

Lambeth Palace
London SE1 7JU

The Archbishop of Canterbury's
Assistant for Ecumenical Affairs

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CJH/AFT

June 1983

TO ALL MEMBERS OF ARCIC-I

This is by way of a valedictory, particularly to those - a majority - members of the old ARCIC who will not be leavening the lump of the new.

On the 13th of this month the new ARCIC will be announced and I am sure you will be interested in the enclosed list of members. I also enclose a number of other items in this final ARCIC-I circulation, all duly explained in Anne's Catalogue. Of particular interest will be the agenda for the new Commission - an agreed expansion of the Common Declaration signed by Pope John Paul II and the Archbishop of Canterbury a year ago after their historic meeting in Canterbury Cathedral. I think you will find this agenda encouraging - if full - and will feel that the new body will thus continue the convergence ARCIC has achieved. Of course the new Commission, like ARCIC-I, is its own master and will handle the agenda in its own way. It will need your prayers.

While I am sure I shall be seeing and hearing from you again, I want to express my personal gratitude to you and the other members of ARCIC-I for all your friendship has meant in our work together. Perhaps I can do this best by quoting Lord Halifax to the Abbé Portal in the dark days immediately following Apostolicae Curae:

"We tried to do something which, I believe, God inspired... This is no dream. The thing is as certain as ever. There are some bitter things which are worth all the joys of earth and I prefer, many thousand times, to suffer with you in such a cause, than to triumph with the whole world."

In this perspective our work, friendship, and suffering is seen to be of enduring value, whatever the vicissitudes of its reception by the Churches.

But I do not wish to end on a pessimistic note, as I believe the establishment of the new ARCIC takes us to the verge of the 'next step' forward. This could not have been achieved without the toil and joy of ARCIC-I.



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You will remember one of the final acts of ARCIC-I was to recommend that Anne Tyler and Margaret Orrell should be awarded some appropriate recognition of their work by the 'other' Church.

Last year Anne was awarded the Bene Merenti by Bishop Clark at Lambeth Palace and Margaret was awarded the St. Augustine's Cross by Bishop John Howe at the Anglican Centre.

This is a just and happy token of all ARCIC and the two Churches owe them for their work.



CJH

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