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CJH/AFT

9th May 1978

My letter and Bishop Torrella's letter to Bishop Howe unfortunately crossed. You will by now have received Bishop Howe's letter to Bishop Torrella. This was shared with the Archbishop of Canterbury before being sent. I think we all appreciate here the difficult position the Secretariat is in. At the same time I am sure the Secretariat understands that we just cannot pretend the Consultation did not take place. I suspect that one of the causes of misunderstanding is our different procedure over documents stemming from a different cultural background. If Anglicans have to publish the document unilaterally, we shall still make perfectly clear it has no other authority than that of its membership.

I had to attend the Old Catholic Congress in the Netherlands last week and with Bishop Howe's blessing I took a copy of his letter to Bishop Torrella to Utrecht. The Cardinal was recovering from his operation, but I did have the opportunity of talking with his Private Secretary in Utrecht and indicating that Anglican insistence on publication was not intended to be a belligerent act. We were simply bound to this by our procedures.

I gather Pierre Duprey will be in London on the 22nd. No doubt he will be able to have useful discussion with John Howe.

Are we agreed on the final editing of the document?

With warm best wishes,



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