



CANADIAN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CONFÉRENCE CATHOLIQUE CANADIENNE

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR ECUMENISM

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June 10, 1974

M E M O

TO: The Members of the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission
FROM: Sister Diane Willey NDS (Secretary to the Canadian A/RC Dialogue)
SUBJECT: Preparatory papers for the 1974 meeting of ARCIC

The assignment which the Canadian A/RC Dialogue agreed to undertake was:

An examination of Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) as an authoritative description of the authority of Scripture. (Cf. ARCIC paper: Assignments for 1974)

This was further elaborated in a letter from Rev. Colin Davey, dated February 15, 1974, in which he stated that the assignment might well develop the question of how authoritative the statements of Councils such as Vatican II may be for Roman Catholics and for Anglicans, in relation to "universal" or "local" Councils before and after the schism between East and West and the 16th century breach between the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches.

At its March 1, 1974 meeting the Canadian A/RC Dialogue group discussed the assignment at length and decided to invite two consultants, Rev. William McKeachie (Anglican) and Dr. Harry McSorley (Roman Catholic) to draft a paper in response to the assignment.

Our consultants though it advisable to take divergent approaches to the assignment, and so each produced a paper for the May 3 meeting of the dialogue. These drafts were discussed at length and slightly revised at that meeting. In view of the little time remaining before the Canadian paper was to be submitted to the International Commission, in view of the considerable task involved in integrating the two papers into one, and in view of the particular contribution of each of these papers, the decision was taken to submit both papers (as revised at the May 3 meeting) for your consideration in preparation for your meeting in August.

Consequently, the Canadian Dialogue group submits for your study the enclosed two papers, in response to the assignment we were invited to undertake, and with the hope that these will contribute to the progress of your discussions.