

November 16, 1963

Dr. P. Rentchnick
Medecine et Hygiene
22, Rue Michell-Du-Crest
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Rentchnick:

In reply to the question from Lebanon contained in your letter of 13 November, I should like to say that the use of oral polio vaccine in any country does not have to depend on any research regarding poliomyelitis in that country. In order to determine the most susceptible age groups that would require the vaccine it is only necessary to examine the age incidence of the reported cases of paralytic poliomyelitis during the preceding 5 years. The age at which 90% or more of the total cases occur can serve as an indicator for the age group to be vaccinated. Thus, if 90% or more of all the reported cases occur among children up to 4 years of age inclusive, the immunization program should include all children from about 2 months of age to 4 years of age inclusive.

Sincerely yours,

Albert B. Sabin, M. D.

ABS:meh