April 22, 1960

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

Dear Tony:

Enclosed herewith is a communication that I recently presented at a polio vaccine symposium. I would like to submit it as a working document for your Expert Advisory Committee on live poliovirus vaccine. I am personally sending copies to the following: Burnet, Gard, Gear, Murray, Paul, Skovranek, Stuart-Harris and Zhdanov. The National Foundation has reproduced this manuscript and I suppose that additional copies could be gotten from them should they be needed.

As you, undoubtedly, know an extensive polio elimination campaign with live poliovirus vaccine obtained from Chumakov was carried out in Hungary between December, 1959, and February, 1960. Almost all children from 2 months of age to 14 years of age received the 3 types of vaccine sequentially. A considerable number of laboratory studies were also carried out. I think it would be most important to have a report on this work at the International Conference on Live Poliovirus Vaccine in Washington, June 6 to 10. It so happens that Professor Georgi Ivanovics of the University of Szeged in Hungary is now a visiting investigator in the Department of Microbiology at Harvard University. He is not only fully familiar with the program but a number of the laboratory studies were carried out in his laboratory and he gave a preliminary report of these studies at the recent meeting of the American Epidemiological Society (of which you have now been made a member) in Boston.

If you have invited no one else from Hungary for the Washington meeting, I would like to urge you to invite Professor Ivanovics to present the data on the extensive Hungarian vaccination campaign. He may be addressed as follows: Professor G. Ivanovics, Department of Bacteriology and Immunology, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston 15, Massachusetts.
I have discussed this matter during a personal conversation several days ago with Dr. Horwitz and told him that I would write to you about this since it deals with an European country.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Albert B. Sabin, M. D.

ABS:meh

P. S. You may be interested to know that an extensive vaccination program with live poliovirus vaccine is beginning in Cincinnati on April 24th. An attempt is being made to reach all children from 3 months of age to 6 years of age regardless of how many doses of Salk vaccine they may have had before. It is estimated that there are 60,000 children in this category. The 3 types will be given sequentially. This program is under the direction of the Health Department and is receiving the fullest cooperation of the private pediatricians and general practitioners who are giving the vaccine free to those of their patients and others who will not go to the 35 clinics established by the Health Department. Needless to say, my own laboratory is carrying out extensive studies on the viral flora in the different socio-economic groups as well as other viral studies in connection with this program.

cc: Dr. Abraham Horwitz