

PRESS RELEASE

"We believe that we have reached substantial agreement on the doctrine of the eucharist". This conclusion, which is of vital importance to Anglican/Roman Catholic relations, was reached by 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 a 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 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 in September 1972.

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 considered the bearing of its work on such subjects as common worship, the collaboration of christian relief agencies, and the continual battle against prejudice and misinformation. They considered that a useful preparation for healing divisions would be to discover more about these divisions, which are social and cultural as well as theological.