

A/R.C.T.C. 41A
Superseded

PRESS RELEASE

"We believe that we have reached substantial agreement on the doctrine of the eucharist". This is the conclusion of the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission after its third meeting at St. George's House, Windsor, from the 1st to the 8th September. The members agreed unanimously to a statement on eucharistic doctrine which they now have to submit to their respective authorities for their consideration. The Commission, which began work in January 1970, considers that its agreement this week marks an important stage in the fulfilment of the task assigned to it by the leaders of the two communions, namely, the preparation of the way for organic unity. This first step in effect makes it possible for the Commission to seek a similar consensus agreement on the ministry which will be its main doctrinal pre-occupation from now until its next meeting next September.

At the same time the Commission recognises that the work of the theologians is only one part of the process of growing together. Relations at the local level are just as important. This is why the Commission also discussed such subjects as common worship, the collaboration of christian relief agencies, and the attitude of church members to one another. It was felt that an indispensable preparation for healing divisions would be to discover more about the nature and extent of these divisions, about how they affect various kinds of people in both our churches. They considered (and commended) the use which might be made of the techniques of sociological investigation.

It became apparent that the success which the talks achieved was largely due to the members' friendship, complete frankness in discussion, prayer together, and, above all, their deep will to reach agreement.