

30th January 1976

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This morning I telephoned Canon John Arnold and told him of my two conversations with Bishop Howe about following up the General Synod's request for ecumenical consultation on the Ordination of Women. The "Yes and No: How?" could usefully be a Pan-Anglican one for bilateral discussion with Roman Catholics and for reference to the Commission for AOJDD, and for reference to bilateral conversations with Old Catholics, Lutherans, etc., (but David Chaplin before briefing me about South America yesterday afternoon had indicated that there was not likely to be a further meeting of the Anglican/Lutheran Working Group following "Pullach" for another three years.). I told Canon Arnold that we had felt that the "Yes/No" question was properly one for the Church of England but we had not seen how the Church of England (BMU) could answer the General Synod's request for ecumenical consultation on it. Either this consultation would be an ecumenical rerun of the General Synod's own debate or it would be an anticipation of the study of the subject which the Orthodox and Roman Catholics wished to make within their own Communion. Canon Arnold agreed that the General Synod's resolution did not look realisable : this was the trouble with resolutions drafted on the floor of the House. He would think further about this.

I told Canon Arnold about the Archbishop's letter from Dr Albert van den Heuvel about Fr. Yakunin and Fr. Dudko. He agreed that I could usefully acknowledge it on the Archbishop's behalf if His Grace approved, and simply say that I was making enquiries. I ought also to ask who else had received copies of the letter. He himself would be on his guard if the letter was referred to him by any Church of England delegates who had been at Nairobi. He thought the whole subject could usefully be discussed between the Archbishop of Canterbury and Metropolitan Anthony when they met. (Another subject for that meeting is the future of Fr. Rodzianko.)

Canon Arnold told me that he would send me a copy of a letter he had had from the Bishop of Leicester saying that he would raise with the Archbishop the question of the Church of England Chairmanship of the C. of E./EKD Talks. The new Bishop of Bristol (Bishop Tinsley) seemed to be a good possibility, but the Bishop of Leicester had hinted that he himself hoped to remain involved in the Talks for another couple of years. I said that if there were a Lambeth Conference in 1978 it was likely that the Talks would have to be postponed to 1979. This was also true of the Archbishop's possible visit to Poland, Czechoslovakia, or Hungary.

Finally I told Canon Arnold of my proposed visit around the world at Easter 1976.

J
M.M.