Dear Dr. Sabin,

Thank you so much for your letter of 23 October, and for your kindness to give your new manuscript on approval. I have read it with the greatest interest.

I am, of course, very much interested in participating in an investigation as indicated in your letter. As I wrote in my last letter, all our efforts with regard to vaccination against poliomyelitis will be done in close collaboration with Prof. Gispen, Director of the State Institute for Public Health.

Perhaps, you could give me some provisional headlines of your thoughts by which way such a participation has to be performed. If tests in human volunteers have to be made, which I expect, the Committee on Poliomyelitis Vaccination of the Netherlands Health Council, of which I am a member, has to be informed. I would particularly like to hear your opinion, whether the administration of attenuated strains might have any effect in individuals which have received shortly before one injection with Salk vaccine.

So far, we have carried out successful experiments with the Li and Schaeffer strain LS-c and with an naturally attenuated strain of type 1 isolated by ourselves last winter from a healthy individual without any known contacts with cases of poliomyelitis. The latter has never produced paralysis in cynomolgus monkeys, not even in its first tissue culture passage, and it does not even produce histologically demonstrable CNS lesions following double intracerebral, intraspinal and intramuscular inoculation. Intradermally and subcutaneously inoculated monkeys proved fully resistant against a subsequent (2 months later) oral infection with the virulent Mahoney strain, whereas 67 per cent of the control monkeys developed paralysis. If you might be interested in this strain, which is called strain Leiden 1956/K 32, and would perform some tests in chimpanzees, which I cannot afford, please let me know, and I will send you some tissue culture fluid.

Several other strains from healthy individuals, and from patients with non-paralytic poliomyelitis have been, or are being tested, but so far no other avirulent ones have been found.

I shall be glad to hear from you, and to be kept informed on future developments.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. J.D. Verlinde.