

Windsor 3

2.9.81
10.10 pm

ARCIC 253/2

PRESS RELEASE

The Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission held its final meeting at St George's House, Windsor, from August 25th to September 3rd. The Final Report was completed. It contains material already agreed on the eucharist, ministry and authority in the Church, but also substantial new material both completing and elucidating the authority Statement.

The present Commission's work is now finished and its results must be judged by the Churches of the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church. On this judgement will depend the next steps to be taken towards unity.

The Final Report is addressed to the authorities of these Churches who must receive it before it is published for more general discussion. The future of the report would be prejudiced by premature partial accounts of its content.

One of the main results of the Commission's work in four meetings in the last 12 months has been the clarification of the questions it has been examining since the publication of the Venice Statement on authority in 1976 and equally of the meaning of the key words contained in the questions. These questions are: the interpretation of the Petrine texts, the meaning of the language of 'divine right', the affirmation of papal infallibility and the nature of the jurisdiction ascribed to the Bishop of Rome as universal primate. After five years of further study the Commission is able to present a fresh appraisal of their weight and implications.

On the 1st of September the Commission was received at Lambeth Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury who awarded the Co-Chairmen (Rt.Rev. Alan Clark, Bishop of East Anglia, and the Most Reverend Henry McAdoo, Archbishop of Dublin) the Lambeth Cross and to the other members the Cross of St Augustine as a sign of his appreciation of the Commission's achievement during its 12 years work towards the unity of the two Churches. Archbishop Derek Worlock (Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool) spent the last evening with the Commission at Windsor and brought the blessing and good wishes of Pope John Paul II, together with copies of the new Vatican edition of the Vulgate for presentation to the Anglican members.