Dr. Albert Sabin
Children's Memorial Hospital Foundation.
Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Sabin,

on advice of Dr. Gear of the South African Institute for Medical Research, I send you a copy of a letter of mine addressed to him, and I would be very grateful to know also your opinion.

Dr. Gear asked for sera from cows after ephemeral fever to have them examined for Lansing antibodies.

Yours most sincerely

J. Treu, M.D., F.I.C.S.
Dear Dr. J.H.S.Gear,

it was with great pleasure, that I have seen your papers about Polio in the Union of South Africa. (which I received by the kindness of Dr. H. Wayburne-Ginsberg in Johannesburg)

As you know we had in our small country more than 2500 cases of Polio since 1950, and the problems are similar to those you have mentioned. Polio is endemic here, but we never had a real epidemic until 1950. The rate of cases among the Arab population is extremely low and did not exceed the number in normal years, and among them no grown up cases. Among the Jewish population the grown up cases are all except a very small number - are immigrants from European or American countries.

The morbidity rate was especially high in "Kibbutzim", i.e. rural settlements, where the children (divided in groups according to age) are living in especial houses separated from the other population, food especially prepared for them in separate kitchens. The grown up have a common kitchen and a common dining hall.

In many of these settlements we noticed something strange: 6 - 8 weeks before an epidemic of Polio started in one "Kibbutz" (up till 50 cases among a population of several hundreds) we saw in the same "Kibbutz" an epidemic of Ephemeral fever among the cows, (i.e. three days fever with Paralysis, low death rate, full recovering). We can not say if there is a connection between the polio epidemic and that of the animals and we have not the possibility of research. Perhaps you know more about it, if it is only a mere coincidence or if there is a real connection between these two kinds of epidemics and I would be very grateful to get your opinion about it.

I would be especially interested if antibodies against the Lansing Polio Virus are found in these cows which have suffered from this illness.

If you are interested in more detailed statistic figures it will be a great pleasure for me to send you everything what I can get.

Yours sincerely

J. Treu, M.D., F.I.C.S.