

17 FEB 1976 +

THE REVEREND HARRY REYNOLDS SMYTHE,  
B. A. (BYO), T.M.L., M. A., D. PHIL. (OXON),  
REPRESENTATIVE IN ROME OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION,  
DIRECTOR OF THE ANGLICAN CENTRE.

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Dear Christopher,

awaiting reply from Bp Ramsey  
letter comes

Thank you for your two telephone calls. I have advised Mgr Purdy and the First Secretary of the British Legation (the Minister is still in London), according to your wishes. I am requesting an audience for myself on March 23rd or 24th in order to present Bishop Ramsey's letter to the Pope.

Mgr Purdy expressed the view that, on tactical grounds, it would seem best to release the Pope's letter to the Archbishop (on the ordination of women) as a whole. He saw no reason why the section on the twelve Apostles should lead to more criticism than any other part of it, and does not share Bishop Howe's reserves on this point (as mentioned by you to me in your conversation). Mgr Purdy said that the release of that letter requires no Vatican permission. It was not confidential in the sense that its contents should not be disclosed.

With all good wishes,  
Yours sincerely,  
Harry.