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AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

General Secretariat

18th June, 1999.

Your Eminence,

I refer to your letter of 25th May in relation to a meeting between the Congregation for the Clergy and members of English-speaking Conferences over the question of sexual abuse by clerics.

Your Eminence, I note that the proposal of my letter to His Eminence, Cardinal Sodano (23.3.99) for dialogue between those Conferences and the Roman Dicasteries has been declined.

You enquire about dates for a meeting between representatives of the Conferences and the Congregation for the Clergy in March or April next year. It is not clear from your letter whether you are inviting the President of Conference or some other member to the meeting in question. In our own case, the President would not necessarily be the most appropriate Bishop to participate.

As to the time of the meeting, I am sure that our representative Bishop would be available at any time from March 1st to April 25th, given reasonable notice.

I should add that my resignation as Archbishop of Sydney has been submitted and accepted, and I would not expect still to be Archbishop in March, 2000.

With every good wish, Your Eminence, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY.

His Eminence
Dario Card. Castrillon Hoyos
Prefect
Congregation for the Clergy
00120 VATICAN CITY EUROPE

