

**ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CAMDEN FIFTH SERIES**

***OBSERVING VATICAN II: THE CONFIDENTIAL
REPORTS OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF
CANTERBURY'S REPRESENTATIVE,
BERNARD PAWLEY, 1961-1964***

President de Gaulle famously called the Second Vatican Council 'the greatest event of the twentieth century'. Vatican II established a landmark not only in Roman Catholic theology, ethics, and worship, but also in the Church's ecclesiology and its ecumenical relationships with other traditions. Many commentators at the time saw the Council as nothing short of revolutionary and the later judgements of historians have upheld this view.

A defining dimension of Vatican II was the presence of a number of Observers invited by John XXIII to represent other traditions and to report the workings of the Council to their own leaders; it was often felt that they exerted influence, too. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, employed a full-time representative at the Vatican Council, Bernard Pawley. Pawley's confidential reports, and his correspondence with Ramsey, have often been quoted in secondary studies, and they have achieved a considerable stature in the eyes of scholars. This book makes them available to scholars, the churches, and the interested public at large.

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