

July 7, 1969

Dear Prof. Kielholz,

Thank you for your letter of June 18 regarding the 1960 CIMP symposium. I look forward to working with you and should first like to share the origins of this program title. At the Rome meeting of the Program Committee, the subject of amphetamine abuse was suggested by one of the European colleagues and I suggested cannabis abuse-- the two recommendations reflecting the relative importance of the problems in our respective countries. When the subject of amphetamine and barbiturate abuse received more votes of the Committee than cannabis, I accepted the decision, until one member remarked that a meeting had just been held in Italy on the subject of amphetamines. I had not been to the meeting, nor had anyone at the Program Committee, but in Liege, I heard the details from Munkvad and from Jacobsen. As it seemed redundant to schedule another meeting so soon on the same topic, with the same participants (probably), I urged Dr. Vinar to assign a broader topic to the section. This title will permit us to provide as broad a program as we wish.

I look forward to welcoming you in New York in December, and surely the final plans can wait until then. In the meanwhile, I would suggest that you write to Gharattini to obtain a copy of his attendees and the titles of their papers. We may provide an opportunity for one to summarize the experience with amphetamines over the world, the pharmacology as is now known, and the Japanese and Swedish solutions to the problem of abuse.

My own recommendation is still that a more timely and interesting meeting could be provided about the subject of cannabis. Many studies are now in progress in the U.S., Italy, Greece, Israel, West Germany-- there is no shortage of good, young workers. The material is new, and at a minimum it should be possible to have 2 half-day sessions or even 3. The latest meeting on cannabis was held earlier this year in London and focussed on the chemistry of the derivatives. I know of no other meeting planned.

The only question is the relevance of the subject for European investigators. If they are not now interested, they will soon be; for with the American talent for marketing, the European nations will have a cannabis problem very soon-- if it isn't already there.

If this is not satisfactory, it should be possible to arrange 3 reports-- one on amphetamines, one on progress in barbiturate or opiate therapy, and one on marijuana. Such a program would be educational and acceptable, but less novel and less innovative than one focussed on cannabis. Such a mixture is not publishable, but a symposium on cannabis may be.

I look forward to working with you; and to welcome you in New York.