Dear Dr. Sabin,

I should very much like to hear your version of "the cases following vaccination" with live vaccine. I have read about your views in journals but nevertheless should like to know your expert opinion. I personally am convinced that the whole story is classical evidence of a badly organized vaccination campaign which is at variance with all basic principles of correct vaccination as regards time and extent. I appreciate that the decision to permit the use of live as an auxiliary measure during an imminent epidemic was a certain advance—but it was at the same time also the source of great difficulties—particularly during the hysterical campaign launched by the advocates of inactivated vaccine. I do not know whether I sent you my paper which I read in Sept. 1960 in Budapest. I am forwarding it enclosed and would like to draw your attention particularly to pages 44—47.

I agree with you that the whole hysteria in conjunction with oral vaccination in the USA is fundamentally wrong and that it retards progress. I am convinced that your vaccine, when properly used, is safe and that it alone can lead to the elimination of poliomyelitis in the human population. It is, however, not for the first time in history that new ideas penetrate only with difficulty. The more rewarding is then the final recognition of these ideas!

We shall proceed with the vaccination and the entire programme of our research, as we have no objective reasons to do otherwise.

With best personal greetings

Yours sincerely

Doc. Dr. Vilém Skovránek