

2.9.81:
9.25 p.m.

ARCIC 248 [Introduction &]Conclusion/3

[Link sentence with Authority I i.e. first para. of Authority II]

1. In our conclusion to the Venice Statement we affirmed that we had reached 'a consensus on authority in the Church and, in particular, on the basic principles of primacy', which we asserted to be of 'fundamental importance' (para. 24). Nevertheless we showed that four outstanding problems related to this subject required further study since, if they remained unresolved, they would appear to constitute serious obstacles to our growing together towards full communion. The four difficulties were the interpretation of the Petrine texts, the meaning of the language of 'divine right', the affirmation of papal infallibility and the nature of the jurisdiction ascribed to the Bishop of Rome as universal primate. After five years of further study we are able to present a fresh appraisal of their weight and implications.

[Re-number existing paras. 1-32 as 2-33]

[add to new para. 33]

Contemporary discussions of conciliarity and primacy in both communions indicate that we are not dealing with positions destined to remain static. We suggest that some difficulties will not be wholly resolved until a practical initiative has been taken and our two communions have lived together more visibly in the one koinonia.