

**Office of Information and Communication of the
International Old Catholic Bishops' Conference
Of the Union of Utrecht**

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Correction of the report about the meeting of the Old Catholic relief agencies

During the last few weeks a report of the meeting of the Old Catholic relief agencies has been published in several Old Catholic church newspapers. In this report, extremely tendentious and incorrect statements were made about a request of the International Bishops' Conference (IBC), which Archbishop Vercaemmen presented to the agencies' representatives. The IBC protests against the manner in which its work and its request have been portrayed in these reports.

The meeting in question was an informal gathering of representatives of the different Old Catholic relief agencies. This "International Old Catholic Welfare Board" has neither statutes nor any other form of official recognition. It is not an official international body.

Archbishop Vercaemmen took part in this informal meeting to discuss the idea of a fund for the building up of churches – informally, in accordance with the character of the meeting. The money from this fund should first of all benefit the communities in Italy. Later it should be possible for it to be allocated to other churches in formation for a certain length of time.

Naturally, the IBC welcomes the contact between the relief agencies und their endeavour to work together in order to coordinate the present projects. It wishes to cooperate with the relief agencies, within the framework of its own work, on the national and international level, and to discuss specific projects with them. This is only possible with mutual respect, which was sadly missing on the side of the relief agencies at this meeting and in the subsequent reporting. The IBC regrets this very much.

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