

1/9/77: 9.30 p.m.

ARCIC 173/Venice/6

Number 9

Question: Does the conjunction when in the fourth sentence of this section introduce an ambiguity? Does when introduce a conditional or causal clause? If the clause is causal, then the sentence avoids a circularity of argument which is present if the clause is a conditional one.

Assumption: The questioner assumes that the sentence is exclusively concerned with ecumenical councils.

Comment: The sentence is treating of all councils "either regional or worldwide". The conjunction when introduces a temporal clause.

Initial response: The fifth sentence of this section, ~~with~~ perhaps, if illustrations of regional councils were given in it, could help obviate the difficulty. Decisions of regional councils of the twenty four independent Churches of the Anglican Communion (e.g. General Synod of the Church of Ireland) take effect at the date when the regional council determines. A regional council of the Roman Catholic Church (e.g. the nineteenth century Councils of Baltimore) are not binding on the regional church until they are approved by the Roman See.