*Osservatore Romano*, September 6, 1934, page 2

Headline: “Protestant Controversies: The Council of Fanoe and German Protestantism”

Text: In recent days the Ecumenical Council of Christian Churches was held on the Island of Fanoe, at which the “Bishop” of the Reich, Dr. Mueller, was represented at the last moment by senior ecclesiastical counselor Birnbaum.

The “Bishop” of Chichester, Dr. Bell, presented the following resolution, which was approved unanimously, despite the opposition of the German delegation: “. . . The Council has the right speak its opinion strongly on the current situation of the German Protestant Church. Thus we condemn the autocratic governance, which is incompatible with the principles of the Christian Church, above all when this governance is tied to the dangerous two-person assembly constituted of Mr. Hitler and the Reich Bishop. We concentrate our attacks against the lack of liberty and we invoke the name of the Gospel to obtain . . . that the German opposition be fully recognized and to express our sympathy with all the Christians of Germany in order to show our desire to have relations with all of them . . . Finally we give plenary power to our Executive Committee to follow the situation in Germany and to send delegations, and to correspond with all elements of the German Church.”

The Council finally called Pastor Kich, president of the German opposition church, to participate as a member of the Ecumenical Council.

The “National Newspaper” (*Nationalzeitung*) of Essen has published an official communiqué of the German Protestant Church containing responses to all the accusations made by the resolutions of the Ecumenical Council, mentioning that in Nazi Germany there is “practical and positive Christianity” and emphasizing the whole campaign conducted against immorality and for the protection of the family. “We will continue our path – concludes the communiqué – and also, in our relations toward the Ecumenical Council and the opinions that prevail there, we will keep our decisions.”