

Suggested addition (and some amendments) to the draft covering letter which is to go to the Primates with the Versailles Report

Keep the first two short paragraphs as they are except that association should be replaced by "consultation" in the last sentence of para 2.

Then the following suggested addition comes here:

"During this Consultation the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity expressed some anxiety about whether paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Report lived up to the expressed intention of 'posing the problem in its clearest form' as well as did the earlier paragraphs notably 2 and 3.

"In particular they were anxious lest in a discussion aimed at determining 'To what extent and in what ways churches with women priests and churches without women priests can be reconciled in sacramental fellowship' the Catholic position on the different question of the rights and wrongs of ordaining women to the priesthood - a question explicitly excluded from the Versailles Terms of Reference - should appear as unclear and somehow provisional: a view they would repudiate. Having been assured by those Secretariat staff members who had taken part that paragraphs 6 and 7 were not intended to detract from paragraphs 2 and 3 and that the developments spoken of in paragraphs 6 and 7 refer only to further progress in the relations of our churches, the Secretariat agree to the present distribution on the understanding (present from the beginning) that the Report should carry only the authority of the members of the Versailles Consultation."

Then they suggested cutting out the first sentence of the next paragraph about Fr. Congar and ending with the "footnote on page "

Then he suggests you remove the text of the terms of reference as they come earlier now.

Finally they suggest you remove the reference to William Purdy being at the Lambeth Conference (but as Bill Purdy has told CJH this is without prejudice to somebody being able to speak at Lambeth about it.)

Phoned by Wm. Purdy from Rome 23/6/78.