

STATEMENT

On

SOUTH AFRICAN CATHOLIC DEFENCE LEAGUE

SACBC Plenary Session, February 1979

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference wishes to make clear that the so-called South African Catholic Defence League has official standing in the catholic Church.

The Conference has taken note of the activities of the League, particularly in the field of publication, its endeavours to influence overseas opinion, its attacks on bishops in their corporate or individual capacity and the use of the regrettable tactic of equating concern for social justice with a Communist or Marxist commitment.

The Bishops' Conference draws the attention of the media and other bodies to the unrepresentative character of the South African Catholic Defence League and calls upon Catholics to recognise that the league has placed itself in strident opposition to the Bishops of the local churches through whom their communion with the Bishop of Rome and the universal Church is assured.

The activities of the South African Catholic Defence League are entirely repudiated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference.