

18th April 1978

Many thanks for the information on Venice. Unfortunately there is no midday flight from London on a Wednesday. The 0800 is all right for those in London (just about!), but not so good from Oxford or Manchester, let alone Dublin! It might be that some of us would like to come on the Tuesday flight 1355-1700 direct. I will let you know the views of those concerned.

Two matters:

1. Do we now have agreement about the sending of the Archiepiscopal/Papal correspondence to Primates/Presidents of Episcopal Conferences, etc? Bishop Howe has happily accepted the text of my draft I sent you. I imagine your draft for Bishop Torrella or Cardinal Willebrands is also pretty well the one that will be sent out on the Secretariat side. Would you suggest a date so that we can co-ordinate the sending out of the four letters and the covering letter. Perhaps Pentecost might be the time to aim for. I imagine we then allow a week or two weeks before publication through appropriate Information Offices, etc. I think Pierre said something about the Osservatore for the Roman side of things.

2. I have had some discussion with Bishop Howe and told him of Cardinal Willebrands' initial difficulties over paragraph 6. Anglicans will have no problem over calling the Statement a Report. Bishop Howe is very firm in his belief that it must go to the Bishops at Lambeth in one way or another. I think Cardinal Willebrands may be forgetting that the document is a joint one, yet if it is released confidentially to the Lambeth Fathers this will in effect be publication, as the sessions will not be held in camera. It would be better to have a published text rather than a journalistic report on references made to a text by the Bishops. Would it help you and Pierre if Bishop Howe were to write a tactful but firm letter to the Cardinal? Give me a ring if you would like me to suggest this to Bishop Howe.

More positively, there is no problem over a firm statement that the Report only carries the authority of its authors. If something like the disclaimers published with the ARCIC Statements were added, this might be acceptable on our side as well. If we could manage to get a joint note on the status of the Report, this would clearly be an advantage.

One further matter which I have also raised in a letter to Pierre (on a perpetual Orthodox student on whom I have asked for advice) is whether Yves Congar is prepared to sign the document with the other participants. I imagine Jacques Desseaux could find this out.

Finally, is my collated version of your revised text and my final text from Versailles textus receptus?

We are in the middle of a crisis here, as the visit of Pope Shenouda to the Archbishop has just had to be cancelled because of his serious slipped disc. Michael is in Scandinavia so I am dealing with matters Oriental!

With warm best wishes,



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