

Letter

July 11, 1977

Jeanne Smith, M.D.
210 East 73 Street
New York City 10021

Dear Dr. Smith,

During the past nine years, I have studied the effects of cannabis in long-term hashish users in Athens. Among the studies were detailed EEG examinations of men who used hashish for a mean period of 25 years, smoking on the average the equivalent of 250 mg THC-equivalent. We did not carry out spinal fluid examinations.

In these studies, we failed to find evidence of brain damage after prolonged use, either in the EEG, echo-EEG, psychological tests, and neurological examination.

Similar studies were done in long term users in Jamaica. The findings are published by Rubin and Comitas, GANJA in JAMAICA, Mouton Press, Paris, 1976. Our findings are in press and will appear this month (Raven Press, New York, HASHISH. A STUDY OF LONG-TERM USE, Stefanis, Dornbush and Fink, Editors).

From these experiences, I think it unlikely that the abnormal EEG and high spinal fluid protein determinations are related to two years of marijuana smoking. I would suggest that your son have a thorough neurological assessment and if the findings are inconclusive, that other causes for the illness be sought in hormonal dysfunction.

I trust these comments are helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Director