Dr. A. M. Payne
World Health Organization
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Tony:

In accord with the request contained in your letter of 13 August I am sending you herewith a copy of the paper entitled: "Present Status of Field Trials with an Oral, Live Attenuated Poliovirus Vaccine" which is scheduled for publication in the near future in the J. A. M. A. You may use this for presentation at the TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON POLIOMYELITIS of your Eastern Mediterranean Regional Committee.

On August 20th I am leaving for Israel and from September 3rd to September 19th I shall be in Milan (with Giovanardi), Munich, Vienna and London. I should like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on certain developments. Three pharmaceutical companies in the United States (Merck, Pfizer and Pitman-Moore) have started production of consecutive lots of vaccine with my strains to fulfill the requirements of an application for a license. The Connaught Laboratories in Toronto have also started production for trials and ultimate use in Canada. While in London, I shall meet with Stuart-Harris' M.R.C. committee on live poliovirus vaccine, and also with GLAXO, PFIZER of England, who have indicated their intention of producing live poliovirus vaccine with my strains. I shall also confer with representatives of a company in Austria (currently making Salk vaccine) and representatives of Italian companies, all of whom are interested in starting production of live poliovirus vaccine.

You may recall that in Washington we discussed a plan that I had for a study in Latin America and that you asked me to send you a protocol of my proposal with the idea that it might be considered for
the WHO program in the area. After thinking about the matter for some time I reached the conclusion that it would take a couple of years to organize a laboratory and train a staff in Latin America to be able to carry out a study of the magnitude that I had envisioned. Accordingly, I decided to carry out this study myself in association with Ramos-Alvarez and his group in a Mexican city by the name of Toluca. The field work involving the collection of thousands of rectal swabs for isolation of virus (a total of about 4700), and of blood specimens for antibody tests as well as the administration of a mixture of all 3 types of vaccine to almost all children, from newborn to 10 years of age, during a period of 3 to 4 days has been carried out and is being carried out by the Mexican group. My entire laboratory has been organized to do the virologic and serologic work. I have 4 teams for this purpose: 1) isolation of viruses in monkey kidney; 2) isolation of viruses in HEP 2 cells (for adenoviruses and others); 3) a newborn mouse team for isolation of Coxsackie A viruses, and 4) a serologic team. Each team will be able to process 500 specimens a week for virus isolation. By the end of the year we hope to have the basic information that I believe is necessary for a proper utilization of live virus vaccine in subtropical and tropical areas in populations of poor sanitation and hygiene.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Albert B. Sabin, M. D.

ABS:me

Enclosure.