

A PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP. THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AND THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE 1960s

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Abstract: In the interwar period, there was a certain proximity between the Romanian Orthodox Church and the Anglican Church, materialized at that time through bilateral visits at the highest level, such as that of Patriarch Miron Cristea in 1936, and discussions on theological themes that emphasized the elements of doctrine and worship similar for the two churches.

However, the fracture produced by the Second World War, then the establishment of a regime of Soviet inspiration in Romania, have tempered, almost canceled these links. Moreover, in the years of consolidation of the new regime, its antioccidental phobia and gross interference in the affairs of various denominations and ecclesiastical institutions contributed further to the alienation of the two Churches.

All these drawbacks had to be recovered through a mutual effort, which happened after 1960 and especially at the middle of the decade, taking full advantage of a certain conjuncture of Romania's political relations with the West and a certain course of his foreign policy intentions. As such, the mutual visits of theologians have resumed, the doctrinal discussions on remote scenarios of union have become constant, the activity of the Romanian Orthodox parish in London has intensified, and the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury in Bucharest in 1965, and of the Patriarch Justinian in London in 1966, marked an apogee of this evolution.

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