you, in briefer form, a summary of what took place at these Meetings.

The discussion included the reasons and the issues involved in the resignations, the effects which these resignations might have upon the structure and functioning of the Educational Program as well as of the Central Office and the conclusions and recommendations to be made for the future. These discussions took place in the Coordinating Committee and were then extended and concluded the following day at the Executive Committee. The Consultants, who in their resignations had referred to their dissatisfactions with the existing framework of the Educational Program as a result of which they felt that their "participation could no longer be congenial or efficient," had preferred not to be present at these Meetings, and not to elaborate upon the reasons which they had given in their letters of resignation. The explanations, therefore, as well as the answers to the inevitable questions which arose, fell entirely upon the Officers and those others present who had participated and had first-hand knowledge of the situation.

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To summarize a rather complex matter which has developed over a period of some two years, it can be said that differences in philosophy and principles grew to exist between the Consultants and others responsible for various aspects of the Educational Program perhaps not so much as to goals as to procedures to be followed. Difficulties existed since the inception in the integration of the respective duties and functions of the Consultants with those of the Board on Professional Standards, its Chairman, the Committee on Psychoanalytic Education and its Chairman, and the Officers of the Association. It would be a fair statement, I believe, to say that a more complete autonomy of their functions was desired by the Consultants than the kind of integration or coordinated effort which were deemed necessary by most of the others. It was felt in general by the Administration and the Board that the results of the various studies and the vital and sometimes delicate findings which emerged should not remain in the heads of one or two individuals, but should, aside from the case of confidential information, be available for the transfertilization of all the other elements within the structure of the Educational Program. There were recurrent differences of opinion upon many specific individual matters, relating almost always to lines of demarcation of functions, and lines of communication and authority between the responsible leaders of the Program.

During the three Administrations over whose span these difficulties existed, numerous attempts were made by each of them in turn to iron out these difficulties by conferences and mutual discussions. The last such was held between the Consultants and the new incoming Executive Committee during the first month in office of the latter in June of 1961. Although a dedicated and sincere attempt was apparent on the parts of all, and although it looked as if a good deal of constructive progress had been accomplished, the sudden fact of the resignations subsequently indicated that this had not been the case.

In addition to the above, the Consultants also mentioned in their letters of resignation various personality conflicts which aggravated the **situation**. That such is the case is regrettable although to analysts should not be surprising, but this is not considered the crux of the situation nor a matter to be profitably amplified.

The above can perhaps suffice as a brief summary of the issues which have served as background and precipitating events. It should also be mentioned that in addition to the fact that we were considering problems, notice was **also** taken of the accomplishments and the numerous instances of steady progress which have been made by the Educational Program since it began, as documented in the regular reports of the various separate activities given at each Annual and Mid-Winter Meeting and culminating in the Plenary Session at the last Annual Meeting in Chicago.

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After thorough and constructive discussion of all the elements involved, both Committees came to a unanimous decision as to actions and recommendations which they wished to make. First, the resignations, as well as the acceptances of these, were regretfully confirmed. Along with this the outstanding contributions made by both Consultants to the cause not only of our Association but to all of psychoanalysis were recognized with the profound thanks and appreciation of all of us, as had already been expressed to them in previous letters by the President. Secondly, the date of termination of March 1, 1962, suggested by the Consultants, was tentatively accepted, with the understanding that if the completion of the on-going work or its transmission to others were to be accomplished sooner an earlier date would be effected.

It is further recommended, after due consideration, that no replacements be made at this time when the positions of the Consultants and Director of the Central Office are to be vacated. The duties being currently performed by Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross would therefore be transferred, during the transitional phase, to whichever personnel are relevant for the particular task under consideration. These would include, according to the particular project, the Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of COPE, the Executive Secretary or the Officers of the Association.

Finally, after going over in detail the history of the total Educational program and its various branches since its inception two years ago, and taking note of the various reports of progress which have been read and written and distributed by these various respective agencies, the Coordinating and Executive Committees registered their complete and continuing confidence in the rest of the Educational Program and in the desirability of continuing to support and further it with all our resources.

The above is a summary of the discussions in Committee. Further details, as well as the relevant appended documents, will be distributed as stated above in the Minutes of the Coordinating and Executive Committees, which will be sent to you when ready. The results of these deliberations will, of course, be presented to the Board on Professional Standards and the Executive Council at the coming Mid-Winter Meetings in New York in December.

As a final word, it is to be reiterated that the gratitude of all of us goes to Dr. Bertram Lewin and Miss Helen Ross, first for conducting the Survey which furnished us a blueprint for our Program of Psychoanalytic Education, and second, for their devoted efforts since that time in the more long-range plans of the Association. We look forward to their continuing contributions and to the joint dedicated efforts of all.

For the Executive Committee

Leo Rangell, M. D., President

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The following is an excerpt from the Minutes of the Executive Committee, The American Psychoanalytic Association, June 9-10, 1961:

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XI. Concerning Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross

The Executive Committee discussed the matters it wished to take up at its meeting with Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross, scheduled for the following day. The discussion included the whole range of problems concerning the functions and relationships of Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross within the Association, and it was agreed that the forthcoming conference with them would be of great significance to insure harmonious cooperation with the Executive Committee and the various branches of the Association.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 P.M.

The Executive Committee convened at 8:45 A.M. on Saturday morning, June 10, 1961, at the Central Office of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

PRESENT: Committee Members

Chairman: Dr. Leo Rangell, President of the Association  
Secretary: Dr. Heinz Kohut, Secretary of the Association  
Dr. Grete L. Bibring, President-Elect of the Association  
Dr. Joan Fleming, Chairman of the Board on Professional Standards  
Dr. David Kairys, Treasurer of the Association

Guests

Dr. Bertram D. Lewin  
Miss Helen Ross

Dr. Rangell opened the meeting.

XII. Conference with Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross

The relationship of Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross to the Executive Committee and to the various branches of the Association was discussed. Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross agreed that there should be close contact between them and the Executive Committee. Specifically, they agreed to (a) keep the Executive Committee informed of their planned activities, and to (b) summarize their experiences while visiting various training institutions, through reports which will be sent by them to the Executive Committee.

The discussion revealed also agreement that the major function of the education consultants are not "judgmental," and that their visits are not concerned with accrediting functions which belong to the Board on Professional Standards. The Committee stressed, however, that the material which Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross collect during their visits to Institutes and Training Centers can be of great value to those

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branches of the Association which deal with evaluation and accreditation (such as the Committee on Institutes and the Committee on New Training Facilities of the Board.) In addition, the material collected and the experiences acquired can be of great value to those branches of the Association that deal specifically with the study and research aspects of its education activities (especially the Committee on Psychoanalytic Education and its sub-committees). It was agreed that no clearcut blueprint could be designed on how the major work of Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross (their study of educational matters and their advisory function) can be used for the important transfertilization of the aforementioned activities of the Association, but that such transfertilization was essential and depended on the initiative of all who are concerned in these interchanges.

It was thus agreed that an atmosphere of mutual trust is an essential precondition for the valuable support which should come to the other branches of the Association from the work of Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross, and that one of the ways in which such an atmosphere of trust can be furthered is through continued contact between Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross and the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee and Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross agreed that Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross would make periodic reports about their activities to the Executive Committee.

XVIII. Roster

The manner in which Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross should be listed in the forthcoming Roster of the Association was discussed. After much discussion the opinion was rendered, which was not shared by all, that their names should appear on the first page of the Roster in the following way:

Educational Consultants to the Association

Bertram D. Lewin, M. D.  
Miss Helen Ross

Central Office

Director	Miss Helen Ross
Executive Secretary	Mrs. Helen Fischer

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

Heinz Kohut, M.D.  
Secretary

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THE AMERICAN PSYCHOANALYTIC ASSOCIATION

Office of Education  
One East Fifty-seventh Street  
New York 22, New York

C O P Y

June 28, 1961

Leo Rangell, M. D.  
405 North Bedford Drive  
Beverly Hills, California

Dear Leo:

I have on many occasions voiced my dissatisfaction with the educational program and have gone into detail with responsible officers of the Association. After much thought, and not lightly, I have reached the reluctant conclusion that the program has no chance of success. Its present set-up is impossible, it was badly conceived, and it functions badly. At present, conflicting personalities aggravate the situation, but in any event the formal structure of the program divides and obscures authority and responsibility and is bound to cause futile misunderstandings and frustrations.

Since I feel that my participation cannot be congenial or efficient, I hereby resign from my position as Consultant, as of today. I suggest that I remain active after this resignation until say March 1, 1962, a date that allows for a satisfactory transition to a new incumbent, but that date is still open to discussion with you.

As always,

(Signed) Bertram D. Lewin

Bertram D. Lewin, M. D.

BDL:mm

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