

ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

Third Meeting - Windsor, 1st - 8th September 1971

REPORT OF SOUTH AFRICAN ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMISSION
ON A SOCIOLOGICAL SURVEY

At the February 1971 meeting of the Anglican/Roman Catholic Commission of S. Africa Canon Purdy suggested that the study of inter-communion should be related to a broad study of common opinion on Anglican - Roman Catholic relations.

Accordingly a seminar was held at the May 1971 meeting of the Commission on the possibility of a sociological study of this subject. As a result of this the S.A. Commission decided unanimously to recommend to the International Commission that such a survey should be undertaken.

Preliminary enquiries made from South Africa have indicated that the International Federation of Socio-Religious Research Institute (FERES) might be able to handle such a project.

We wish to draw particular attention to the following points from our discussion:

- 1) The survey could be done in single regions at different times, or in a number of regions simultaneously, (for example, in all those regions which already have a Unity Commission at work) or on a world wide basis to include all areas in which Anglicans and Roman Catholics are found together in great numbers.
- 2) The survey ought to take equal account of prejudice against, as well as goodwill towards unity. It also should consider the possible bearing of social stratification on attitudes towards unity proposals, and if conducted on a world wide basis, should be done in such a way as to make it possible to abstract from the total results, data for different regions.
- 3) It is assumed that the study will focus on so-called non-theological factors, though hard and fast distinctions will not be possible.
- 4) It was felt that the study itself would help change the relationship between the Churches.

5) It is possible that the Ecumenical Research Unit in South Africa might attempt a small scale preliminary study of an intuitive sample of parishes in South Africa.

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