18. March 21, 1710. A letter from the Mennonite Committee for Foreign Needs to their fellow believers at Bern, testifying of their grief about the persecution and sharing news about the favorable intervention of the States General of the Netherlands and their instructions to Mr. Runckel to always keep them informed about what happens.

Copy of the letter of the Committee to the friends in Bern.

Amsterdam, March 21, 1710

Very dear brothers in Christ,

With great pain and sadness in our souls have we heard by letter and verbally from our dear brethren in the Palatinate about the severe oppression and persecution that you experience from your government on account of your religion.

By reason of the haste required in sending this, we cannot at this time give further expression to our feelings of sympathy about your lamentable situation, but hope to have an opportunity for this at a later time. We do, however, want to tell you that our brotherly duty and love lead us to present your lamentable situation immediately in the strongest terms to our Gentlemen Magistrates and our High and Mighty Lords of the States General of the United Netherlands, and to request from the High and Mighty Lords a favorable intercession with the Lords of Bern for your wellbeing and relief. This we have received from them in such strong terms, that they have immediately sent their letter for the Lords of Bern to their secretary in Bern, namely Mr. Louis Runckel, concerning which we deem it necessary to inform you, so that you can speak with this Mr. Secretary about it and deal with the matter. We are also writing to him today and are requesting him to maintain correspondence with us concerning this. Likewise we also request that you would be so kind as to advise us always by mail of the suffering, whether it concerns relief or worsening or any circumstances, and we would also like to see that the friends would try to establish and maintain a mutual friendship with the aforesaid Mr. Secretary in the best and friendliest way possible. We believe that this will be of advantage to the oppressed brethren. Further, etc.

If the friends respond to the letter, please have them address their letters to Doctor Hermannus Schijn, etc., in Amsterdam.

Signed by

Wilhem van Maurik

Jan Willink Janz

Hermannus Schijn

Jacob Vorsterman

Frans van Aken

Cornelis Beets