

APPENDIX C

THE IRISH CHURCHES' COUNCIL FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO AFFAIRS

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2001

MEMBERSHIP

Roman Catholic Church

Fr Martin Clarke (Chairman)
Rev Michael Melvin SVD
Sr Marie Stuart
Mr Ronan Mullen
Fr Tom Hayes
Vacancy

Church of Ireland

Dr Valerie Jones (Honorary Secretary)
Vacancy

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Vacancy

Methodist Church in Ireland

Rev Dr John Parkin

The Religious Society of Friends/Irish Council of Churches

Margaret M King

Secretary/Treasurer

Ms Mary Linton

PERSONALIA

During the year a number of changes occurred in our membership. The Very Rev Maurice Carey resigned having retired from the full-time ministry. We are very grateful to him for his support over the years and wish him well in his retirement. We welcome Margaret King as the representative of The Religious Society of Friends/Irish Council of Churches and thank Philip Jacob for his contribution during his three-year term of membership.

SUBMISSION ON BROADCASTING BILL

Following meetings of representatives of ICCTRA with officials of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands the chairman wrote to the Minister re amendments to the Bill and summarising the points made by ICCTRA members in discussion.

RTE

ICCTRA has been asked by RTE to become associated with the Father Joe Dunn Radharc Award, established to honour the memory of the maker of the outstanding Radharc series of religious television programmes. It is envisaged that the Award will be presented annually for a programme dealing with a sociological problem of significant proportions in any part of the world, highlighting issues of social justice.

ANNUAL AWARDS FOR RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING

Following discussions with Fr Gary Howley of the Religious Press Association it was decided that ICCTRA would provide awards and members would act as adjudicators for the following categories of religious broadcasting in the RPA's annual competition:

Category 1 - Main Award for Personal Contribution to Religious Communication

Category 2 - Best Television Programme addressing a Religious Issue

Category 3 - Best Radio Programme on the National Stations addressing a Religious Issue

Category 4 - Best Programme Broadcast on Local Radio addressing a Religious Issue

We are glad to report that this new dimension to the annual RPA competition was most successful.

LOCAL RADIO

In April 2000 ICCTRA was informed by Fr John Dardis that an ecumenical group representing the Catholic Archdiocese, a number of religious orders and the Church of Ireland, was examining the feasibility of applying to the IRTC for a special interest licence for the Dublin area. Subsequently the group decided not to pursue the matter when it became known that only a medium wave band would be available.

CHURCHES ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR LOCAL BROADCASTING (CACLB)

We continue to be a member of this United Kingdom body and through this association to keep in touch with developments in local broadcasting. In June 2000 Dr Valerie Jones attended the CACLB Conference in Swanwick as a representative of the Church of Ireland Broadcasting Committee.