ARCIC 2441A

SECRETARIATUS
AD CHRISTIANORUM UNITATEM FOVENDAM

E Civitate Vaticana, die July 6, 1981

Prot. N. 2520 /81/D
(In responsione fiat mentio huius numeri)

The Rt.Revd. Alan C. CLARK
Bishop of East Anglia
The White House
PORINGLAND, Norwich, NR14 7SH (GB)

Dear Bishop Clark,

I am most happy with the idea of joining with Bishop Howe in extending an invitation to you and your co-chairman of ARCIC Archbishop McAdoo, to address a letter to the respective authorities concerning the final report of the Commission. It is certainly desirable that clear questions should be put to the authorities about their response to the report and about its practical implications, and that the new joint commission should hence have clear instructions as to its task of continuing the work and drawing conclusions from what has been done.

I have however some reservations about the draft proposed.

With the first question I have no difficulty, though I doubt it it is realistic to hope for a simple 'yes' or 'no' to a question so stated.

The second question seems to me unhappily phrased. The words 'first formal change' have an air of saying something definite but in fact are incapable of doing more than arouse fruitless speculation. I would prefer something like "...grounds for a first concrete step towards reconciliation rooted in agreement in faith".

This would make better sense of the wording of the recommendation, where the word 'such' is at present unrelated to anything. Also, instead of 'stages' - a word which has been used a lot without any development in its meaning - I would prefer "practical steps".

These comments will make clear that I have no objection to the direct character of the contents - quite the contrary.

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But I wonder a little whether the thing might be cast a little less schematically for the benefit of those who are long accustomed to a more flowing style, and might misinterpret such bluntness.

With many kind wishes,

I remain
Sincerely yours

Ramon Torrella

+ Ramon Torrella
Vice-President

copy to Christopher Hill