April 26, 1988

Dr. Albert B. Sabin
3101 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20012

Dear Albert:

This will cover two English versions of a Russian manuscript sent to Joe Melnick by Misha Chumakov. Some time in mid-1987 Misha asked Joe to consider publication of a posthumous review by Marina; the paper summarized her and her colleagues' work of many years on the use of interfering nonpathogenic human enteroviruses for prophylaxis and even therapy of various disease states.

The Russian original is well written, although the general style would not meet the editorial standards of our hard-nosed journals. The translation was done by one of their sons, I think Peter, who completed it while on a fellowship in Sweden. Unfortunately, the translation was not good and robbed Marina's writing of whatever life and vigor it had in the original.

Joe had recommended drastic cuts, both because of the overall length and probably because he was hoping that some of the softer undocumented sections would be cut out. A few weeks ago, he and I received a shorter version.

I just spoke to Joe over the phone. He would like to cut out the therapeutic aspects altogether, and stay with the use of LEV for control of other viral infections. That may be wise, but my concern is that the new shorter version has become if anything even less satisfactory because it now omits the published data from other investigators, and merely refers to Marina's previously published summaries of the literature.
While rereading and comparing the two English versions with the Russian original, I realized that this subject should be of great interest to you, and that your input would be important to Joe and Misha— and Marina's memory.

The above was dictated in a hurry, and as yet without talking to Joe about sending the papers to you. Knowing how all of us feel about the Chumakovs, I don't think he'd mind.

I've got to go! With my very best wishes to you and Eloisa,

Cordially,

Enclosures

cc: Dr. J. Melnick