

8th July 1977

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This afternoon Canon John Arnold came over to CFR and we had lunch together. There were three main matters for conversation.

1. Anglican/Lutheran European Regional Commission. It was clear that David Chaplain had misunderstood EWU's difficulty. It was not that the Church of England would not take part, but that EWU could not service the Commission. The two bilaterals referred to were of course of a different "stable" altogether.

I suggested that John should write to David that he should have a talk with me about what was involved. CFR might take part in the Commission as in ACJDD. I would want to look for "something in it for" CFR. If there were to be three meetings I should suggest that they should be in Scandinavia, Wales, and Germany, in that order. This would involve British Anglicanism outside England.

2. Diocese for Europe. I told John of my conversation with Barney Milligan at the BOC DIA two days ago. It seemed to me that there were three elements in the work of the proposed Diocese: the pastoral was well looked after; the ecumenical was attended to, but without strategic liaison with interested parties, e.g. CFR; the Britain-in-Europe dimension was so far neglected. We agreed that it was a pity that Bishop Satterthwaite had left CFR in 1970 when he took on his bishopric. He should have remained at Lambeth and become Anglican "Exarch" for Europe. (A "Diocese" was nonsense.)

However all was not lost. The present joint working party of Gibraltar and the General Synod was engaged in legal and constitutional questions. It would see how a "Diocese" for Europe could become a Diocese in the Church of England and be represented in the General Synod. It must not be a "cuckoo in the nest". It must take the rough with the smooth - responsibilities as well as benefits. The Bishop of Guildford should point out that ecumenical and "European" responsibilities of the "Diocese" should at least be shared with B.M.U. I said that it would be helpful for EWU to "hold the ring" between the F & G and CFR "corners". We thought that the General Synod should have an advisory committee (as the Committee for International Affairs) which the "Bishop for Europe" should belong to, so that there could be co-ordination of ecumenical and "European" activities. (Perhaps, however, the chairman of the Committee might properly be the Archbishop of Canterbury or his personally appointed delegate - e.g. at the present time the Bishop of Leicester.)

3. Consultation on the Ordination of Women. The question I said I wanted to ask was this: by November 1978 would the General Synod feel that all had been done that could reasonably have been done following the debate in July 1975? There had been correspondence; there had been face-to-face ecumenical conversation; there would have been the Anglican/Roman Catholic informal talks next February, and ecumenical discussion at the Lambeth Conference; what about "English" ecumenical consultation? John said that this was really a question for the Archbishops and House of Bishops to answer. I said that in that case it was for CFR to pose the question to them.

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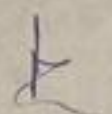
We agreed that there might be a consultation next spring. I said that I hoped it would focus on my November 1975 question: Yes and No -how? (and not on Yes or No?). John said he hoped participants would be asked what ecumenical effect would be had by the two possible Church of England decisions: to ordain women and not to ordain women. It was to be hoped that a small representative group of Anglicans (about four, bishops?) would meet similar representation from the Orthodox/Oriental, Roman Catholic, Lutheran/Reformed and Free traditions in England.

John further said that any further consultation ought to be in the context of the FOAG conference on Ministry (about the Ch.U.C. Propositions 6 and 7) at High Leigh on October 18th and 19th. I hoped that Christopher Hill would be able to attend it and said that I would ask him to write a brief on the possible consultation in the spring of 1978 for the Archbishop to take up early next September.

4. Other matters.

a) I reviewed progress towards the formation of a delegation and programme for the Archbishop's visit to the USSR in the autumn.

b) I asked John to think of a bishop who could be the Archbishop's episcopal deputy for the Oriental Churches now that the Bishops of Truro and Guildford were not in the running.


M.M.