

CJH

17th May 1978

39
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Bill Purdy rang from Rome and was sad that you were not here. I pressed him to leave a message which he did and I have carefully explained to him that you will not be available again until Tuesday morning.

1. Cardinal Willebrands, as you already know, feared that paragraph 6 of the Versailles document might be open to misinterpretation. The suggestion was made that if the report was circulated there should be a qualification to paragraph 6. The letter to Bishop Howe written by Bishop Torrella was drafted by Bill and somehow the text of the qualifying clause "fell out" and so it was that Bishop Howe received the letter he did. (You of course received the text of the qualifying clause from Fr. Doyle this morning and it was intended that this should have been included in the letter to Bishop Howe.)

Fr. Congar agreed to associate himself with the Report and it was he, together with Fr. Duprey, who in fact drafted the qualifying clause. I did not of course tell Bill that we had heard from Fr. Doyle, but I did take the opportunity of asking him if he had heard from the Roman Catholic delegates whether they agreed to the qualifying clause. As Congar and Duprey drafted it, they do, and so do Bill and Fr. Hotchkin and so in fact Fr. Doyle will prove to be the one dissenter.

Bill agrees the text as it stands - I enquired.

2. Bill was wondering whether to put the Venice meeting a day forward because of difficulty getting from England and the fact that Tillard and one other will be late anyway. I said that English difficulties had been overcome and said that Bishop Knapp-Fisher

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would have to leave even earlier. Bill realises that he will not satisfy everyone and will probably keep the dates as they are. He will wait to hear from you, but I think leave well alone will be best now.

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