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Co-Chairmen's Foreword

This Final Report of the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) represents a significant stage in ~~ecumenical~~ relations between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church. The decision by our respective authorities, made as long ago as 1967, to enter into serious dialogue in order to resolve long standing issues which have been at the origin of our separation, resulted in our concentration on three main areas of controversy: the doctrine of the Eucharist, Ministry and Ordination, and the nature and exercise of Authority in the Church.

This dialogue, however, has been directed not merely to the achievement of doctrinal agreement, which is central to our reconciliation, but to the far greater goal of ~~the restoration, in organic unity, of full communion between our churches.~~ The convergence reflected in our Statements would appear to call for the establishing of a new relationship between our churches as a ^{next} ~~further~~ stage in the journey towards Christian unity. It is also our hope that they will be of service to all those who are equally engaged in this enterprise throughout the world and whose labours have greatly aided our deliberations.

It is in this spirit that we submit this Report to our authorities. Our agreement still needs to be tested, but in 1981 it has become abundantly clear that, under the Holy Spirit, our churches have grown ^{down together} (in communion both) in faith and charity. ^{is mutual} Expectations are high that significant initiatives ^{will} ~~should~~ be boldly undertaken to deepen our reconciliation and lead us forward ^{in the quest for} ~~towards the~~ full communion to which, ^{in dependence to God} from the very beginning of our dialogue, we have been ~~totally~~ committed.

It is the ~~express~~ conviction of the Commission that our doctrinal agreements "express.... a unity at the level of faith which not only justifies but requires action to bring about a closer sharing between our two communions in life, worship and mission" (Authority in the Church, para.25).

H.R.McAdoo, Archbishop of Dublin

Alan C.Clark, Bishop of East Anglia

CO-CHAIRMEN