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Professor R. Mechoulam,
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Dear Raphael,

Both Al and I were distressed by your letter of May 30th.

I had received your letter of May 10th indicating that you would be in the States for a few days, but during that time I was in Europe, and therefore did not reach you. Your later letter is indeed surprising, and I very much regret that this sequence of events has occurred. As you already know, the National Institute of Mental Health with SAODAP guidance has finally and reluctantly agreed to undertake a program of development of a long-acting antagonist. There are many contract applications, I am told, and perhaps the committee will arrive at a logical decision based on the credentials supplied by the Northeastern group.

I believe that Al will make some mention of your distress in his next discussion with the people at NIMH.

It is of interest to me that many ~~men~~ without experience or interest in drug abuse have indeed come into the field during the past two years, and many with fine reputations have written massive grant applications which committees at NIMH have funded. I have been saddened by these events, in particular by the awareness that many who have come for monetary gain will probably contribute little. Also, because there is so much money, science seems to have been displaced by politics. Because I have been becoming increasingly uncomfortable in this environment, I have focussed more of my attention on the problem of brain and behavior, particularly with psychoactive substances, and put the drug abuse problem aside.

Our studies of hashish users in Athens is going very well, and Dr. Stefanis and his coworkers should have a creditable document demonstrating the lack of significant effect of chronic

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hashish use, and an unusual degree of tolerance to very high doses of hashish. (Men smoke 180 mg THC-delta-9 equivalent four times a day with pleasure and without interruption of their performance).

I hope there will be an opportunity to visit you in Jerusalem some time soon. In the meanwhile, should you come back to the United States please let me know, and perhaps we can arrange to have dinner together.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF/lj