

Thank you very much for your letter of 20th May about the Versailles Consultation. As you will know I was able to discuss the matter with Fr Pierre Duprey on 23rd, and ~~Mr~~ Christopher Hill was present too.

I think we are agreed that ~~because of the different~~ in our two Churches there is not always an identical view of what would be an acceptable course, and therefore we have to find a course that combines accuracy and integrity ~~with~~ is not unnecessarily liable to misinterpretation. An alteration ~~to the~~ or addition to the signatures on a Joint ~~Statement~~ subsequent to the Consultation would not be acceptable from an Anglican point of view. ~~The~~ Statement would cease to be a joint one ^{any grave doubt would be cast on the value of the document}

Concerning one or two points that you mention, the Terms of Reference for the Consultation were exactly those in the "Note" which was compiled by the participants in the Informal Talks in 1975. This was agreed in my correspondence with Fr Duprey and Mgr Purdy of March, June and July, 1977. // The presentation of the ~~Statement~~ ^{Report} on our side is by me to the Churches of the Ang Com - , which in this case means to the Primates. It will, as you say, be discussed by the bishops at the LC, but the report is not to the Conf directly.

In the helpful and careful talk we had with Fr Duprey ~~he~~ ~~suggested~~ a course of action was suggested which may enable both of us, ~~in~~ while recognising the other's problems, to accomplish what we feel is necessary. ~~With~~ With the support of subsequent consultation, I believe this would be acceptable to us, and I hope you will ~~consider~~ ^{consider} it achieves what the Secretariat feels is necessary. In brief, the course would be that the Anglican publication of the document for the member Churches would ~~be~~ ^{Consent of a} ~~factual~~ Introduction to the ~~Statement~~ ^{Report}, and then ~~the~~ text of the ~~Statement~~. This would be sent to ~~the~~ ^{Primates} with a covering letter which ~~refers~~ ^{would} refer to the understanding ~~of~~ the RC participants of the relationship of Para 6 to paras 2 and 3; and would say that ~~Mr~~ Purdy would be able to speak about the ~~Statement~~ ^{Primates} at the Lambeth Conference. I enclose copies of the Introduction and the Covering Letter ~~that~~ ^{that} we have it in mind to use. It is our sincere hope that this ~~procedure~~ procedure is acceptable to you. B

As you will appreciate we are now ~~beginning to be~~ under a certain amount of time pressure as the communication must be sent to the Churches ~~a little while~~ before the LC gathers.

I think I should add a note about your third page "We the undersigned...etc"

Sentence 1. This, if I understand aright, makes the point you feel must be stated and made clear. Our covering letter is intended to do this ~~with an Anglican endorsement~~ ^{with an Anglican endorsement that has 6} ~~that has 6~~ ^{should be noted in the C.I.A. volume 2, p. 3}
Sentence 2. "Transitory", I think, does not correspond with any suggestion in the Statement. More important is "not..destined to change" ~~This is, I gather, not the happiest of translations from the French. The phrase seems open to considerable misunderstanding, with implications far beyond this Consultation, and even beyond the whole field of ecumenical endeavour.~~

Sentence 3. ~~The relevance to the interpretation~~ ^{The} ~~terms of~~ reference seems to me a reasonable inference, with room for difference of opinion, so that to include it is reasonable - which apparently was the opinion of the people engaged in the consultation. 'Open and shut' treatment could fairly be challenged.