

COMMUNIQUE

The Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission held its fifth meeting at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, from August 28th to September 6th, 1973. The Commission continued its discussions on Christian ministry. It completed a statement on this subject, which was unanimously agreed, and must now be submitted to the authorities of both churches, with the request that it may be published in due course so that it may be discussed as widely as possible.

The Commission's Agreed Statement on Eucharistic Doctrine, drawn up at Windsor in 1971, has, since its publication, continued to receive wide and careful study at all levels within the two churches, and also outside them. Authorities in both churches have welcomed the document and expressed a belief in its ecumenical significance. The Commission is convinced that its new statement, on the doctrine of ministry, if approved, and studied in connection with the Eucharistic Agreement, will have the deepest importance for the future of relations between the two churches. For in the past, disagreement on these two issues obscured the large area of common belief and made it impossible for Roman Catholics to recognise Anglican orders. The Commission believes that the two documents provide a wider context in which such problems may eventually be resolved.

Christian ministry has been studied in the broadest terms. This has involved consideration of biblical and other elements of the common inheritance of the two churches. Among the subjects studied were the role of the ordained ministry within the life of the Christian community, its priestly nature, ordination and apostolic succession. Throughout its discussions the Commission took seriously the obligations of the Christian ministry to the whole world.

During the next year and at its meeting next summer the Commission intends to study the subject of the Church and Authority.