

31.8.77: 9.30 p.m.

ARCIC 173/Venice/1

Venice Para. 9.

Note: (1) The gatherings, councils or synods here discussed can be of very various kinds. In other words the principle of collective representation is capable of different realisations, and in fact is realised in different ways even within the limits of one of our existing "communions".

(2) "When they express the common faith and mind of the Church. The question has been asked: who determines whether in a given case a conciliar decision expresses this common mind and faith? In fact, the Church's judgement on this matter can be expressed in different ways. For instance, the rejection by the Church of the decision of the Council at Ephesus in 449 was expressed by the bishop of Rome. ^{In the case of the Council of Ariminum 3} ~~One can conceive of~~ such a rejection ^{was} ~~being~~ expressed by a spontaneous reaction of the Church at large. There may be a lapse of time before such rejection becomes manifest. But christian common sense recognises that a tranquil and consistent reception of a decision can quickly ^{put an end to} ~~be itself determinative of~~ all doubt.