

# Actions of Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Regarding the ARC VII Statement and the Bea Letter

(Excerpt)

XIX) *Anglican Consultation*. The committee reviewed the report drawn up at the seventh session of this dialogue. It was pointed out that this report was forwarded to the international dialogue, meeting in England in January. That group affirmed the goal of Anglican-Roman Catholic relations to be "full organic union of our two communions" much as ARC affirmed the goal to be "the realization of full communion." The Anglican participants are referring the ARC VII report to their General Convention through their Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations. In parallel fashion this report is being submitted to the BCEIA.

The following resolution was moved and ordered: BE IT RESOLVED that the BCEIA gratefully and enthusiastically accepts the ARC report, considers it to be a very significant report and will give it very serious consideration.

Kansas City—March 18, 1970

At the March 3, 1971 plenary meeting of the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, a motion was approved to offer the assistance of the Committee and its staff to dioceses or regions which would wish to have Anglican/Roman Catholic Bishops retreats or days of recollection. This action was taken after discussion of the positive experiences shared by the participants in the May 1970 joint retreat. Support for similar events for priests and the laity was included in the action.

Jackson, Mississippi, January 5, 1968

ACTION OF THE EPISCOPAL GENERAL CONVENTION,  
Houston, Texas, Oct. 1970

(Excerpt)

## 5. Relations with the Roman Catholic Church

Whereas, Official representatives of this Church and of the

Roman Catholic Church in the United States have, in seven sessions of the joint Anglican/Roman Catholic Commission (ARC), made great progress in mutual understanding and agreement, notably in regard to the nature of Baptism, Holy Communion, and the Church as Eucharistic Community; and

*Whereas*, The seventh meeting of ARC, held in December, 1969, adopted a significant document which reported the progress to date, defined the goal as "full communion and organic unity," and affirmed that "nothing in the course of this serious enterprise has emerged which would cause us to think that this goal is unattainable"; and

*Whereas*, The Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs of the Roman Catholic Church voted on March 18, 1970, that it "gratefully and enthusiastically accepts the ARC report, considers it to be a significant report, and will give it very serious consideration"; and

*Whereas*, The Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations also gives its enthusiastic approval, and asks the General Convention "to endorse the report and to implement it by adopting the recommendations in its final section"; now be it

*Resolved*, That this 63rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church

(1) Gratefully and enthusiastically accept the report of the Anglican/Roman Catholic Commission, as incorporated in the Report of the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations;

(2) Endorse the progress along the lines of the joint Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission;

(3) Direct the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations to continue its participation in the joint Anglican/Roman Catholic Commission, looking toward the defined goal of full communion and organic unity between the Churches of the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church; and

(4) Authorize and direct the Executive Council to cooperate with the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations in the implementation of the programs recommended by the Anglican/Roman Catholic Commission, especially as set forth in paragraphs

4, 5, 6, and 11 of Section D of the report, relating to joint clergy conferences, sharing in theological training, cooperation between staff personnel in the areas of adult education, professional leadership training, education of the young, missions, and other means of diffusing ecumenical knowledge and understanding through our Churches at all levels.