

ANGLICAN-ROMAN CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION II

February 1989

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ANGLICAN-ROMAN CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

Last October the Co-Chairmen wrote to all the members of the Commission explaining the work that was to be done by three sub-commissions of ARCIC-II. All three sub-commissions have now met.

The first sub-commission met at Godalming, Surrey from 4th - 9th January. It had been asked to continue work on the Church and Communion text, consolidating and editing material prepared at Edinburgh. The Godalming Sub-Commission worked on the first part of the Edinburgh material (Church and Communion schema ARCIC-II 83/1 (88) parts I, II and III). A new introduction was drafted, the Biblical Basis material was shortened - in response to plenary request, and the Systematic Reflection was re-worked (Unity and Diversity appearing under Catholicity). The logic and thrust of the draft was carefully considered (for example the proper place for Elements of Ecclesial Communion). Material from 'Henry's Hiccough' was also incorporated. A re-drafted schema (which appears as the frontispiece to the whole Godalming-Ammerdown draft) was begun and continued at the second sub-commission meeting.

The second sub-commission met in Ammerdown, Somerset from 19th - 24th January and worked on Part V of the Church and Communion schema: Challenges to Communion ((a) and (b)). This sub-commission drew on the second part of the Authority and Communion material from Edinburgh (ARCIC-II 84(b) (88), as well as the Edinburgh text on Ordination of Women and Anglican Orders (ARCIC-II 77/2 (88), 78/1 (88), 78/2 (88), and plenary observations on this material. The results of these two sub-commissions is a composite text which we now enclose. Most of the Ammerdown material is a reworking of previous material integrating it in the overall theological perspective of communion. It should be noted, however, that sections 52-57 of the present draft which develops the theme of authority in the Church is basically new material. We also envisage a further section on differences on morals which would take up the fourth of the "challenges" to communion between Anglicans and Catholics, mentioned in section 43.

The membership of the sub-commission was as the Co-Chairmen wrote to you in October. The Co-Chairmen joined the Ammerdown Sub-Commission at the conclusion of its work to consider the prospects for the Venice meeting.

The Morals Sub-Commission itself met from 11th - 14th January in Rome. It has not yet completed a redraft of the Edinburgh text, since the Sub-Commission is still awaiting reactions and documentation that will be necessary

for the next draft. They will be meeting again in June and should have a new draft of a separate Morals papers ready for Venice and possible material for inclusion at the end of the Church and Communion text.

Regarding the material enclosed here, we would like to note one particular point: Part of the purpose of the material on authority in this paper is to meet the concerns of the official Anglican and Roman Catholic responses to the Final Report statements on Authority (See sections 46-51). Since the official Roman Catholic response is not yet published, for the purpose of the present draft we have referred to some of the published responses of Catholic episcopal conferences as well as to the Lambeth resolutions. The text will be adjusted as necessary when the official Catholic response is published later this year.

In sending this new draft to you, we want particularly to ask for reactions and comments to it. The Co-Secretaries will be meeting in June and it would be good if we could take the process a stage further by incorporating your 'non controversial' observations into the text at that state and marshalling more substantive amendments. We would ask you therefore to let either of us have your reactions to this text some time between now and the end of May. The Co-Chairmen hope that by this means we might envisage the completion of the document in Venice. The early meeting of the sub-commissions will, we hope, give you time to send your considered observations to us to enable a further stage to be completed in preparation for Venice.

*Kenn.*

Roman Catholic Co-Secretary



Anglican Co-Secretary