Dear Albert:

You will probably have been informed, that Dr. Wilterdink has received his fellowship indeed. I am sorry that it has lasted such a long time before knowing this. Both you and Wilterdink have insisted on a more rapid decision, but apparently without appreciable result. He has still to go through a number of formalities, but he expects to arrive in the U.S.A. during the Washington conference on live poliovirus vaccines, which he hopes to attend partially and then go to Cincinnati.

I received an invitation from WHO to attend this conference, but I could not decide immediately whether my duties at the University would allow me to disengage myself. To-day, I have written to WHO that I can in principle accept the invitation. If I might, nevertheless be unable to come, then Wilterdink could perhaps read our paper.

My original project, to feed newborn babies, either with the separate components of the vaccine or with all three together, could not be realized, because the usual conservative attitude of the family physician in this country. We carried out a very small number of vaccinations, which do not justify the preparation of a paper.

We have, however, prepared a short paper on an epidemiological and virological survey during the years 1957 through 1959 in which we have made four small-scale vaccination trials in Leiden. Particularly the last two years have been extremely favourable for such a survey, because the incidence of polio has never been so low. We have made a comparison of the incidence of reported polio cases and of the incidence of poliovirus infections as determined by virological examination of patients suffering from various illnesses known to be potentially associated with enteroviruses, in 5 different areas of the country, i.e. the small area of Leiden (where the attenuated virus vaccine has been introduced into the population), a relatively small area adjoining the Leiden region and three other areas. The curves clearly show, that the incidence of clinical polio and the incidence of poliovirus infections (regardless of the clinical syndrome) in the Leiden area are not different from those in the other areas. They have even been lower in Leiden. From September 1957 to October 1959 not a single case of clinical polio has been reported in Leiden. There is, therefore, no evidence that the introduction of the vaccine has resulted in an increased number of cases of clinical polio, either paralytic or non-paralytic. The first two cases of polio (non-paralytic) in Leiden since September 1957 appeared in October 1959, both due to type 2, immediately before our last vaccination trial. I am very happy indeed, that they appeared.
before and not during or shortly after the trial, since it would have been
difficult to deny that they were not due to the vaccine.

I would include in this paper also a report of recent work on T marker
and neurovirulence of strains excreted by vaccinated individuals. There is
a fairly good correlation between these two properties. We found in
60 per cent of the T strains an increased neurovirulence (intra-
cerebral inoculation) and in 27 per cent of the intermediate strains. The
latter seems to me a pretty high percentage. I did not expect increased
neurovirulence in T strains, but 2 out of 33 T strains tested exhibited
cerebral activity, one type 1 and one type 3 strain. All T strains were
of type 3, whereas no such strains were found in type 1 and type 2. Type 1
strains were regularly T strains, type 2 strains were also T, and a few
intermediate, but of the excreted type 3 strains, half were T, and
the others were either intermediate or T.

If I attend the Washington conference, which seems to be pretty sure now,
I expect to meet you. This time, I shall have no opportunity for excursions,
but I have to return immediately after the conference. Lack of time is also
the reason that I was unable to accept an invitation from Prof. Chumakov to
attend a conference in Moscow on the same subject. You have probably been
invited too.

If I am not in Washington, I hope to meet you in July in Copenhagen.

With kindest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

J.D. Verlinde.