

Vatican Says Cushing Stays

VATICAN CITY — (UPI) — Pope Paul VI does not want Boston's Cardinal Richard Cushing to resign despite the American's defense of Jacqueline Kennedy's marriage to Aristotle Onassis, according to a high Roman Catholic Church source.

Cushing said yesterday in Boston he would offer his resignation at year's end because of adverse publicity

and "gutter" mail he has received. The church earlier had punished Mrs. Onassis for marrying a divorced man.

The church source said the Pontiff would, if ever, accept Cushing's resignation only on grounds of age and ill health and not because of the Kennedy affair.

"Agreeing to the cardinal's retirement now would give

the impression that he is in disgrace because of his remarks about the marriage of Jacqueline Kennedy. I don't think the Pope wants to give anyone that feeling," the source said.

The Vatican earlier this week strongly challenged Cushing's statement the former U.S. first lady should be free to "Marry whomever she wants to marry."

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