

ConfidentialSummary of Informal ARCIC Steering Committee: 18th January 1977

Present: The Co-Chairmen and Co-Secretaries of ARCIC, together with Canon Michael Moore.

1. It was generally agreed that there should be no revision of the texts of the Agreed Statements. There should rather be extended notes, appendices and/or a preface. Particular note should be made of the positive criticism received from theologians, episcopal conferences and synods.
2. It was also agreed that the Co-Secretaries should put together material from Lambeth and the Secretariat which should be sent out in good time to the members of ARCIC. It was decided that Gunther Gassmann should be approached for comment on the three Statements. The Commission would be instructed to do its "homework" on these criticisms and bring the results of their labours to Chichester. It was felt that there would be less material at this stage on the Venice Statement.
3. It was not felt that the addition of "experts" would be helpful. Nevertheless sympathetic criticism (such as the Dumont paper) would be welcome. It was decided to circulate this to all members of the Commission.
4. It was thought that a sub-commission was not necessary before Chichester. At Chichester there would be three sub-commissions each dealing with one Agreed Statement.
5. The Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Pope Paul VI was felt to be very important. It was absolutely essential that there should be a joint recognition of the 10 years of dialogue. The Common Declaration proposed must reflect this. Bishop Howe's suggestion that the Archbishop and Pope should welcome the three Statements of ARCIC, together with the Mixed Marriage Commission Report, was welcomed. It was also agreed that *Evangelii Nuntiandi* should have some part in the Declaration (especially 77).

There was considerable discussion as to how the Declaration could mark a real advance in Anglican/Roman Catholic relationships. Unity by Stages was discussed. The Malta Report, para. 7, was felt to be especially relevant. The common recognition referred to in it might very well form part of the Declaration. There was some discussion of an advance in sacramental relations. It was suggested that paragraph 26 of the Venice Statement was also relevant.

6. It was agreed that the two Co-Chairmen of ARCIC should be present in Rome at the time of the Archbishop's visit.

C.J.H.

Note: This is an aide memoire rather than official minutes.