Memorandum for: Those who inquired about "Karantonin" which according to a January 24, 1960 U.P.I. release from London was reported by Moscow Radio as a new drug which "completely cures the paralysis caused by polio."

From: A. B. Sabin, M. D.

Professor M. P. Chumakov, director of the Institute for Poliomyelitis Research in Moscow, answered my inquiry about this drug as follows:

"The so-called Karantonin for poliomyelitis treatment is an analogue of galanthamine and nivaline (proserine*-like stimulator). According to the observations of our clinic, it is not a "miraculous" drug, but is helpful in some forms of the disease. The reporter who gave information for the broadcast exaggerated the significance of this drug."

* Proserine is another name for prostigmine which is used in the symptomatic treatment of myasthenia gravis and also by some to stimulate muscular activity during the convalescent period of paralytic polio.