

August 12, 1967

William H. Stewart, M.D.  
Surgeon General U.S.P.H.S.  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Stewart:

This is the third time you have been contacted concerning outbreaks of polio.

As you are an ex-pediatrician, I thought that you might be interested in the attached report from A.M.A. News July 17, 1967, P. 7 - "Polio Outbreak Hits Nicaragua".

To refresh your memory, I am enclosing copies of the following mailed you:

1. Polio Outbreaks 1965 - in Mexico and England
2. Polio Outbreak Among Children in Texas 1966

Sincerely yours,

C. C. McLean, M.D.  
2841 Thornhill Road  
Birmingham, Alabama 35213

C.C. to:

1. Mr. John Gardner, Secretary  
Dept. Health, Education & Welfare
2. John L. Goddard, M.D.  
Food and Drug Administration Commissioner
3. Albert B. Sabin, M.D.
4. Chas. L. Hudson, M.D.  
President A.M.A. 1966
5. M. O. Rouse, M.D.  
President A.M.A. 1967
6. Cristen Rattenborg, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology  
University of Chicago
7. Manuel Guerreo, M.D.  
Moline (Ill.) Public Hospital

## POLIO OUTBREAK HITS NICARAGUA

"The death rate from a polio outbreak in Nicaragua continues to soar. By the end of the first week in July at least 29 persons had died of the disease, and the number of reported cases in a 3-day period exceeded 200.

The outbreak appears to be centered in the city of Managua. Massive assistance has been requested by the Ministry of Health from the U.S., Canada, and World Health Organization.

Among the first physicians in the U. S. to respond to the assistance pleas were MDs Christen Rattenborg, associate professor of anesthesiology at the U. of Chicago, and Manuel Guerreo, of the Moline (Ill.) Public Hospital.

The two physicians left for Nicaragua July 4, taking with them respiratory aids donated by several U. S. companies. The two will train local medical personnel to use both hand-operated and automatic respiratory aids.

According to health authorities, about 80% of the victims are children. The disease has been identified as bulbar polio.

The outbreak was reported to be the first widespread polio epidemic since a 1952 outbreak in Denmark. "

(A.M.A. News July 17, 1967 P.7)