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ADVENTSKERK ASSEN

The Prime Minister of Sweden
Mr C Bildt
S - 103 33 Stockholm
SWEDEN

(by telefax 09-46.8.7231171)

INGEKOMEN 2 9 DEC. 1993

25 November 1993

Your Excellency,

As partners in the covenant formed by the signatories of the Charter of Groningen, we strongly protest against the breaking of the sanctuary at the Alsike Kloster near Uppsala, with the use of police force, in the morning of Wednesday 24 November.

The Lutheran Sisters in the Alsike Kloster have, for many years, given proof of great care and sincerity in their efforts to help refugees and asylum-seekers.

Since 1978 the Sisters have given hospitality to hundreds of people, and have succeeded in finding an acceptable solution for all of them thus far. Therefore, in our opinion there is no legitimate justification for this sudden action from the police.

We urge your Government and Parliament to respect the sanctuary as provided in the Alsike Kloster. Not so much because one's physical presence in an ecclesiastical building should safeguard against deportation by the civil authorities, but because of the important contribution the Sisters, through offering sanctuary, have proven to add to the carefulness of legal procedures of asylum-seekers, who come to seek protection against persecution.

Please let the Sisters of the Alsike Kloster continue their good work, for the benefit of the asylum-seekers they help as well as for the well-being and quality of the legal order and democracy in the constitutional state of Sweden.

Yours sincerely,

H. Pathberg

C. van der Plas

The churchcouncil of the Reformed community
Assen-Vredeveld

Frans Halslaan 2
9404 AT Assen
The Netherlands