

SECOND DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

The Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission met at the Theological College, Chichester, from August 30th to September 8th. All members were present except the Archbishop of Brisbane, Dr. Felix Arnott, who was unavoidably prevented from attending.

The Commission's main work was to study and analyse the many criticisms and reflections it has received on the three statements published in recent years on traditional Anglican/Roman Catholic doctrinal questions: The Eucharist (Windsor 1971), Ministry and Ordination (Canterbury 1973), and Authority in the Church (Venice 1976).

Criticisms already received have come from many sources ranging from episcopal conferences, doctrinal and ecumenical commissions and scholars to pastoral clergy and laity. The study and analysis it has carried out has ^{heightened} ~~deepened~~ the commission's appreciation of the comments it has received, which represent what it has always seen as an essential part of the process of convergence towards unity which it exists to serve. Words of appreciation have encouraged us, words of criticism have helped us to discern where we might clarify what we have said together. Everything that has been said, however, has reinforced our shared conviction about the degrees of agreement or of convergence we have expressed in our statements and strengthened our belief that the task we were charged with over a decade ago by the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury is one which is in accordance with the will of God for his Church, and full of hope for the future. Indeed, we believe that the response to our statements is only one indication that this hope and belief ~~is~~ ^{is an} shared more widely than ~~it was~~ ^{they were} when our work began. The fresh mandate and encouragement given by Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Coggan at their meeting earlier this year ~~has~~ ^{have} also given us new heart.

The papers we have drafted at the meeting just concluded will ~~undoubtedly~~ play a part in our final report, but their more immediate purpose is to stimulate us to carry our convergence further, to help our members in speaking to the churches in many places and so to broaden as well as advance the dialogue.

and, in some cases, deeper

we must clarify (and often deepen)

(9)

We are aware that there are other issues still needing examination and that new problems have arisen since we began our work, notably the developments in the Anglican Communion on the ordination of women to the priesthood. But although the seriousness of these matters must not be underestimated and they have to be faced with candour, we do not see them as ground for wavering in the resolve and hope we have spoken of above.

We wish to express warm thanks to ^{the} principal and staff of Chichester Theological College for their ~~most~~ abundant hospitality, to His Grace the Duke of Norfolk for welcoming us to Arundel Castle and to the Bishop of Chichester for enabling us to meet many friends from the district at a reception in the Palace.