



## DIOCESE ALEXANDRIA-CORNWALL

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### BISHOP'S STATEMENT

Press Conference - Jan. 14/94

Our Legal Counsel for the Diocese has explained how I "reluctantly" agreed to the settlement of a civil dispute to which the priest in question and the Diocese both contributed. Although it was altogether legal, I can now see by the confusion and misinterpretation caused that it was not the prudent way. I should have maintained my original position.

In no way did I or would I wish to impede the police investigation. I renew my willingness to cooperate with them in every way.

The Children's Aid asked that the priest be removed during their investigation. He voluntarily resigned and is now in a treatment centre.

I wish to thank my delegate in these matters, Msgr McDougald, and to assure the people that there was no attempt at a cover-up.

Priests who are truly guilty of such actions must be stopped! As our Conference has stated - "zero tolerance". The victims must be helped in every way, especially in the Christ-like way of being asked for and granting pardon.

Once again I urge any victims to identify themselves so that we may know the truth of the present situation and proceed to pardon and healing with the grace of God.