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TO ALL MEMBERS OF ARCIC

Following the postponement of the plenary meeting of ARCIC due to the death of Pope Paul VI and the election of Pope John Paul I, the ad hoc meeting of ARCIC requested by many members duly took place at London Colney, St. Albans, England, from 4th - 7th September. The following members could not be present: Archbishop McAdoo, Bishop Knapp-Fisher, Professor Fairweather, Fr. Ahern, Dr. Ryan, Fr. Duprey and Fr. Tavad.

Bishop Clark took the chair and after initial discussion as to the most profitable use of the time available it was agreed to concentrate on work on the response to criticisms of the Canterbury Statement, in the hope that at the postponed plenary meeting in January it might be possible to finalise ARCIC's Responsio on Windsor (cf. Draft Response to the Eucharist Statement: Mill Hill ARCIC 192) and Canterbury with a view to publication. (The Anglican Co-Chairman concurred with this hope.) The result is the enclosed Draft Response to the Ministry Statement: London Colney ARCIC 195/6.

Work proceeded on the basis of the Chichester Sub-Commission's final document, ARCIC 173/Canterbury/7 and the schema "The Response to the Ministry Statement: A Tentative Draft Outline" (Damascus House - ARCIC 193). The meeting divided into two Sub-Commissions under the chairmanship of Arthur Vogel and Henry Chadwick. The former tackled the problem of the relation between the priesthood of the whole people of God and the priesthood of the ordained ministry (using and adding to the Chichester material); the sacramental nature of the rite of ordination (using material supplied at the meeting by Henry Chadwick and Edward Yarnold); and the origin and development of the ordained ministry (again building on Chichester work). The latter drafted new material on the ordination of women and began work on the question of Anglican Orders.

The London Colney group were very aware of the inadequacy of the document and felt in particular that work still needed to be done on the significance of tradition, on apostolic succession, and on Anglican Orders. This they hope may be done in January.

For reasons of climate and the convenience of members, the January meeting will probably take place from the evening of Friday, 12th January until after breakfast on Saturday, 20th January IN ENGLAND. The August-September meeting will then take place from 28th August - 6th September IN ITALY. It is hoped that members will make a special effort to be present at the postponed meeting in January in view of the hope to complete the Windsor and Canterbury responses. Details will follow shortly.

Finally, I enclose the Lambeth Conference Resolution on the work of ARCIC for those who were not at London Colney.

With warm best wishes,

CHRISTOPHER HILL