April 10, 1962

Dr. G. Seiffert
Elisabethstr. 27
München, Germany

Dear Dr. Seiffert:

Many thanks for your letter of April 4 and the interesting news it contained. The fact that about 44% of the Bavarian population received oral polio vaccine would be significant if this meant that at least 70 to 80% of the pre-school and school children had received it. Is there any information on this?

With regard to your question about the cases that are being reported as poliomyelitis in the Soviet Union, I should like to point out that wherever the reported diagnoses were checked it turned out that they were not poliomyelitis either on clinical or virological grounds or both. I have discussed this in my paper which appeared in the March-April issue of the Journal of the Royal Society of Health. I have not yet received the reprints but will send you one as soon as they are available.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Albert B. Sabin, M. D.

P.S. You may be interested to know that medical societies in the U.S.A. have now worked out a very excellent plan for rapid and extensive community-wide administration of oral polio vaccine. The whole job for any one type is completed in two Sunday afternoons during which time about 80% of the total population from the cradle to the grave gets the vaccine and the percentage of pre-school and school children thus vaccinated is in the range of 90 to 100.