



ARCIC 167

ANGLICAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

SECRETARY GENERAL:
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18th August, 1977.

To: The Primate
of the Anglican Communion

**THE THREE AGREED STATEMENTS OF THE
ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION**

On 20th January, 1977, I was able to send you the third Statement on "Authority in the Church", and requested that reports about it be sent to me for consideration by the Anglican Consultative Council at its next meeting.

I now write with a further request, and to indicate the way we may proceed in response to the recommendation in the "Common Declaration" of the Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope Paul VI that the work the Commission has begun "be pursued, through the procedures appropriate to our respective Communion".

The request is that any report you send for ACC-4, in addition to commenting on the Third Agreed Statement, also expresses a view on all three Statements taken together.

It will be of special help if this response indicates to what extent your Church generally finds the approach and content of the ARCIC Statements acceptable as a theological basis for possible further discussions with the Roman Catholic Church towards visible unity.

I can now say that the fourth meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council is planned for April/May 1979. Reports for that meeting should be sent to me by December 1978.

It is expected that a report on similar lines may come to ACC-4 from the Lambeth Conference 1978.

The indication of the way we may proceed is as follows: In the light of the responses which the A.C.C. receives it may propose, from the Anglican side, that discussion should be sought with the Roman Catholic Church - between the Churches, not within a Commission - which aims towards visible unity. This might be done by the A.C.C. requesting of the Anglican General Synods -

- (a) an affirmation of the congruence of the three ARCIC agreed Statements with Anglican teaching (this already done by some Churches for the Windsor and Canterbury Statements, e.g. Canada);

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- (b) an affirmation that the three ARCIC agreed Statements provide a sufficient theological basis for further official dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church with the Churches of the Anglican Communion "United not Absorbed" as its goal.

Further action would be consequent upon the response of the General Synods. Each Synod would of course make its response by whatever procedure is appropriate.

Yours very sincerely,

JH/PB