

Draft Memorandum

Project for a study of social and political
psycho-pathology

Proposed Procedure

1. It is proposed that a half-day conference should be held in London, possibly at Chatham House, in October to consider the subject of this memorandum. This meeting should consist of scholars, academic administrators and potential sponsors.
2. Prior to the meeting, a revised version of the memorandum would be circulated to all invited and their comments in writing would be solicited. Individual discussion before this date between those invited would be encouraged.
3. This initial meeting might be asked to consider the possibility of:-
 - a. constituting itself a "sponsoring committee"
 - b. attempting to set up a "pilot project" consisting of, say, two or three scholars working full-time and others advising part-time for, say, a year to enquire into the feasibility of the kind of study proposed in the memorandum, and perhaps to recommend a maximum and a minimum programme.
 - c. finding the finance for this "pilot project".
4. The "sponsoring committee" would be responsible for what action was taken after this enquiry was complete. If the enquiry produced a convincing prospectus, the sponsors would at that point consider:
 - a. where, and how, to raise the money
 - b. where, and how, the work should be undertaken.

(continued)

Proposed Procedure (2)

5. No commitment to any existing academic institution would be made, even provisionally, until after the "pilot project" enquiry had indicated how this study could be made and the sponsors had had an opportunity to consider its recommendations.
 6. To conclude, it should perhaps be stressed that what is being proposed is an ambitious attempt at a new step forward in human understanding; that the bringing together of existing knowledge (although an essential preliminary) or the assembling of leading scholars from the various appropriate disciplines would not of itself be likely to achieve this; that the experiment would only be likely to succeed if at least one of the individuals initiating it were of exceptional talent; that it may be wise to wait till convincingly suitable individuals from the appropriate disciplines are found before even the "pilot project" is attempted; that the very first step may therefore be to devise a method of seeking out and selecting such individuals.
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