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## PRIVATE &amp; CONFIDENTIAL

Vicar General  
Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne  
383 Albert Street  
East Melbourne 3002.

21 November 1996

Dear Monsignor Hart,

Re: Father Searson

I have asked Mr. Richard Ledor to provide this letter to you, having acquainted him with its contents.

I interviewed Father Searson on 20 October 1996, having previously interviewed Mr. Ray Adams, the principal of Holy Family Parish Doveton, and I had also spoken on the phone with Mrs. RED, the mother of REDACTED.

Shortly prior to interviewing Father Searson this day, I spoke again to Mrs. RED and she informed me that REDA had gone to the police, that the police had taken statements from him, and I believe the other boys involved, and accordingly it must be taken that police action is being considered.

Because I considered that in the instant case it was necessary to concentrate on that situation, and not embark upon an investigation of other matters referred to in the file, absent a charge by someone based on those matters, I take the view that because there is pending police action I should make no recommendation in relation to Fr. Searson at this time.

If the police decide to charge Fr. Searson, I told him that in that event I would invite him to again see me, so that I could discuss with him the implications of the fact of the charge in the light of his continuing to act as parish priest.

Thoro the matter rests. I do not in the circumstances consider it appropriate to recommend to the Archbishop that Fr. Searson be placed on administrative leave, though this may be an option to be considered if Fr. Searson is charged.

Yours faithfully,