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^{Guardian}
Women 27/7/78**'no block
to unity'**

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Bishops of the Anglican communion, who are due to discuss at the Lambeth Conference next week the ordination of women to the priesthood, have been told that Roman Catholics are probably not intractable on this traditional stumbling block to unity. A document drawn up by an official consultation between Anglican and Roman Catholic representatives on the controversial issue clearly hints that there is "ground for hope."

The document says two things encourage the — things encourage the senior churchmen to believe it might still be possible.

First, the conviction by those Anglican churches which had ordained women that they had not departed from the traditional understanding of apostolic ministry. Secondly, that the recent Roman Catholic declaration on the subject "does not affirm explicitly that this matter is *de jure divino* (of divine law)".

Significantly, the document adds: "These facts would seem not to exclude the possibility of future development." It goes on: "These developments might well be stimulated by deeper dialogue on those noticeable differences which have been emphasised by this new obstacle — matters such as human sexuality, culture and tradition, freedom and authority, among others. Simultaneously despite the difficulty in this issue, both Anglicans and Roman Catholics feel themselves committed to continue exploring the new shapes of ministry to which the Holy Spirit may be calling them, as well as to a new sense of unity with one another."