107. December 31, 1710. Letter from Runckel to the Committee for Foreign Needs: The Small Council of Bern, in agreement with the regime’s Anabaptist Commission, has decided not to bring the matter of the Mennonites to the Great Council before an official communication from the Dutch government has arrived, but also has reported to the Prussian envoy that in case no letter arrives from the King of Prussia in time, a final decision in these matters may be made anyway. Accordingly Runckel presses once more for a writing from Holland.

[page 1]

Bern[[1]](#footnote-1) the 31st of December 1710.

Worthy, etc.

My especially highly honored Sirs,

From my letters, remitted to you on the 3rd, 10th, 13th, and 17th of the current month, my highly honored Sirs will have learned in great measure how far matters are advanced privately in the case of the local Mennonites with the Commission.

To this point all my pleading, being unheeded, has not made any progress because the Small or Daily Council resists on the ground of the previously mentioned difficulties,[[2]](#footnote-2) devised formerly by the Anabaptist Commission, and consequently it does not want to bring the matter before the Sovereign Council unless at the least a letter from the High and Mighty Lords to the Illustrious Canton of Bern first arrives, by means of which the suggestions given by me in the name of the Mennonite congregations [page 2] are approved and sanctioned. In the hope, meanwhile, that such a letter from the High and Mighty Lords will arrive very shortly, the Council informed the Prussian minister the day before yesterday that if his royal Majesty of Prussia’s final decision concerning the transfer of the local Anabaptists and placing them in a salubrious and untainted country would not previously arrive, the Illustrious Canton is not to be blamed if it should agree to the complete emigration of these people elsewhere. The said

Council let me know that as soon as a letter from the High and Mighty Lords on the subject under discussion will arrive, the affair would be advanced to its conclusion as much as is practicable.

Not to hold this back from my highly honored Sirs, but much more yet again I urgently request a prompt submission of the often-mentioned letter from the High and Mighty Lords for the advancement of the matter.

Also to you together with and especially on this occasion, I heartily wish a full measure of the most longed for, beneficial blessings of soul and body not only for [page 3] the new year coming tomorrow, but also for many following years yet, besides a mutual commitment to the strong, gracious protection of God and kindest commendations of myself and mine to your devout prayer, I am constantly and remain,

My highly honored Sirs’

Most devoted servant,

Johann Ludwig Runckel.

1. 107 This document is translated into Dutch in Vorsterman’s Relaes (A 1392) on p. 113. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See Document 102 for the difficulties. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)