21 January 1947

Dr. Albert B. Sabin
The Children's Hospital Research Foundation
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Doctor Sabin:

Thank you for your letter of a few days ago inclosing the manuscript of the proposed TB Med on Japanese B encephalitis which you were kind enough to prepare for us. It is in the process of study by all of the agencies involved in this problem at the present time and a decision will soon be reached as to the most expeditious manner with which to get this information into the hands of medical officers. It is probable that your suggestion of publishing it in the Medical Bulletin, as well as a TB Med, may be the best method.

In Karl Lundeberg's absence, I wish to reply to your letter of 19 December with reference to the proposed investigative team on "Ekiri." I am sorry that it has been necessary to take so much time to pass through the hands not only of our division but through the Research and Development Board. The consensus now seems to be that the study should be implemented if possible, but that because of its nature, this should not be done under the auspices of the Army. This is not to say that a team going to Japan to conduct this study would not receive full support from Colonel Sams' organization and could not avail themselves of the facilities of the Theater laboratory. If it would seem, therefore, that we here should be placed in the role of supporting the investigation in principle and that whatever arrangements are made through Colonel Sams with the Theater would be most satisfactory. As to the Laboratory in the Theater, while we feel that it should be in the position of helping in every way that it can, it is not believed that Laboratory personnel should be loaned during the time the problem is being studied. The investigative group, however, would be most welcome to utilize the Laboratory and to depend on it for any help possible, short of jeopardizing their own military mission. It is my hope and that of Karl that you will be able to go forward with this study at any early date.

I am sure that Joe Smadel probably has kept you advised of the situation with regard to the production of Jap B encephalitis vaccine. In short, however, we have been unable to get any commercial firm to agree to take over production of mouse-brain type vaccine, although Herald Cox
of Lederle did consider trying to develop further the egg-type vaccine. So at the present time, we are left with the production of the vaccine at the Army Medical School and as you know all of the technical difficulties have not been worked out. Apparatus for lyophilization has been secured and it is the feeling of Joe Smadel that this process may enable them to produce enough vaccine that will be stable for a long enough period to get it to the theater and administer it before significant loss of potency has taken place. Of interest also is the fact that the Navy has asked us to produce Jap B vaccine for their use. This, of course, we shall do only if we are able to work out the present difficulties.

Again thanking you and with kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

/s/Tom F. Whayne

TOM F. WHAYNE
Colonel, Medical Corps
Deputy Chief, Preventive Medicine Division