Nov. 5, 1956

Your reference No. 12.402/94

Prof. Dr. J. D. Verlinde
Institut voor Praeventieve Geneeskunde
56 Wassenaarsche Weg
Leiden, Holland

Dear Dr. Verlinde:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 1st and for your promptness in returning the manuscript of my paper. Since I last wrote you I have been in communication with Professor Dr. P. Muntendam who is now visiting in the United States. I also sent him a copy of the manuscript that I read at the New York Academy of Medicine and he wrote me as follows: "I think you know already from my friend Dr. Verlinde, that we decided to prepare the production of live virus vaccine in the Netherlands in the State Health Institute in close cooperation with Verlinde. In my function of Director General of Public Health in the Netherlands I am most interested in your work and I hope you will let me know what your suggestions are for studies on testing the vaccine in our country."

As I wrote you in my letter of October 23rd it will probably not be until February 1957 before aliquots of the large lots tested in human volunteers in this country might be available for distribution. My intention would be to make available enough culture fluid of each of the 3 types to permit tests on as many as 1,000 to 100,000 individuals. The precise plan that would be followed by any one group would be up to the individual investigator; for example, he might like to administer it first to a group of 50 or 100 and if the results warrant it follow up with tests on larger numbers as he may see fit.

With regard to your question about the administration of attenuated strains to individuals who have received one injection of Salk vaccine shortly before I should think that the studies which we have carried out indicate that there will be no interference with multiplication of the virus and that one would certainly expect to obtain an increase in antibody. My own inclination would be to wait at least 4 weeks after the injection of Salk vaccine before feeding the attenuated viruses.
I was extremely interested in your statement about the activity of your Leiden 1956/K 32 type 1 attenuated virus. If it fails to produce CNS lesions in large numbers of monkeys inoculated intraspinally with approximately 1,000,000 infective doses I would say that it is superior to any type 1 strain that I have tested -- and I have tested quite a large number of them. Only a few months ago Dr. Lepine sent me his attenuated type 1 and type 2 viruses which upon intraspinal inoculation in cynomolgus monkeys produced extensive paralysis even in those inoculated with only 10,000 tissue culture infective doses. I would indeed be most grateful to you if you could send me your type 1 strain for comparative tests in this laboratory. I should be very glad indeed to substitute it for the strain that has now been selected if it should turn out that it not only failed to produce paralysis but also failed to produce lesions. I hope that you may be able to send me some tissue culture fluid of this strain as soon as possible.

I shall continue to keep you informed of all developments.

With all good wishes and kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Albert B. Sabin, M. D.

ABS:meh