



April 24, 1979

The Members
Alberta Legalization of
Cannabis Committee
Box G96
Calgary, Alberta

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Honourable Marc Lalonde, I acknowledge receipt of your telegram of March 30, 1979, requesting a moratorium on all prosecutions for simple possession of a small quantity of cannabis.

Since it is not the stated intention of the Government to legalize the simple possession of cannabis, and since the courts presently have frequent recourse to awarding absolute discharges which do not result in a conviction instead of imposing a sentence on those found guilty of that offence, it would appear inappropriate at this time to stop enforcing altogether the provisions of the Narcotic Control Act.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Phelps
Special Adviser