

ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION  
Second Meeting - Venice, 21st - 28th September 1970

SUB-COMMISSION ON THE CHURCH AND AUTHORITY

Foreword by the Revd. Dr. R.J. Halliburton

St. Stephen's House,  
Oxford.

8th August 1970

Reverend Fathers,

I am both pleased and relieved to say that the sub-commission on Authority set up by you at the meeting of the International Commission at Windsor in January has now been able to produce a report of their findings. Owing to a number of circumstances, we were rather late in beginning work on this highly important theme; and the shortage of time available led to the adoption of a scheme, whereby as many members of the sub-commission as possible were asked to submit a short paper on the theme allocated to them. Our report therefore consists of a series of papers which we hope will raise issues suitable for discussion by you at the September meeting of the International Commission.

As acting secretary of this sub-commission, I would like to say first that its members have been remarkably co-operative and kind in producing their reports at such short notice, often under the pressure of many other commitments. On the other hand, I am speaking for us all when I say that we are distinctly conscious of the inadequacy of the report as a whole, and that we hope very much that you will return to us after the September conference for further consultation. We are now at least in correspondence with one another, those situated in the same cities have met and discussed their respective spheres of theological concern, and the machinery is so to speak, well oiled for future use.

We therefore respectfully submit our report to you for your consideration, trusting that despite its shortcomings, it will be of use to you at the Venice conference.

Assuring you of our prayers for all your undertakings,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) R.J. HALLIBURTON

SUB-COMMISSION ON THE CHURCH AND AUTHORITY

Membership

Roman Catholic

- a. The Revd. A. Hastings, Kipalapala Seminary, Tabora, Tanzania.
  - b. The Revd.Fr. J. McHugh, L.S.S., Ushaw College, Durham.
  - c. The Revd.Fr. E.J. Yarnold, S.J., Campion Hall, Oxford (acting on behalf of Fr. R. Murray) (Paper III)
  - d. The Revd.Dom A. Stacpoole, O.S.B., Ampleforth Abbey, York.
  - e. Eric John, Esq., Department of History, The University, Manchester,13. (Paper VI)
  - x f. The Revd.Fr. P.Harris, S.T.L., St. Edmund's House, Cambridge. (Paper IX)
- \* to follow

Anglican

- a. The Revd.Donald Allchin, Convent of the Incarnation, Fairacres, Oxford. (Paper I)
- b. The Revd. Canon H.E.W. Turner, Department of Theology, University of Durham. (Paper II)
- c. The Revd. Derek Allen, St. Stephen's House, Oxford. (Paper IV)
- d. The Revd. Fr. Benedict Green, C.R., College of the Resurrection Mirfield, Yorks. (Paper V)
- e. The Revd. Dr. R.J. Halliburton, St. Stephen's House, Oxford. (Paper VII)
- f. The Revd. Canon Peter Walker, Westcott House, Cambridge. (Paper VIII)

Scope of Papers

At the January Conference, the Commission was asked to report on the following themes:

1. The Church as Koinonia

Under this heading, we were asked to consider:

(a) Visible and invisible communion; in this context, common profession of faith, full sharing in sacramental life, and oversight by a fully accepted apostolic ministry.

(b) Church of churches: Universal church - local church; local church - universal church. Concordia ecclesiarum - concordia episcoporum, Collegiality, patriarchal and papal principles (with reference to Vatican II and Lambeth '68)

(c) Actual situation: 'communio realis, non plena' between Anglican communion and Roman Catholic church.

- What is the 'special relationship' between the two Churches?
- What does each Church find of itself in the other ('realis')?
- What does it not find ('sed non plena')?
- What are the critical points at which koinonia is now broken and needs healing?
- Use of categories, 'heresy' and 'schism'?
- When doctrinal questions are settled, by what act or acts should full communion be re-established?

These questions have been dealt with from the Anglican side by the Revd. Donald Allchin (Paper I); I have unfortunately been unable to contact Fr. Adrian Hastings, who is at present in Tanzania, and who was to have written the Roman Catholic comment on this section of the report.

2. Koinonia and Authority

We were asked to discuss:

(a) Criterion of Scripture for nature, location and exercise of authority.

Professor H.E.W. Turner has submitted a paper on 'The Authority of Scripture' (Paper II); Fr. J. McHugh had unfortunately to go abroad in July and therefore regrets very much not being able to write. He and Professor Turner meet regularly and will give further thought to this matter in the Michaelmas Term.

(b) 'Indefectibility' and 'infallibility' of the Church:

- the examination of these concepts as a means of seeing possibilities of future convergence as well as of determining present divergences.

- is the main difficulty the understanding of the concept of infallibility; or its Scripture-tradition support; or its concrete exercise up to the present?

Fr. E. Yarnold, S.J., has written a paper entitled 'A Note on Infallibility' (Paper III); the Revd. D.W. Allen has appended an Anglican comment on Fr. Yarnold's paper (Paper IV).

2.b.1. Location of infallibility within the Church:

- sensus fidelium
- collegium episcoporum and General Councils (marks of councils since East-West schism)
- Bishop of Rome

Fr. Benedict Green, C.R., has submitted a paper on 'The Location of Infallibility' (Paper V); Dom Alberic Stacpoole regrets very much not being in a position at the moment to write a paper, but he has very kindly sent some offprints of articles written by himself and others which will be available for consultation at the Venice conference.

2.b.2. Exercise of authority through infallibility:

Eric John, Esq., has written a paper, entitled, 'A note on medieval papalism' (Paper VI) dealing with Councils since the East-West schism and the exercise of authority; the Revd. R.J. Halliburton has written on the dogmas of the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption within the same context (Paper VII).

2.c. Problems concerning the non-infallible exercise of authority, doctrinal and disciplinary.

- authority as a ministry of reconciliation
  - Universal Church
  - Local Church
  - authority of charisms (the prophetic element) and of sound learning.
- } Synodal principle

Two papers are appended, the one by Canon Peter Walker, the other by Fr. Peter Harris.