

Confidential

Note This afternoon I had a long conversation with Bishop Howe (M.M. being present for the Ordination of Women discussion):

1 (a) On the whole question of the Ordination of women there were two issues and the first was the Church of England's reaction to the General Synod's Resolution. Bishop Howe felt that this was a Church of England question only and that the Anglican Communion would not be particularly interested in the terms of the debate, as most Churches had already gone past that stage.

On the question of publicity for the Pope's reply to the Archbishop Bishop Howe did not have strong feelings, but he felt that publicity would do no harm. He thought that the theology in the papal letter was pretty thin and this would not be particularly good publicity for the Roman Catholic point of view.

(b) On Anglican dialogue following from the initial meeting in Rome during November 1975, Bishop Howe felt the best way forward would be for the Archbishop and Cardinal Willebrands to respond to the recommendation made by that Group. Bishop Howe would draft something and send it to CFR for the Archbishop suggesting a response. Bishop Howe and the Cardinal would appoint a small group to discuss the problems of sacramental fellowship between Churches which ordained women and those which did not. Such a group would report to the ACC and to the Secretariat.

ARCIC would not be involved, but AOJDD would discuss the matter in accordance with the suggestion of the Rome Group in November. (Action on this when Bishop Howe writes via CFR to the Archbishop.)

2. Marriage Commission Bishop Howe agreed that it might well be better for him to write alongside Cardinal Willebrands rather than the Archbishop. He noted the point that the Commission had originally suggested a letter by the Co-Chairmen. We agreed that it would be best to wait and see the contents of Cardinal Willebrands' letter before taking this matter further.

Bishop Howe went on to say that the ACC had stopped using SPCK for reasons of poor distribution. He felt that CIO would be all right, providing someone like Professor Gordon Dunstan was involved in the proof reading. He also agreed that if possible joint publication should be aimed for. He was glad that I had raised these issues with the consent of Prebendary Cooper.

3. On the 10th anniversary of Dr. Ramsey's visit to Rome, it transpired that Bishop Howe would be in Rome himself from February 12th - 18th. Dr. Smythe was in any case hoping to arrange an audience for 18th and we agreed that an Archbishop's letter carried by Bishop Howe would be the best solution, even though it would be a little early for the actual anniversary. (It was not quite clear whether Bishop Howe could get a cheap flight extended enabling him to attend the audience Dr. Smythe hoped to arrange. We agreed to take the matter no further until we knew whether this was possible. We also agreed that if this was not possible Dr. Smythe himself should carry a letter personally.) C.F.R. would draft for A.B.C. and give to Bishop Howe.

4. I presented a progress report on ARCIC 1975-76.

CM

C.J.H.