115. January 17, 1711. Letter from Runckel to the Clerk Fagel of the States General of the Netherlands. He has presented the letter of the States General to the Anabaptist Commission in Bern, who originally had taken up the matter with enthusiasm, but now seeks a delay by demanding first to have a personal interview with him before bringing it to the Sovereign (Great) Council.

Copy.[[1]](#footnote-1) Bern, January 17, 1711

Last Sunday, [I was] granted the privilege to receive the resolution of the High and Mighty Lords of the States General dated the 30th of December concerning the Anabaptists residing in this country, along with the letter which it pleased the said High and Mighty Lords of the States General to write to the Canton of Bern. I first translated the aforementioned letter into German and presented it, as is customary, to the Chief Magistrate Willading the following day, along with a second memorandum, which I had the privilege very respectfully to attach to it. At the same time I humbly asked him to kindly intervene, in order for this matter to be dealt with in the quickest and smoothest way possible, which my lord promised he would do.

The following Tuesday the Chief Magistrate took the letter from the High and Mighty Lords of the States General, along with my memorandum to the Council, where it was decided that both of them would be entrusted to the Commission,[[2]](#footnote-2) in regards to the Anabaptist case. An order was given to prepare all things so that [the Commission] can finish its report the following Friday to the Sovereign Council, in order for it to take the matter into its own hands and come to a final decision.

Indeed, the aforementioned Commission focused on this matter Wednesday and Thursday, but yesterday morning, [page 2] instead of handing it over to the Sovereign Council,[[3]](#footnote-3) it sent two of its deputies to tell me that it was the Commission’s desire to confer with me before it handed its report over to the Sovereign Council. They asked me to go to the said Commission after the departure of the mail, also letting me know that they would escort me there. I answered, saying that I would not miss the opportunity to conclude this matter, but that I was very surprised, however, to see that while I was waiting for the matter to be taken to the Sovereign Council, the Commission wished to confer with me. Although I had asked this several times, it was as if it was impossible to confer, since the time of the presentation of my first memorandum on behalf of the Mennonite Church through[[4]](#footnote-4) the High and Mighty Lords of the States General—as though they were somewhat waiting for orders of the High and Mighty Lords of the States General.

Also I was all the more surprised, for in my last memorandum I had nothing new to propose that was not also proposed at the first: a simple request on behalf of and in the name of the High and Mighty Lords of the States General for a prompt resolution and execution of the matters contained in the first memorandum.

It was not the desire of these gentlemen to work at this, and therefore they wrote a report in the Commission, but I am prepared to go there as soon as the mail is sent, in order to see what it is that they want this time, and in the meantime, I thought it my humble duty to inform you of the present condition of the matter, and to assure you of my deepest respect.

1. 115 This document is translated into Dutch in Vorsterman’s Relaes (A 1392) on p. 117. Note in Vorsterman’ Relaes says this letter is from Mr. Runckel to Mr. Clerk Fagel and it was signed by Johann Ludwig Runckel. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. or Anabaptist Chamber. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Vorsterman: “council of 200” (“Raad van 200”). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Vorsterman, instead of “through,” says “in the territory of” (“onder het gebied van”). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)