

ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

Third Meeting - Windsor 1st-8th September
1971

Report onAnglican-Roman Catholic National Commissions, 1970-1A. EUROPE1. England and Wales

Sub-Commissions of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Roman Catholic Relations and of the Roman Catholic Ecumenical Commission for England and Wales have met in April and October 1970, and in February and June 1971. The subjects it has discussed include Mixed Marriages, the Eucharist, and the Venice Papers on Eucharist, Ministry, and Authority.

2. Scotland

The Joint Study Group has been preparing a statement on the Venice papers.

3. Belgium

The Anglican Roman Catholic Working Group have conducted surveys to discover how much members of their churches know of the other, and their attitudes to the possibility, or obstacles in the way of re-union. The Belgian Episcopate has been asked to give permission for Anglicans to communicate in R.C. Churches.

One group of Anglicans and Roman Catholics has decided to form a 'parish without boundaries', worshipping alternately in each other's church each month, and meeting for discussion and prayer together.

The Working Group is planning a further series of doctrinal and practical discussions beginning in the Autumn of 1971.

Anglican-Roman Catholic relations were greatly encouraged by the visit of the Archbishop of York to Cardinal Suenens in May 1971.

4. France

The Anglican-Roman Catholic Working Party was set up at the end of 1969 to study pastoral and other questions. It has met in Paris in January 1970, at Nice in May 1970, when a resolution was passed concerning admission to the Sacraments of isolated Anglicans, and forwarded to the Roman Catholic and Anglican authorities concerned. Further meetings were held at Versailles in November 1970 and at Nice in May 1971. It was

reported that the Anglican authorities had approved the resolution concerning Admission to the Sacraments of isolated Anglicans in France. It was still being considered by the French Roman Catholic Hierarchy.

5. Germany

Note should be taken of the Benedictine Abbey of St. Matthias, Trier, which is devoting itself to the study of Anglicanism and the promotion of Anglican-Roman Catholic Relations. In this context it has offered two Scholarships annually to Anglican priests or ordinands, and the first two such have been appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Academic Year 1971-2 to study at the University of Trier and the Liturgical Institute.

B. AMERICA

1. United States

The A.R.C. has continued to meet. A.R.C. IX in January 1971 was devoted to the subject of 'Authority', including the question of Papal Primacy of Jurisdiction.

2. Central and South America

In February 1971 ten Roman Catholic Bishops representing the Latin American Bishops' Council and ten Anglican Bishops from Central and South America met for a week's Conference at Bogotá, Colombia. The Conference studied four main subjects: The Holy Scriptures; relations between Anglicans and Roman Catholics in Latin America; authority, ministry, and the Sacraments; mutual co-operation in mission. There was also some discussion of mixed marriages.

As a result of this Conference it is hoped that a dialogue will be set up between Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops in Honduras.

C. AFRICA

1. Tanzania

The Ecumenical Commission of the Anglican Diocese of Masasi and the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Ndanda and Nachingwea, which was set up in 1967, has in 1970 continued its efforts to arrive at a "Common Form of Faith". This was finally abandoned after a year had been spent on it, but it was felt that it had been a valuable exercise and had cleared up many misunderstandings. In 1971 the Commission has been studying Baptism, and also the Venice papers. A common marriage discipline has been worked out, Joint Pastoral Letters are issued by the Bishops, and Common Parish Councils are being encouraged.

The Commission hopes and prays that the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission will be able to recommend that positive steps can be taken which would lead to Communion between the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches as at present enjoyed by the Eastern Rite Catholics.

2. Malawi

A Roman Catholic/Anglican Commission is meeting and has been concerned to promote joint lay discussion groups.

3. South Africa

The Anglican Roman Catholic Commission has continued to meet in May 1970 and in February and May 1971. It has discussed and commented on the Venice Papers and on the Norwich Statement on the Eucharist. It has prepared material on "A comparison of our various Eucharistic Rites" for the Windsor meeting of the A.R.C.I.C. in September 1971. It has also prepared questions

for discussion by local groups about Unity, intercommunion, and marriage and divorce. It has also discussed Baptism, Mixed Marriages, Priesthood, and Anglican Orders.

D. ASIA

1. Papua and New Guinea

A Joint Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission has been set up by the Anglican Bishop of New Guinea and the Roman Catholic Bishops of Papua and New Guinea. It met first in November 1970 and again in February 1971. Subjects discussed include Baptism, Mixed Marriages, Social and Pastoral work, the reception of Communion in Roman Catholic Churches by Anglicans, and the Venice papers.

2. South Pacific

The South Pacific Anglican Council has set up a Joint Commission with the Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference of the Pacific. Its first meeting is due to take place in the Summer of 1971.