

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

The eighth meeting of the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission was held at the Casa Cardinale Piazza in Venice from August 24th - September 2nd. All the members were present under the Co-Chairmanship of the Rt. Revd. H.R. McAdoo and the Rt. Revd. Alan Clark. Beginning from the basis of the Lordship of Christ the Commission examined the relations of authority first to the Word and the Holy Spirit, then to communion, conciliarity and primacy. Varieties of authority in the Church were considered and particular attention paid to the function of authority as serving the maintenance of the Church in the truth.

A careful consideration of the interplay of primatial and conciliar authority revealed a broad and important basis of agreement on the general conception of authority in the Church and in particular on the basic principles of primacy. From this basis the problem of universal primacy was approached and again a real measure of agreement was discovered on the general principle.

Anglican difficulties on Roman primacy were precisely set out while an attempt was made to ensure that the Catholic doctrines concerned were stated equally accurately.

At the end the Commission felt that the work of the week represented a significant advance in convergence, though clearly important difficulties remained to be solved. The findings of the Commission to date are being presented to the respective authorities.

The Commission is deeply grateful to the Patriarch and the church authorities in Venice and to the Sisters at Casa Cardinale Piazza for their warm welcome and co-operation. The Commission will meet again at Chichester in a year's time.