

F. letters

January 15, 1971

Editor
JAMA
535 N. Dearborn Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Dear Sir:

I was interested in the report in International Comments of November 23 (214: 1572) that confiscated cannabis in Germany was equivalent to 2,278,170 kg in 1969. On inquiry, you kindly sent me a copy of the original report, "Informationsdienst der Bayerischen Landesärztekammer in München" of August 21, 1970.

In reading page 2, I now understand the source of the data, but suggest that in translation an error has been made. The report reads:

	1968	1969
Cannabis	380,924 kg	2 278,170 kg

It is the European practice to use the comma in decimal numbers where we use the period. I would read the amounts as 380.924 and 2,278.17 kilograms, equivalent to 838 and 5,012 pounds. The other numbers are more reasonable, i.e., 587,479 grams, read as 587.479 grams equivalent to 0.59 kilograms, or about a pound.

A recent report of U.S. seizures is enclosed to put the issues in perspective.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kt