

File: Dr. Chung, Huei-lan

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April 24, 1979

Dr. CHUNG HUEI-LAN
Institute of Tropical Medicine
Friendship Hospital
BEIJIN (PEKING), People's Republic of China

Dear Doctor Chung,

Several weeks ago I had an opportunity to speak to Dr. Alexis Shelokov about his recent visit to China with the group from the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. From what he told me about you, I concluded (I hope correctly) that you are the same Dr. Chung, who spoke English with a Liverpool accent, that I came to know during my visit to Peking in August 1946. Our paths crossed again in the U.S.S.R. in 1956 and in Bucharest in 1957 -- but not since then.

If my assumption is correct, it would give me great pleasure to hear from you about your present activities and about any plans that you may have of visiting the United States in the near future. Although many of my friends have already been to China in recent years, I am still looking forward to an opportunity of seeing China again after an interval of 33 years.

I discontinued laboratory work in 1974. During the approximately five years since I have been at this University, my main work has been concerned with the analysis and synthesis of knowledge in selected fields of biomedical research in which I have some critical competence -- in search of emerging meaningful patterns and of needed new directions of research. The three fields that have particularly absorbed my attention in the last three years have been concerned with new perspectives on influenza and other acute respiratory infections (the leading cause of bed-disabling illness in the U.S.A.), the search for the causes of human cancer (in contradistinction to the numerous experimental model systems that may have little relevance for the human disease), and childhood immunizations.

In China, I would be particularly interested in meeting colleagues who have special interest in the above three fields. Needless to say I am especially curious about poliomyelitis vaccination in China in order to learn the procedures that are used to prevent this disease in the largest country in the world. The strategy of using polio vaccine in China may well have useful lessons for many other parts of the world where poliomyelitis continues to be an important health problem -- much less important, to be sure than hunger

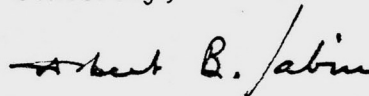
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and the other health problems associated with extreme poverty.

I also learned from Dr. Shelokov that Dr. C.H. Huang is the director of the Institute of Virology of the Academy of Medical Sciences in Peking. It would, of course, be my great pleasure to see him and the Institute of Virology if I should have an opportunity to come to China. I am sending Dr. Huang a copy of this letter, just in case you are not the Dr. Chung whom it was my pleasure to know so many years ago.

I am looking forward to hearing from you and hopefully to the pleasure of seeing you again in the USA or China. Best wishes and kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,



Albert B. Sabin, M.D.

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Copy to:
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