COURIER-JOURNAL

Vatican Bank Head **Denies Any Guilt In Securities Case**

Vatican-City (NC) - U.S.born Archbishop Paul C. Marcinkus, president of the Vatican bank. has categorically denied any wrongdoing in a 1973 counterfeiting securities scandal and promised that the facts in a current controversy involving the Vatican and the now liquidated Banco Ambrosiano will eventually be made clear.

In a telephone conversation with NC News Aug. 13, the 60-year-old archbishop confrimed comments made earlier to a Wall Street Journal reporter but declined to talk further about the 1973 case or about the Banco Ambrosiano situation that is still under investigation.

Shortly after the archbishop gave the interview, the Vatican denied a report in the Rome daily. Il Messaggero, that it he had been removed from his post as papal trip organizer and bodyguard.

Noting that Archbishop Marcinkus would accompany Pope John Paul II on his next foreign trip to Spain Oct. 12-20. the Vatican communique said he had not been removed from "any post" in the

Archbishop Marcinkus described as "absolutely fantastic" the allegations that he or the Vatican bank was involved in a scheme nine years ago by organized crime figures to borrow money on counterfeit stocks and bonds of U.S. corporations.

He confirmed that he was interviewd at the Vatican in early 1973 by William Aronwald, then head of the New York office of the U.S. Justice Department's Organized Crime Strike Force, in relation to the investigation. But he said he had never heard of any of the names of those involved in the case.

Aronwald, who entered private practice in New York after his government post, said recently that none of the allegations implicating the Vatican bank was ever substantiated.

The Justice Department eventually led to eight federal and 18 New York State indictments - no Vatican official was ever charged.

The archbishop, a native of Cicero, Ill., who has headed the bank since 1971, declined



ABP. MARCINKUS

relationship between the

Vatican bank and the Banco

Ambrosiano, which was

liquidated by the Italian

government Aug. 6. The Vatican bank owned 1.58

percent of the Banco Am-

Italian magistrate Pier

Luigi dell-Osso, who is in-

vestigating the Banco Am-

brosiano for possible fraud

brosiano.

dubious loans, issued judicial communiques advising Archbishop Marcinkus and two other officials of the Vatican bank that they are under investigation.



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