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APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To His Eminence Reverend Card. MARC OUELLET, P.S.S. Prefect of the Congregation for
Bishops VATICAN CITY
- with attached -

November 13, 2014

Most Reverend Eminence,

[The first sentence seems to be a reference to a letter previously sent to or from Cardinal Ouellet. My Italian is too rusty to make sense of it, although it looks very simple.] In recent days, I attended, in Baltimore, the Plenary Assembly of the United States Episcopal Conference. On this occasion, the Most Reverend Msgr. Lee A. Piché and the Most Rev. Msgr. Andrew H. Cozzens, Auxiliary Bishops of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, asked to speak to me in private.

During the conversation they gave me a copy of the document which, according to what they themselves referred to me, the same Prelates had personally left during the recent visit to this Dicastery, to which you referred. I will forward to you another copy of this document, dated October 31, 2014 (attached).

Quickly scrolling through the text, in their presence, I was surprised to read, on p. 4, the last paragraph of the chapter entitled "The initial course of the investigation", where, speaking of the decision of the investigating law firm Green Espel, specially contracted by the Archdiocese, to go to Rome to interrogate a former Swiss Guard, I would be clearly opposed to it, referring to my thought in the following way: "When the Apostolic Nuncio learned of this, he instructed me that under no circumstances would an investigation in Rome be permitted."

In this regard, I reminded Msgr. Piché that, during our conversation, in reality, I told them that it seemed more correct and prudent, before proceeding to a step so grave, which could have had reverberations in the media, that Green Espel investigation had to question Msgr. Nienstedt himself, to collect his version of the facts. This had seemed to me all the more necessary because the same investigation had already expressed itself in a clearly favorable manner regarding the reliability of the indictment texts, without first having heard the accused in the least: this is a sign of superficiality in my opinion and lack of professionalism from this investigation.

Msgr. Piché immediately recalled this important detail of our conversation and, apologizing, assured me that he would proceed without delay to draw up a new document, amending the aforementioned imprecision in it.

I trust in the fact that the prelate is ready to produce this new text, which will be my concern to send to this Congregation as soon as it is received here, together with the general considerations requested on the whole affair.

On this occasion, I renew to Your Eminence the expression of my profound veneration,

[salutation]