74. October 14, 1710. Translation into Dutch of the reply from the King of Prussia to his envoy the Baron von Bondeli at Bern, containing the conditions with Bern under which he wants to regulate the colonization of those driven out of that Canton.

[recto]

Copy[[1]](#footnote-1)

Frederick King of Prussia

Our gracious greetings first of all!

From your honor’s most obedient report of the first of this month and from the enclosure, we learn what kind of further resolution the Illustrious Canton of Bern has transmitted concerning the Mennonites there to your honor on September 26.

You can conceive in response to what it concerns that we rightly

On the first point

have understood with approval and accept that the complete, free disposal of their possessions and effects, which are yet in that land, be granted to these good people. We hope also that with their departure and with the removal of their so-called local and citizen rights, one should not attempt to have it turn out so restrictively, but likewise [that is, generously]. [Although] the Canton of Bern would allow this taxation from their land to ours, we propose on the contrary that movement of possessions would be allowed in the future [freely], and nothing shall be required from such a withdrawal into our land, that is, just as also whenever something from our land goes to the cantonal area.[[2]](#footnote-2)

In any case, we request to know how much [the tax] would actually amount to, which will be taken under the name of the removal of local and citizen rights in the Canton of Bern.

On the second point:

The expenses of transportation to our land of those without means shall be necessarily paid by the Canton of Bern itself, especially if there is no remission of the emigration tax as mentioned in the previous point.

On the third point:

That the Mennonite-requested deputation to this place has brought us

to other thoughts as to whether such a deputation might render the task more difficult or set it back—such is not in the slightest to be feared. On the contrary, the arrangement determined between us and the Canton of Bern remains because the Canton will not tolerate these people and we ourselves want to receive them into our land, whatever the Mennonites will need to endure. Although we will be satisfied in any case and the matter not less suitably taken care of and the afore-mentioned settlement should possibly be appropriate—if on behalf of the Swiss Mennonites some of their fellow believers or brethren from Holland or Hamburg would be sent here to us in order to supervise the matter, since we also have been in communication with the Mennonites in Holland and Hamburg for this purpose. Meanwhile we are awaiting a final response to our statements, coming as soon as possible from the Illustrious Canton.

dated, Potsdam October 14, 1710.

The heading was

To the - - Baron von Bondeli[[3]](#footnote-3)

[verso]

Decision or answer from the

King of Prussia dated October 14, 1710

No. 11.

1. 74 This document is translated into Dutch in Vorsterman’s Relaes (A 1392) on pp. 83-84, where it notes that this copy is a translation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This sentence is obscure, but the meaning appears to be: If people from our country move to your country, we would not tax them; so you should not tax those moving from your country into ours. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A certain Johann Rudolph Bondeli of Bern was granted land on the Pequea Creek in Pennsylvania in 1710. Ruth, Earth Is the Lords, p. 172. This is a different person. See R. Martin Keen, “Hans Rudolf Bundeli and the Mennonite Migration of 1710,” PMH 33(Oct. 2010), pp. 12-23. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)