

74I-039I

24 January 1974

Costas Stefanis, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
University of Athens School of Medicine
Eginition Hospital
74, Vassillissis Sophia Avenue
Athens, GREECE

Dear Costas:

I have tried to reach you on a number of occasions and have failed, so I am writing to give you a progress report.

The withdrawal data are now in the stepwise linear regression analysis phase. As Aris Liakos will tell you, the more relationships we find, the more additional analyses seem to be necessary. These are progressing, and I should be able to send you a summary of the observations in about two weeks. So far, we are not able to extract effects that could be related to the discontinuation of hashish use.

Because I have been required to submit a final report to the contracting agency by January 31, I have submitted a summary of the data that we have had on hand up to the fall of 1973. I am enclosing a copy of my covering letter and, separately, I have mailed the summaries that we submitted to fulfill the contract requirements. The summaries do not bind you or us in any way with regard to future amendment, publication, or presentation. These reports are not public and are not considered publications, although the NIDA staff may summarize our findings in their reports to Congress. When your summaries are completed and integrated with the findings of the withdrawal study, we may submit an amended final report to NIDA. The publication of a volume describing our experiences would be a more fitting culmination of these efforts.

I have requested another extension in time to provide you with funds to visit the United States. I do not know what action Dr. Szara may take, but I will write as soon as I know.

We have revised your suggestions regarding publication and presentation of this material. I met with Professor Freedman and he called the Program Chairman of the American Psychiatric Association. A presentation, provisionally entitled "Chronic Hashish Use and Mental Disorder," will be on the program.

C. Stefanis, M.D.

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Because an abstract was required immediately, I wrote one. A copy is enclosed. You will note that the conclusions are vague, and this will allow you to write what you believe to be true as the data unfold within the next few weeks. Should you disagree with the list of authors or the sense of the summary, I would be grateful if you would amend this immediately and send it back to me by express.

We agree with the two other suggestions for presentation in your letter of January 3. I have asked Drs. Dornbush and Volavka to summarize the quantitative EEG and heart rate changes for a report directed to the Journal of the American Medical Association. As soon as this is prepared, I will send it on for your approval. I assume that the EEG findings will be written by Tom and that we will have a chance to see a draft. A paper on tolerance to cannabis should indeed be prepared, but the data of the withdrawal study is important for this report, and until these data are digested, this report be delayed. The study of psychophysiological correlates of cannabis should be written, probably by Aris Liakos, and we would be pleased to assist in any way that we can.

To close the books as of January 31, please submit statements for the balance of the funds which have been allocated for the subcontract. I would hope that you have expended all the money by January 31 because we cannot carry this funding forward. Should NIDA allow an extension in time, we are prepared to support your visit from the remaining funds allocated to the U.S. portion of the contract. I do not know how much will be left, but should there be funds in addition to the amount necessary for your visit, we will make these available to you for continuation of the work to the termination of the contract.

It is a pleasure to work with you and your associates, and I look forward to working on the summaries which we have discussed.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.

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