Dear Dr. Sabin,

I thank you very much for your letter and the histological examination of the case, where according to the results of clinical and virological examinations we were certain that another disease than poliomyelitis is involved. I felt rather that it was useful send you this case as evidence that in our country great attention is paid to every suspicion of polio, even if it is erroneous.

Enclosed I am forwarding to you the Proceedings of the VIIIth Symposium where you will find also Dr. Začek's paper you asked for. Personally I apologize for the premature conclusion as regards type 3. (We shall yet pay intense attention to the whole problem also from other aspects).

I should however, like to tell you one thing quite frankly: as you did not give us permission to produce your vaccine (though as a result of your sharp criticism we created all prerequisite conditions for it, and were the first who had experience with the production), we felt no longer that we could not make trials with other types of attenuated strains that yours - though you know I was always an advocate of your strains. I think I am not exaggerating if I say that our work accomplished hitherto was decisive for the application of your vaccine least in Europe. We have decided to continue with our work and to do it very accurately and systematically because we believe that it is for the benefit of our children. This was the main reason why four years ago I decided responsibly and aware of all consequences, to use the more perspective method of prevention than inactivated vaccine. And this will always remain the main motive of our decisions. I feel you did not quite appreciate this aspect of our work, and even if it appears a bit sentimental, it deserves attention.
I had so far great difficulties to defend the principles of vaccination with your live vaccine. I faced these difficulties because I was deeply convinced of the correctness of my action. I personally believe that the somewhat hysterical campaign (which no doubt is based also on other motives) against type 3 in the USA will soon clear up a bit. I have the impression that the reasons are that the main principles of vaccination, I am referring to in my paper, are not respected. Personally I would never dare to draw any conclusions as regards causal relationships in a population where so far uncontrolled wild viruses circulate.

I hope that you will inform me of your view on these problems. We do not intend to change in any way our basis procedure.

With best greetings

Yours sincerely

Doc.dr. Vilém Škovránek.