Dr. Albert B. Sabin  
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Research Foundation  
Elland and Bethesda Avenues  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Doctor Sabin:

In completing a manuscript entitled "Neurotropic Viral Diseases in the Far East During the Korean War", I need a bit of background information on work done by you which you may be able to furnish, if you will.

At a meeting of the Virus and Rickettsial Commission on 15 October 1946, you gave a report concerning attempted diagnoses of a certain number of acute infections of the nervous system occurring in military personnel in Japan. Two were reported to be poliomyelitis since this virus was recovered from the stool specimen sent to Dr. Paul's laboratory by you. These two individuals seemingly were originally diagnosed as having aseptic meningitis. You state in this report, however, that "the studies in Dr. Paul's laboratory had not been completed--" at the time of this report.

In a letter (on file at the Office of the Surgeon General) from you to Dr. Paul of 1 October 1946 you state "this will make a total of 18 stool specimens I have submitted to your laboratory from U. S. personnel in Japan--". Also in the 1946 progress reports of the AMSGS, it appears that sera from 18 soldiers in Japan with aseptic meningitis were submitted by you to the AMSGS for mumps serology, of which 6 had mumps CF antibody. Jap, STF, and WEE serology was done in Japan and all 18 sera were negative to these viruses.

It appears then that special effort was made to diagnose 18 cases of aseptic meningitis occurring in soldiers in Japan and at least two had poliomyelitis. Were any more polio diagnoses reported later? Is the following statement correct then, as far as you know? "In one group of 18 soldiers in Japan who were diagnosed clinically in 1946 as having aseptic meningitis, two were shown by laboratory studies to have suffered an infection with poliomyelitis virus (reference to Sabin)." I will appreciate anything you can tell me in regard to the accuracy of this statement.

Incidentally, our dengue hemagglutination system is working quite well.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM L. POND, Ph.D.  
Department of Virus and Rickettsial Diseases