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PRESS RELEASE: ISLAMIC-CATHOLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE

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With the help of Almighty God and with the generous invitation from the Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe (FIOE), the Islamic - Catholic Liaison Committee held its eighth meeting in Markfield-UK, 2 -3 Jumada I st 1423 equivalent to 12 - 13 July 2002. The Islamic delegation was headed by H.E. Prof. Kamel AL-Sharif Secretary General of the International Islamic Council for Da'wah and Relief. Cairo- Egypt. H.E. Cardinal Francis Arinze, President of the Pontifical Council, headed the Catholic delegation for Interreligious Dialogue, Holy See. The topics addressed during the meeting, were Religion and Racism and Towards a Culture of Dialogue. After discussion of these topics and further exchanges on matters of mutual concern the Committee agreed upon the following:

- 1. We affirm that our religions both teach that Almighty God has created all people equal in dignity, and therefore we reject every form of racism.
- 2. We condemn the racist practices which exist today in many societies and we accept our responsibility to endeavour to eliminate misconceptions and prejudices which in turn generate racial discrimination.
- 3. We call upon individuals, educational and social institutions, and the media to join this effort against racism.
- 4. We believe that adherence to religious values and engaging in dialogue to achieve mutual understanding and mutual respect are conducive to a world of justice and peace.
- 5. We commit ourselves to continue to promote a culture of dialogue and to work together in order to introduce this culture of dialogue into our respective communities and more specifically in educational and cultural programmes.

Dr Kamil al-Sharif
Head of the Islamic Delegation

Cardinal Francis Arinze
Head of the Catholic Delegation

Prof. Dr Hamid A. al-Rifaie

Mgr Michael L. Fitzgerald

Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

President of the International Islamic Forum for Dialogue

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