The Rt. Revd. Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, St. Joseph's Hall, Storrington, Pulborough, West Sussex BN3 6NE. The Rt. Revd. Mark Santer, 19 Campden Hill Square, London W8 7JY.

ARCIC II

You will be glad to hear that consent has been given for the publication of our Agreed Statement on Salvation and the Church. This will take place on 22nd January, 1987, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Each member of the Commission will have received a copy direct from the publisher before publication.

In preparing the manuscript for publication, the co-chairmen and secretaries took into account the general instructions of the whole Commission as well as specific points of style or expression raised by members. The footnotes have been somewhat reduced; but it will be remembered that these were agreed on the understanding that, if members had serious difficulties with any of them, we should err on the side of omission.

It is good that we, as a Commission, should now have completed and seen published our first piece of substantial work. Once again we thank you most warmly for all your hard work and help in its preparation.

The co-chairmen and secretaries met in Rome at the end of November, 1986. Together with Fr. Pierre Duprey, as Secretary of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, and Canon Sam van Culin, as Secretary of the Anglican Consultative Council, we considered the shape of our future work. Drawing on our discussions in Llandaff, we believe that we now need to develop the implications of the idea of koinonia, in order to provide an overall ecclesiological framework for the search for unity.

Accordingly, a sub-commission was convened to prepare material for consideration by members of the Commission. Members of the sub-commission (others invited were unable to attend) were the two co-chairmen, the two secretaries, Julian Charley, Mary Tanner and Jean Tillard. They met from 1st to 4th January, 1987, at Maryvale Pastoral Centre, near Guildford, Surrey.

We enclose a copy of the material prepared by this sub-commission. As you will see, it takes the form of an outline schema for a substantial paper on koinonia. Its purpose is to provide, within the framework of an overall theological exposition, a basis for the consideration of the particular topics which still ostensibly divide us and which will certainly require further detailed work (e.g., questions on authority, moral issues, and reconciliation of churches and ministries).

We now invite you to consider this material (where possible with other members of the Commission or with members of your national ARC) and to send your comments and suggestions to the secretaries by 31st May, 1987.

May we stress the importance of this, since the shape of our work for the next few years is at issue, and much depends on making a good start?

The sub-commission will meet again at Storrington, from 16th to 21st June and, in the light of your comments, will prepare a draft paper for consideration by the whole Commission at the end of August.

With prayers and our best wishes for 1987,

+ Cotmac

TO ALL MEMBERS OF ARCIC II.

3rd January, 1987.