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CONFIDENTIAL

7 October 1993

MEMO

FROM: FR. GLYNN MURPHY, CONVENOR, SPECIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE, BALLARAT DIOCESE.

RE: FR. [BPB] AND POLICE INTERVIEW

Following my earlier conversation with Father [BPB] on October 6, 1993, I subsequently telephoned him at 7.30 p.m. on that date to ascertain developments concerning the intended police interview between Father [BPB] and members of the C.I.B. attached to **REDAC**.

Father [BPB] informed me that the interview took place on that day at 3 p.m. in the Police Station at **REDAC**.

Father [BPB] stated the interview related to the single incident which has already come to light with the family in **REDAC**. No other accusations were put to Father [BPB]

Two police were present at the interview, Officer Ian Dickinson and one other Officer from the C.I.B. Branch in **REDAC**. Father [BPB] described them as "decent fellows" who treated him in a fair and courteous manner. It is Father [BPB]'s impression that these people are not "crusaders" as such.

Father [BPB] stated that he spoke with his Solicitor, Gerard Healy, prior to the 3 p.m. interview. Gerard Healy stated that it is usual for the C.I.B. to "follow through with things" but that he would preserve any detailed opinion until he had read the transcript of interview between the Police Officers and Father [BPB]

Gerard Healy informed Father [BPB] that he would not be present with him at the interview because if he were to be present he could subsequently be subpoenaed in any Court action. By remaining away from the interview the Solicitor is able to act for Father [BPB] in the future without any fear of being subpoenaed.

Father [BPB] stated that the Police undertook to contact Mr. Gerard Healy on any further matters arising from the interview. In other words they understand Father [BPB] lives with his elderly parents and they expressed to Father [BPB] their wish that his parents not be disturbed unduly in this matter.

Father [BPB] went on to state that the Chief Inspector in **REDAC** is a man by the name of Dave Wells who is a reasonably practical Catholic and a man Father [BPB] describes as being fair. He stated that he knows Chief Inspector Wells and is confident of getting a fair hearing from him in this matter. Father [BPB] expects that the record of his

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interview will be put, together with all other information in this matter, before Chief Inspector Wells who will make a decision as to whether or not it goes any further.

Apparently Mr. Gerard Healy also knows Chief Inspector Dave Wells and so will be able to speak frankly with him if any further contact is made by the REDACT Police with Gerard Healy who would be acting as Father BPB's Solicitor.

Father BPB stated that throughout the interview he very strongly represented himself as being not guilty of any criminal or improper actions as alleged by the boy in REDAC. Father BPB stated that he first described his stance as "I believe nothing happened". He stated that the Police were then helpful in getting him to clarify his position in "the language" used in Police circles and interviews, namely that Father BPB then went on to state "I deny it happened".

Following the conclusion of the interview the Police Officers remained courteous and cordial in their attitude towards Father BPB. They informed him that they would now take the interview back to REDACT and that it could be quite some time before he hears anything further on the case.

Father BPB got the impression that it was not a high priority matter as it has already taken quite some time since the boy and his mother lodged their statements at the REDAC Police Station until the taking of Father BPB's statement at the REDAC Police Station on October 6th.

Father BPB understands that he will remain in his present status and lifestyle for the immediate future. He expects that Mr. Gerard Healy will eventually hear from the Police in REDAC as to whether or not the matter will be taken any further.

Father BPB has undertaken to contact me at this Office upon hearing anything further from the Police or from Gerard Healy as to any developments in this case. At the moment it appears to remain low key and low priority. There is the distinct possibility that there will be no further action arising from this matter and it is quite possible that there will not therefore be any Court appearance required.

End Memo.