

2.9.81:
9.50 a.m.

ARCIC 252/Chairmen's Letter/2

Co-Chairmen's Letter

As the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission concludes its twelve years of work, we the Co-Chairmen submit its Final Report in the hope that the Commission has faithfully discharged the task assigned it by the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion which appointed it. As Co-Chairmen we gladly respond to the joint invitation of Bishop John Howe, Secretary General of the Anglican Consultative Council and Bishop Ramon Torrella, Vice President of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity to make some suggestions concerning the reception of the Report and the possible task of a new commission.

We venture to suggest that the two following questions be put to the appropriate authorities in both our churches.

We ask whether the Agreed Statements on Eucharistic Doctrine, Ministry and Ordination and Authority in the Church (I and II), together with the Elucidations are consonant in substance with the faith of Anglicans?

We also ask whether the Final Report offers a sufficient basis for taking the next concrete step towards the reconciliation of our churches grounded in agreement in faith?

In the meantime even while these questions are being deliberated, we recommend the setting up of a new commission. On the basis of the Final Report, the work of this Commission would be to work out the implications of such reconciliation should our two churches respond favourably to the questions we pose. On the same basis, the new Commission could suggest the stages through which the two churches would eventually move towards organic unity in full communion and also the practical steps involved at each stage.