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TO ALL MEMBERS OF ARCIC-II

The ARCIC sub-commission met, as planned, at Pleshey, March 4 - 8, to work on the Durham drafts (ARCIC-II 30/1 (84)) in the light of comments received and with a view to preparing a solid paper for the meeting of the full Commission next August. The sub-commission members were the Co-Chairmen and Co-Secretaries, with Professor Chadwick, Mr. Charley, Professor Wright, Fr. Akpunonu, Sr. Boulding, Fr. Tillard and Fr. Yarnold.

Good progress was made on much of the document, but there was insufficient time for a revision of the whole. The introductory paragraphs (setting out the problematic), the section on the link between the Church and justification, the Scriptural treatment of justification, and some of the relevant theological questions have been re-worked; but the sub-commission realised that the later paragraphs (23-25) on assurance, merit and perseverance are in need of considerable clarification, not least the overlap between n.23 and n.25.

Members will remember that there was some debate in Durham about the order of the material; should Church be treated before or after Justification? At Pleshey it was at first thought that since the Church in fact both precedes and follows Justification, the draft might reflect this by introducing the theme of the Church before the treatment of Justification and then concluding with more developed treatment of the Church. But there was then a discussion of "Catholic practices" (purgatory, pardons etc.) and it became clear that if material on this were to follow that on Justification, it would be better if all the material on the Church came in the earlier part of the paper. The Co-Secretaries were therefore asked to re-insert the remaining material on the Church; these paragraphs had not been discussed in detail at Pleshey - we have therefore inserted the relevant paragraphs of the Durham text as an indication of the logical thrust of the whole document and not as completed drafts (they are inset in the text to make this distinction clearer).

It was also felt that the concluding paragraphs at the end of the Introduction (6) and II (11-12) of the Durham material involved some repetition, and also needed the addition of a passage on the equal standing of all the justified

before God - thus suggesting the contemporary relevance of this study for a divided world. For this reason the unrevised text of the previous concluding paragraphs is added at the end of the enclosed text.

Various members have therefore been asked to prepare, in good time for the Commission meeting, a revised draft text on the Church as Sign and Steward, etc. (Fr. Yarnold, Canon Hill) and a possible concluding section (some members not present at the sub-commission meeting have been asked to do this). Mr. Charley and Sister Boulding are to correspond about "Catholic practices", stating both the difficulties and the Catholic position as briefly and sharply as possible; it is hoped that this will lead to suggestions for brief additions at various stages of the text which will show that the Commission has not ignored these issues, while avoiding disguising the main doctrinal thrust of the whole text by an over-long treatment of them at this stage.

It would be a great help to the Co-Secretaries (and to the whole Commission!) if this work, and other work previously asked of individual members, could be sent to Lambeth or Rome by mid-June. Any comments members may wish to send on the Pleshey drafts would also be welcome by that date.

The Co-Chairman and Co-Secretaries had long discussions about the meeting at Graymoor, August 27 - September 5, and were greatly helped by the presence of Professor Wright, to whom with Bishop Lessard ARCIC is much indebted. The Commission can rest assured that its work-programme will be the first consideration in all planning of the meeting, and that any hospitality, meeting with ARCs etc, will be so arranged as not to interrupt the work. Once further arrangements have been made with our hosts in the United States a further circular will be sent to members of the Commission. In the meantime there are three points members will like to know:

- (a) There is a strong chance of some hospitality in New York itself being offered to those members who so desire in the days just before and just after the meeting.
- (b) It is likely there may be requests for some members to "show the flag" by giving talks in the area just before or after the meeting. It would be helpful for the Secretaries to know of any members willing to accept such invitations.
- (b) Graymoor is some distance from New York; we have offers of assistance with transportation from airport

to Graymoor. Once arrangements have been finalized, we shall be able to let you know whom to inform of your estimated time of arrival (copies of such letters to one or other of the Co-Secretaries would be a help).

Dick S

Chwick

Note

We enclose the following (for members who have not already received copies):

ARCIC-II 35 (85) "Notes on ARCIC-II Drafts on 'Church and Salvation'" by Bishop Donald Cameron (These are comments on the Durham text ARCIC-II 30/1 (84) and reached England in time to be considered by members of the Pleshey Sub-Commission)

"Towards a Church of England Response to BEM and ARCIC" (CIO Publishing, 1985)

Information about the newly-established "Friends of the Anglican Centre"

Also attached is an announcement relating to "A Bibliography of Interchurch and Interconfessional Theological Dialogues", edited by J.F. Puglisi and S.J. Voicu. Members may also like to know that "Growth in Agreement: Reports and Agreed Statements of Ecumenical Conversations on a World Level", edited by Harding Meyer and Lukas Vischer (Paulist Press/WCC, 1984 - UK £9-95) contains nearly all the bilateral texts up to 1982 and also BEM.