

A PROPOSAL FROM THE SUB-COMMISSION ON 'STEPS AND STAGES'

Introduction

The following proposal was made by a sub-group and endorsed by the larger group for presentation to the full commission. The proposal is primarily that a report be prepared and published. Some tentative additional suggestions are also made.

1. The Malta Report was prepared in 1967 and signed on January 2nd, 1968. It made concrete recommendations on growing together by stages. We propose that twenty years later a similar report be published making practical suggestions about what is now possible and desirable that we do now in our Church life on the basis of the stage we have now reached, and particularly in the light of the new context being created by the reception of the Final Report.
2. Assuming positive responses to the Final Report we anticipate that many people will want to know what they can actually do in 1988 and the years immediately following. Our churches have been following a step by step approach towards full communion and it is in line with ARCIC-II's third mandate (i.e. "to recommend what practical steps will be necessary, when on the basis of our unity in faith, we are able to proceed to full communion") to recommend what practical steps are possible at the stage of partial communion, real but not yet perfect, that we shall have reached by 1988.
3. We propose that the report include a list of practical possibilities of what can be done even before the reconciliation and mutual recognition of ministries. These would be in part clearly interim steps made possible

precisely because we are journeying forward to full reconciliation. Others would grow from the recognition that here and now we have a present mission of common witness and service to the world and that the stage we have reached should enable us to do this more effectively together.

4. The Report should be based on

- The Malta Report
- The 1975 Statement on Collaboration at Regional, National and local levels
- The WCC/SPCU paper on Common Witness
- ARCIC-II's ideas of what are possibilities that could be realised (perhaps based on brainstorming at this 1985 meeting)
- Other resources as suggested by the Commission

5. It is recommended that ARCIC-II, at this meeting, or through the Chairmen shortly after this meeting, ask one or two members of ARCIC-II perhaps working in consultation with one or two other members, to prepare a draft paper for ARCIC-II's 1986 meeting. A substantial amount of time should be given to working on this during the 1986 meeting so that a final version could be approved at ARCIC-II's 1987 meeting for publication no later than January 2nd, 1988 - the twentieth anniversary of the publication (?signing) of the Malta Report - and in time for Lambeth 1988.

6. Additional suggestions. A. It might be found to be appropriate for the Archbishop of Canterbury to visit the Pope after Lambeth 1988. Perhaps they would want on that occasion to invite local churches to study

this report and to implement its recommendations in ways appropriate to their situation. It might even be better if the Pope and the Archbishop met in the context or on the occasion of a meeting of the Primates of the Anglican Communion with a similar number of Roman Catholic Primates or Presidents of Episcopal Conferences.

B. We would also expect to develop suggestions for local celebrations in 1988, 1989 or 1990 to mark the new stage in our growth in reconciliation.