February 25, 1977

Dr. Francesco Massone  
Istituto SCLAVO  
Via Fiorentina, 1  
53100 Siena, Italy  

Dear Checco,

Thank you very much for the invitation contained in your letter of February 17 which apparently crossed in the mail with the letter that I sent you on February 11. First of all, let me say that Heloisa and I will be very happy indeed to spend two days with you in Siena, and I think that it would be more desirable to come to Siena after the conclusion of the meeting in Taormina on Wednesday, April 27. According to the last program that I received, my own communication will be given on the morning of April 27 and the whole symposium will be closed with a luncheon at 13:00. Accordingly, it should be possible for us to leave Taormina for Rome sometime in the late afternoon of April 27 and arrive in Siena that evening. We could then stay in Siena the 28th and 29th and return to the U.S. on April 30. Enclosed herewith is a copy of a letter I am just writing to PLASMON in Milano giving them the travel schedule for the tickets that they will send for Mrs. Sabin and myself.

I transmitted to Dr. Chanock the kind invitation you extended to him to come to Siena at the time we are there. Unfortunately, he cannot accept it because he and Mrs. Chanock are leaving for a month's stay in Australia at exactly that time. I expect to report to you and your associates the new developments in the field of influenza vaccination since our last meeting in Siena. Enclosed herewith is a copy of a manuscript that will shortly be published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. You will note that following a study that I carried out largely during the second half of 1976, I am now of the opinion, not yet shared by everybody until the subject can be investigated more extensively, that influenza virus vaccine is indicated only during pandemic periods which have been occurring at ten to twelve year intervals and which would call for very special...
kind of strategy for production and administration. As a matter of fact, the whole subject of influenza virus vaccine is undergoing reconsideration in the United States at the present time and I hope very much that more extensive work on the live influenza virus vaccine may result from it.

Best wishes and affectionate regards from Heloisa and me to the whole Massone family, Dr. Fognani, and all our other friends in Siena whom we hope to see soon.

Sincerely,

Albert B. Sabin, M. D.

ABS/tak

Enclosure: Copy of my letter to Dr. Carlo Dini d'Arezzo, Milano dated 2/25/77

Manuscript entitled DISAPPEARANCE OF "EXCESS MORTALITY" FROM PNEUMONIA AND "HIGH RISK" CONDITIONS DURING RECENT INFLUENZA EPIDEMICS -- HIGH INFLUENZA MORBIDITY DURING NONEPIDEMIC YEARS