Letter from Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, to Archbishop Giovanni Battista Montini, Substitute, Vatican Secretariat of State, June 17, 1951 (copy), from *Nachlass Faulhaber* (“Faulhaber’s Papers), File No. 1395/3, Archive of the Archdiocese of Munich

Your Reverend Excellency,

With deep gratitude I confirm the receipt of the letter of May 29, 1951, No. 250426, concerning the new opening of the position of Rector of the Anima College in Rome.

It turns out that, when all the German-speaking Cardinals were gathered in Rome in February 1946, we were unanimously of the view that a change in the directorate of the Anima College would be brought about, and we were united on the person of Prelate Dr. Weinbacher in the event of an opening of this position.

The efforts at that time did not lead to a success. What the reverend Lord Bishops in Austria have now initiated, in taking this new step, is not known to me.

Fundamentally it is to be said that, even though special rights with respect to the filling of the Rector position at the Anima College pertained to the Emperor of Austria, neither the Republic of Austria nor the Austrian episcopate is to be regarded as his successor to the rights in this matter. The Bishops of the former Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation may be equally entitled here. In the drawing up of a new Statute for the Anima these rights, in my opinion, must be considered, and a solution could be found similar to that with the Campo Santo, where the Archbishops of Cologne, Munich and Salzburg possess a right of nomination, while the papal protector nominates.

From the circumstance that since the middle of the previous century the directorate of the Anima College has been entrusted to priests of Austrian extraction, it could just as well follow that it is now the turn of a German national to be director, especially since the Anima was originally a lower-German foundation.

[page 2]

In the event that the fundamental situation is resolved, I would have no scruples against the person of Vicar General Prelate Dr. Weinbach but would wish that Excellency Hudal be assured a thoroughly honorable departure.

With the request that this, my opinion expressed in all reverence, be submitted to His Holiness, I remain, with the expression of my deepest respect, Your Excellency’s most devoted,

/s/ Joseph Cardinal Frings

Archbishop of Cologne