

March 17, 1960

Prof. V. M. Zhdanov
Ministry of Health, U. S. S. R.
Rachmanovsky Pereulok 3
Moscow 51, U. S. S. R.

Dear Viktor Mikhailovich:

Your letter of February 8th which was sent by ordinary mail did not reach me until yesterday. I thought you might be interested to know that while air mail from the U. S. S. R. takes only about 7 days regular mail takes 5 times as long.

Congratulations on your election as a full member of the Academy and on your appointment as Academician-Secretary. Let me wish you great success in your new work on behalf of the Academy.

According to the new plans I shall arrive in Moscow on May 11th and leave in the morning of May 24th. As you know, during that period discussions will be held on the best way to implement the official agreement between the U. S. S. R. and the U. S. A. for cooperation in research on poliomyelitis. I would like to ask you specifically now whether, in your capacity as Chairman of the WHO Committee for the eradication of certain infectious diseases, you think that it is time to consider a WHO program for the eradication of poliomyelitis and if so, should this be one of the subjects for discussion with reference to the possible cooperation of the U. S. S. R. and U. S. A. in such a WHO project? I hope I may have an early reply to this question because in about a month we expect to have certain discussions here regarding the U. S. A. position on cooperative polio research projects with the U. S. S. R.

Looking forward to seeing you soon and with best wishes and kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Albert B. Sabin, M. D.