

5.9.73: 11.0 a.m.

17. We are fully aware of the issues raised by the papal judgement of 1896 that Anglican Orders are null and void (Apostolicae Curae). The development of the thinking in our two Communion regarding the nature of the Church and of the Ordained Ministry, as represented in our Statement, has bearing on these issues. The nature of ministry is prior to the consideration of the mutual recognition of Ministries. What we have to say on the doctrine of Ministry represents the consensus of the Commission on matters where it considers that doctrine admits no divergence. It will be clear that we have not yet broached the wide-ranging problems of authority which may arise in any discussion of ministry, nor the question of primacy. We are aware that present understanding of such matters remains an obstacle to the reconciliation of our churches in the one Communion we desire, and the Commission is now turning to the examination of the issues involved. Nevertheless we consider that our present consensus, on questions where agreement is indispensable for unity, offers a positive contribution to the reconciliation of our churches and of their ministries.