

SECOND MEETING OF THE ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR
THE SOUTH PACIFIC

(om The Rt. Revd. D.A. Rawcliffe, Anglican Secretary to the A/RC Commission for the South Pacific)
The second meeting of the Anglican/Roman Catholic Commission for the South Pacific was held on 3rd and 4th February 1974 at the Eveche at Vila, New Hebrides.

Those present were:

Bishop Louis Julliard, Bishop of Port-Vila (Roman Catholic Chairman)

Bishop John Chisholm, Bishop of Melanesia (Anglican Chairman)

The Revd.Fr. Verlingue

The Ven. Jabez Bryce

The Revd. Fr. John Bani

Bishop Derek Rawcliffe, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Melanesia

Bishop Darmancier of Wallis & Futuna was unable to attend owing to travel difficulties. His replacement, Archbishop Martin, secretary of CEPAC, was also unable to come because of a cyclone. The members regret the sad death of another member, the Revd.Fr. Alan Mackay, recently in a road accident.

The following recommendations were made by the Commission:

1. We welcome the Statement on the Ministry made by the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission and agree with it.
2. We welcome especially the emphasis given to the total ministry of the Church in its mission to the world and the part which the ordained ministry fulfils in this total ministry as a focus of leadership and unity.
3. We accept as sufficient the description of what our two traditions mean by the Apostolic Succession (Section 16).
4. However, bearing in mind the statement in Section 17 that the development of thinking in our two Communion has put the judgement on Anglican Orders by the Roman Catholic Church in Apostolicae Curae in a new context, we respectfully ask the Pope to declare that Apostolicae Curae does not apply to the present situation. We believe that our people require a new answer to the old question of the validity of Anglican Orders before we can move forward to organic unity.
5. We repeat that our aim as a Commission is to work towards the organic unity of the two Churches, with respect for their traditions and local custom, following the lead given by Pope Paul VI in his words at the Canonisation of the English Martyrs: "There will be no seeking to lessen the legitimate prestige and the worthy patrimony of piety and usage proper to the Anglican Church when the Roman Catholic Church -- this humble 'Servant of the servants of God' -- is able to embrace her ever beloved sister in the one authentic Communion of the family of Christ: a communion of origin and of faith, a communion of priesthood and of rule, a communion of the saints in the freedom of love of the spirit of Jesus" and the ideas expressed by Cardinal Willebrands in his address at Cambridge in January, 1970.
6. We agree to continue our pastoral ministry to one another in our area under the control of the local bishops.
7. We agree to meet again when the International Commission has produced its next document on authority.

Footnote

The Roman Catholic delegates made the following suggestion as a means by which Recommendation No. 4 might be implemented: "that the use of the formula 'ecclesia supplet', which is admitted inside the Catholic Church wherever there are doubts about the validity of sacraments, be applied to what happened at the time of the Reformation in the Catholic Church in England."