To Dr. A.B. Sabin
The Children's Hospital
Research Foundation
Cincinnati 29, Ohio, U.S.A

January 18, 1960

Dear Dr. Sabin,

Let me introduce you the enclosed diagram characterizing the preliminary data of poliomyelitis incidence in 1960 in the U.S.S.R. in the areas according to the number of prophylactic vaccinations against poliomyelitis.

Poliomyelitis oral Sabin vaccine (SLV), being manufactured in the U.S.S.R., was applied in 1960 mostly in dragée-candy form throughout the whole area of the U.S.S.R., excluding 3 regions of the Russian Federation of the Soviet Republics (R.S.F.S.R.: Krasnodarsky Region, Primorsky Region, Leningrad country-side, without Leningrad), where only inactivated Salk Vaccine had been used (more than 70% of the children of 6 months to 15 years of age); besides in two administrative regions of the R.S.F.S.R. (Sverdlovskaya and Novosibirskaya) in the first half of 1960 there were carried out the vaccinations most with inactivated Salk vaccine, and only in May – June 1960 there was the partial immunization (30% of the schedule) with Sabin live vaccine (but not in all regions), i.e. in these regions the vaccination with SLV was not complete and late regarding the usual season of poliomyelitis incidence.

In toto in 1960 (up to 30.XII. 1960) according to preliminary data there were vaccinated in the U.S.S.R. 77,475,000 persons. Among them about 72,231,006 persons under 20 years and over 5 million ones of 21 to 55 years of age.

The total quantity of the distributed live vaccine (types
1,2,3, as monovaccines, divaccines: 1+3 types and 2+3 types, or trivaccine) was more than 263 million vaccinal doses.

The vaccinations were carried out mainly according to the following schedule: Type 1 → type 3 → type 2; but also often to the schedule: type 1 → trivaccine or trivaccine → trivaccine, or: 1 → 1+3 → trivaccine.

The vaccination of the main contingent with SLY was completed before the first of July and consequently beginning from July we could expect the effective results of mass immunization with SLY. Neither complications nor adverse reactions after the intake of SLY were noticed both in 1959 and in 1960.

The oral vaccination against poliomyelitis were very well accepted by the population; they were carried out more successfully than all other kinds of vaccinations connected with injections. We succeeded in simultaneity of the vaccinations with SLY in every area, town or region, so that during the period of 1-3-7 and seldom 14 days, as a rule, mass vaccination of the population of 2 months to 20 years of age was done. An active sanitary propaganda on the part of the physicians in the form of talks - has played a very important role.

The results of the immunization against poliomyelitis with SLY in the Soviet Union in 1960 presented on the enclosed diagrams, illustrate, I mean, a definite difference in the effectiveness between the inactivated and live vaccines under present conditions. This difference is expressed in preventing the seasonal summer rise in poliomyelitis incidence in the regions where broad immunization with SLY (Sabin live vaccine) had been carried out.

But I must say that at the present time much proof of the high immunologic effectiveness of the three-fold inoculations. In the above said control regions of the R.S.F.S.R., where only Salk vaccine had been used, the poliomyelitis incidence among the vaccinées was in average four times less than among the
children who for some reasons had not been vaccinated with Salk vaccine. But still these large-scale vaccinations did not greatly influence the seasonal epidemiologic efficiency on a scale of a corresponding town or region, as it is practically impossible to vaccinate 100% of the susceptibles with Salk vaccine because of contraindications and other reasons.

Our plans for 1961: to carry out the mass revaccination of the population of the U.S.S.R. at the age of 2 months to 20 years with Sabin live vaccine (SLV) (with the mixture of 1+3 types, then in 6 weeks - the mixture of 3 types). In addition to this, we hope to increase in some towns the amount of the planned vaccinations of the infants with SLV: (type 2 SLV-300,000 units) at the age of 2-4 months (1 and 3 types), and the children of 6-7 months old with trivalent vaccine.

With respect yours sincerely

M.P. Chumakov