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“THIS IS ABOUT POLAND AND ABOUT EVERYTHING.” SENATORIAL ACTIVITY OF STANISŁAW ŁUBIEŃSKI, BISHOP OF PŁOCK, IN THE YEARS 1627-1632

**„Tu o Polskę i wszystko idzie”. Senatorska aktywność biskupa płockiego
Stanisława Łubieńskiego w latach 1627-1632**

Abstrakt

Biskup Stanisław Łubieński, jako senator i biskup, miał duży wpływ na obsadę stanowisk i godności w diecezji płockiej. Jego rządy w diecezji zbiegły się z wojną szwedzką, której skutki odczuły szczególnie północne części biskupstwa płockiego. Wpłynęło to na ewolucję poglądów Łubieńskiego z popierających działania zbrojne na postulujące jak najszybsze zawarcie pokoju. Drugą kwestią podnoszoną przez Łubieńskiego była sprawa następstwa tronu po Zygmuncie III i elekcja *vivente rege*. Artykułowanie tej kwestii na sejmach w 1626 i 1631 roku wynikało z przekonania, że najlepszym rozwiązaniem dla Rzeczypospolitej jest wybór na króla najstarszego syna Zygmunta Władysława.

Słowa kluczowe: Stanisław Łubieński, diecezja płocka, *vivente rege* elekcja, Mazowsze, the Commonwealth

Abstract

Stanisław Łubieński, as a senator and bishop, had a great influence on the staffing posts and dignities in the diocese of Płock. His rule in the diocese coincided with the Swedish war, the effects of which particularly affected the northern parts of the diocese of Płock. This influenced the evolution of Łubieński's views from supporting military action to postulating peace as soon as possible. The second issue raised by Łubieński was the matter of the succession to the throne after Sigismund III and the *vivente rege* election. The articulation of this issue in the Sejms of 1626 and 1631 resulted from his conviction that the best solution for the Commonwealth was to elect Władysław, the eldest son of Sigismund, as king.

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When in 1627 Stanisław Łubieński was appointed Bishop of Płock,¹ he also became the most important senator of Mazovia. The diocese of Płock included: the Voivodship of Płock, almost the whole Land of Dobrzyń, part of the Mazovian Voivodship, including the Lands of Ciechanów, Łomża, Nur, Różan, Wizna, Wyszogród and Zakroczym, also the Lands of Warsaw and Liw, several villages from the Land of Czersk, part of Gostynin Land belonging to Rawa Voivodship, and Michałów Land belonging to Chełm Voivodship. Therefore, it was a significant area in which Bishop Łubieński had influence and political power. Therefore, it is not surprising that using this advantage he tried to win loyal supporters among the local nobility to implement his political plans.² The favour of the Bishop of Płock gave the nobility of Mazovia a chance to appear at the royal court and gain profits. The greatest senatorial activity of Łubieński, while sitting on the bishop seat of Płock, was during the life of King Sigismund III Vasa (until 1632). The successor of Sigismund III, King Władysław IV, built his own political base and slowly pushed away old and experienced politicians, although he did not completely disregard their opinions. Many times he even asked Łubieński to support his political plans in Mazovia.

Łubieński, as the most important ecclesiastic senator in Mazovia, sought to maintain good relations with the Voivode of Płock, Stanisław Karnkowski, Junosza coat of arms, who held this office at the time when Łubieński took over the diocese of Płock.³ This was made evident by granting the canonry in the Płock cathedral chapter to the sons of Stanisław Karnkowski, first in 1628, to Daćbog,⁴ and a few years later (1638), to Gabriel Leon.⁵ Łubieński was also in good relations with the Mazovian Voivode, Adam Kossobudzki. Both were closely associated with the court of King Sigismund III Vasa and both faithfully stood by the king during Zebrzydowski's sedition. It was the Mazovian voivode who brought the Benedictine nuns from Toruń to Łomża and built a church with a convent for them, and this foundation was confirmed by the Bishop of Płock, Stanisław Łubieński, in his letter of December 13, 1627.⁶

¹ He was then a bishop in Lutsk. The transfer bull from the bishopric of Lutsk to the bishopric of Płock was given to Łubieński by Pope Urban VIII on 30 August 1627 and on 28 September 1627 Łubieński was approved on the bishop seat of Płock. "Stanisław Łubieński, episcopus Luceriensem vicecancellarius Regni [...] Pastorem Diecesis Plocensis". Archiwum Diecezjalne Płockie – hereafter ADP, Acta Capituli Cathedralis Plocensis (1627-1644), call no. 10 p. 9. More on the circumstances of the nomination cf. W. Graczyk, *Stanisław Łubieński, pasterz, polityk i pisarz 1574-1640*, Tyniec-Kraków 2005, pp. 111-117.

² E. Opaliński, *Postawa szlachty polskiej wobec osoby królewskiej jako instytucji w latach 1587-1648. Próba postawienia problematyki*, "Kwartalnik Historyczny", 90/1983, no. 4, p. 806.

³ He became voivode of Płock in 1617 and remained so until his death in 1637. See A. Przyboś, *Karnkowski Jan Stanisław h. Junosza*, in: *Polski Słownik Biograficzny* (dalej: PSB), vol. 12, Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków 1966-1967, pp. 76-77.

⁴ ADP, Acta Capituli Cathedralis Plocensis (1627-1644), call no. 10, pp. 24-26; K. Wiśniewski, *Wpływ polityczny Stanisława Łubieńskiego, biskupa płockiego w latach 1627-1640, na szlachtę mazowiecką i podlaską. Próba rekonstrukcji zaplecza politycznego*, "Rocznik Mazowiecki", 14/2002, p. 36.

⁵ ADP, Acta Capituli Cathedralis Plocensis (1627-1644), call no. 10, pp. 371-373.

⁶ "Domini Adami Kossobudzki palatini generalis Mazovie [...], ipsum Divini cultus propagandi studio accensum, Clastrum Virginibus Deodicatis Ordinis Sancti Benedicti – in civitate Lomzensis de novo decenter extruxisse". See ADP, Acta Episcopalia (1627-1636), call no. 34/59, pp. 9-10; B. Janiszewska-Mincer, *Kossobudzki Adam z Radzanowa h. Pobóg*, in: PSB, vol. 14, Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków 1968-1969, p. 302; W. Graczyk, op. cit., pp. 224-225.

Officials played an important role in the field. Łubieński was aware that they exerted a direct influence on the political consciousness of the population on a daily basis; so he wanted them to be responsible and loyal towards the king and ecclesiastical authorities. Although it was the king who appointed the heads of provinces and state officials, the candidates for chamberlains, judges, deputy judges, and writers were presented by the local parliaments. The king elected one of four candidates, usually the first one. The chamberlain was the most important of the state officials. Therefore, Łubieński wanted to have his own people in this office and that is why he became personally involved in the filling of the chamberlain post in Gostynin. His candidate was Marcin Radzanowski, the former ensign and starost (governor) of the Płock episcopal estate. Before Łubieński looked for the king's support, he first had shared his thoughts with the starost of Bobrowniki, Jan Czerski, in a letter of December 3, 1631.⁷ He wanted to know his opinion, since Czerski was widely regarded as an influential man, especially in the region of Dobrzyń, and an active participant of the local parliament at Raciąż.⁸ Apparently, the opinion was positive, because on December 14 Łubieński wrote a letter to King Sigismund III, in which he praised Radzanowski's prudence, wisdom, and devotion in the service of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.⁹ As it turned out later, it was the right choice. Radzanowski enjoyed great esteem of the Mazovian nobility. Twice, in 1638 and 1640, he was elected marshal (speaker) of the Mazovian parliament (*sejmik*).¹⁰

Because a strong, good party was a guarantee of effective influence, Łubieński sought to build a dedicated clerical apparatus and political support base. These intentions had a chance of success only thanks to friendly cooperation with illustrious families, without whose participation little was happening in that district. In order to obtain their goodwill, he asked the monarch to grant them royal lands,¹¹ transfer royal leases,¹² lease goods from the episcopal estate, introduce to the cathedral or collegiate chapter, and grant posts of starost and village mayor¹³ in episcopal estates. As a result, he gained the favour of several families:

⁷ S. Łubieński's letter to Starost J. Czerski of 03.12.1631, Czartoryski Library (Biblioteka Czartoryskich), hereafter B. Czart., call no. 123, no. 273.

⁸ K. Wiśniewski, op. cit., p. 38.

⁹ S. Łubieński's letter to King Sigismund III of 14.12.1631, B. Czart., call no. 123, no. 220.

¹⁰ J. Choińska-Mika, *Sejmiki mazowieckie w dobie Wazów*, Warszawa 1998, p. 71; W. Graczyk, op. cit., pp. 226-228.

¹¹ He interceded with King Sigismund III for Adrian Golyński, the starost of Zakroczym, asking for two royal villages. See S. Łubieński's letter to King Władysław IV of 21.12.1632, B. Czart., call no. 120, nr 39. Łubieński also sought support from the monarch in relation to the nobleman Wilkostowski of Kuyavia "a man of merit for the Commonwealth, serving in the cavalry of the voivode of Kiev, who lost two brothers, one in Moscow and the other in Italy, in the service of his Homeland" („zasłużonego dla Rzeczypospolitej, służącego w chorągwi wojewody kijowskiego, który stracił dwóch braci jednego w Moskwie, drugiego we Włoszech w służbie Ojczyzny"). The bishop asked for a village near Bełż, after the death of the Ruthenian voivode. See S. Łubieński's letter to King Sigismund III of 18.02.1628, B. Czart., call no. 120, no. 25.

¹² Łubieński supported Ludwik Krasiński in his efforts to transfer the royal leases from his mother (this concerned the Błonie lease). Many times in his letters to the king, he stressed the merits that the late Voivode Stanisław Krasiński had for the Church, especially in Mazovia, and for the Republic of Poland, writing to the King about him that "he always willingly served the Commonwealth." Also, the voivode's brothers, Stanisław and Jan Kazimierz, leased the bishop's estate. See S. Łubieński's letter to King Sigismund III of 1628 r., B. Czart., call no. 120, no. 124; S. Łubieński's letter to King Sigismund III of 1629, B. Czart., call no. 121, no. 4; S. Łubieński's letter to King Sigismund III of 28.04.1629, B. Czart., call no. 121, no. 47.

¹³ Łukasz Chełmicki received from Łubieński the post of bishop's starost of Górzno. In a letter to J. Wężyk he called him "unus ex domesticis." See S. Łubieński's letter to J. Wężyk of 1 I 1634, Biblioteka Ossolińskich we Wrocławiu – hereafter BO, call no. 157/II, c. 349v-350.

the Karnkowski, Krasiński, Gołyński and Poniatowski in Mazovia, the Chełmicki in the region of Dobrzyń, as well as the Wodyński and Skiwski in Podlasie.¹⁴

Apart from the measures taken on his territory (the diocese of Płock) to build a strong political base that could serve both the king and the Commonwealth as well as the interests of the Bishop of Płock, Stanisław Łubieński undertook activities that went far beyond the region of Mazovia. The Bishop of Płock did not avoid politics. He was willingly and responsibly involved in the affairs of the state, and King Sigismund III appreciated his opinion. This is evidenced by the king's letter sent to him on January 13, 1628, asking the Bishop to come to Warsaw and advise in the commencing peace negotiations with Sweden.¹⁵ The beginning of Stanisław Łubieński's rule as Bishop of Płock coincided with an armed conflict with Sweden. Already during the Sejm in Toruń in 1626, he insisted on the adoption of taxes for war, because – as he emphasized – “this is about Poland and about everything.”¹⁶ When King Gustav Adolf of Sweden appeared at Brodnica on October 4, 1628, the town's crew capitulated.¹⁷ After the occupation of Brodnica, the northern areas of the Płock diocese were directly threatened. Although Brodnica itself belonged partially to the diocese of Płock and partially to Chełmno, Górzno, which was situated nearby, constituted part of the bishop's mensa. The losses suffered by the inhabitants of the Górzno key during this war were also caused by the Polish army, which during its marches recruited food for its needs. In a letter to Samuel Żaliński of May 2, 1629,¹⁸ Łubieński complained strongly about the soldier stations, which apart from causing starvation and robbery became a great nuisance for the inhabitants of the diocese.

Dramatic events that changed Łubieński's view of the war with Sweden occurred at the turn of January and February 1629. During the warfare between the Swedes and Poles, on February 12, 1629, the battle of Górzno ended with the victory of the Swedes. Its effects were still quite visible – especially in Mazovia – after many years. It took place on the territory of the diocese of Płock on Dobrzyń Land, causing considerable damage. At that time, the church in Górzno was burned in part. The bishop's starost tried to defend the town with the help of cavalry organized by Bishop Łubieński. The Swedes destroyed the bishop's castle and burned the town.¹⁹ The scale of damage was described by Łubieński in his relation to Rome in 1630, i.e. practically just after these incidents. In total, as a result of the warfare near Górzno, the town itself and 30 churches were destroyed as well as the villages of Cielęta, Grażawy, Gulbiny, Jastrzębie, Mikołajki, Strzygi, Sudragi, Szczutowo, Rypin, besides the hospital provostry in Brodnica, and the parish church and hospital in Sierpc.²⁰ The incidents near Górzno prompted King Sigismund III to agree to the previously rejected Swedish ceasefire proposals. On February 19, 1629, the king decided to sign a truce and considered

¹⁴ These family connections are discussed extensively by K. Wiśniewski, op. cit., pp. 34-49.

¹⁵ King Sigismund III's letter to Bishop S. Łubieński of 13.01.1628 r. BO, call no. 157/II, c. 3; W. Graczyk, op. cit., p. 242.

¹⁶ W. Czaplński, *Łubieński Stanisław*, in: PSB, t. 18, Wrocław-Warszawa 1973, p. 499.

¹⁷ Z. Anusik, *Gustaw II Adolf*, Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków 1996, pp. 150-151.

¹⁸ S. Łubieński's letter to S. Żaliński of 02.05.1629, B. Czart., call no. 121, no. 50.

¹⁹ P. Ptaszyński, *Zakon bożogrobców na ziemi dobrzyńskiej. Zarys dziejów*, Rypin-Warszawa 1999, pp. 63-64.

²⁰ „circiter triginta ecclesia in diversis dacanatibus sunt ab hoste vastata”. Relacja o stanie diecezji z 1630 r., ADP, no call no., p. 225.

Bishop Stanisław Łubieński as the best person to conduct the negotiations.²¹ The talks led to the desired result and on March 18, 1629 a truce was signed for 12 weeks, i.e. until 11 June.²²

Having signed the truce, in a letter, King Sigismund III asked the senators, including Łubieński, to express their opinion on the question of integrating into the Commonwealth the part of the imperial army that was to help in the war with Sweden. Responding to the king on April 21, 1629, Łubieński wrote: “when it comes to our homeland, that due to the reluctance of our people for military service, we must seek externa subsidia, I have little hope of keeping up the ancient pride and fame of the Polish nation that up to these times, with its own works, was able to defend against the most powerful enemies its freedoms, in which our ancestors happily resided, and whose understanding was always that whoever defends whom, he is the arbiter of all his freedoms.”²³ In this letter he also drew attention to the resentment to the Germans, which was constantly alive in Poland, and to the fact that the imperial army was of the same denomination as the enemy. Thus, it would be reluctant to surrender to the Polish command, which might naturally cause many problems. After this harsh assessment of the plan to accept the imperial army, Łubieński finally agreed to the king’s idea that the Commonwealth was not able to defeat the enemy on its own.²⁴ The support given did not prevent Łubieński from distancing himself from the decision in the future, or even stating that the idea of using imperial forces did not have the Senate’s approval.²⁵ He expressed such a conviction in a letter of autumn 1629 to the local parliament at Płock, where he wrote that in the future any decisions concerning the Commonwealth should not be made on an “ex privato consilio” basis.²⁶ Regardless of the views and beliefs expressed by Łubieński, at the end of September 1629 (26 September) in Altmark, representatives of the Polish and Swedish sides signed the final text of the treaty under which the warfare between Poland and Sweden ended. The truce was to last for six years. According to Łubieński, although the treaty was not beneficial to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, there was no other solution but to approve of it.²⁷

A recurring issue, in which Stanisław Łubieński had consistently held the same position since the mid-1620s, was the reform of the free election. He came up with such a project as early as in 1626 when he was vice-chancellor during the Sejm in Toruń. The unresolved matter returned again after the session of the Sejm, which began on January 29, 1631. On January 30, senatorial opinions (*wota*) commenced, preceded by a proposal from the throne presented by Chancellor Jakub Zadzik. In his speech, he focused mainly on the issue of free election. The next speaker, Vice-Chancellor Tomasz Zamoyski proposed that it should be a *vivente rege* election. Realizing that it could not be pushed through at the current Sejm, he

²¹ A. Filipczak-Kocur, *Sejm zwyczajny 1629 roku*, Warszawa 1979, p. 78.

²² *Ibidem*, pp. 78-79.

²³ „kiedy już Ojczyźnie naszej do tego przychodzi, że za oziębłością ludu naszego do służby wojennej, externa subsidia szukać musimy, mała zaprawdę u mnie zostawa nadzieja zatrzymania starożytnej ozdoby i sławy narodu polskiego, który do tych czasów swojemi własnymi dziełami umiał bronić przeciwko najpotężniejszym nieprzyjaciółom wolności swych, w których szczęśliwie zsiadli przodkowie nasi, których to zawsze było rozumienie, że kto kogo broni, ten jest arbiter wszelkich wolności jego,” S. Łubieński’s letter to King Sigismund III of 21.04.1629 r., BO, call no. 157/II, c. 86.

²⁴ *Ibidem*.

²⁵ S. Łubieński’s letter to T. Zamoyski of 23.05.1629 r., B. Czart., call no. 121, no. 58.

²⁶ S. Łubieński’s letter to the local parliament at Raciąż of 21.10.1629, BO, call no. 157/II, c. 149-150.

²⁷ *Ibidem*.

suggested that only the rules for the future election should be established there. According to Zamoyski, one of Sigismund's sons, probably the oldest, Władysław, should be elected his successor while the monarch was still alive. Stanisław Łubieński was also in favour of the *vivente rege* election. Although he did not openly make such a proposal at the Sejm in 1631, his speech left no doubt that he supported this solution: "after Augustus, there was a joking electia, after Henrik – a contentious one, after Stephan – a bloody one, and the Lord guard so that we do not live to see a terrible or final one, therefore agamus, having so many enemies and in such a home will that post facta Your Majesty is *secura*."²⁸

The unsettled issue of the free election returned to the Sejm in 1632. It began on March 11. In total, as many as 20 senators spoke, including Stanisław Łubieński, who, during his speech, mentioned the need to develop the principles of free election. He postulated that this should be dealt with at the ongoing Sejm, without referring the matter to local parliaments.²⁹ Another point, equally urgent, which Łubieński mentioned in his senatorial address, was the issue of the threat from Moscow. In his opinion, in case of a war, Lithuania should bear higher costs than the Crown.³⁰

Shortly after the end of the sessions of the Sejm, King Sigismund III Vasa suffered a stroke and died on April 30, 1632.³¹ The news of the king's death reached Łubieński in Płock and he immediately set off for Warsaw, where he arrived on May 5. After visiting the body of the deceased king, he took part in Senate meetings on ensuring state security during the interregnum. During the meetings, the date of convening the Convocation Sejm and the time and place of the election were established.³² Moreover, it was decided to send letters to the European courts with a notice of the king's death. Stanisław Łubieński was made responsible for this. It was he who later, during the convocation, reported to the estates on the implementation of these decisions, and he also possessed copies of these letters.³³ The convocation Sejm met on June 22, 1632.

As from the beginning of the debate it was discussed how to elect a new king. Stanisław Łubieński proposed to accept Jan Zamoyski's project, which envisaged a majority choice. Łubieński believed that in such a difficult and dangerous period for the functioning of the state as the interregnum it was the best solution. The project supported by Łubieński excluded foreign candidates and forbade the presence of foreign legations during the election.³⁴ The issue of rights for non-Catholics was also discussed during the Convocation Sejm. It was agreed to confirm the existing rights for non-Catholics and refuse to grant new ones.

²⁸ „po Auguście była electia żartowna, po Henriku swarliwa, po Stephanie krwawa, a strzeż Boże, żebyśmy nie doczekali strasznej albo ostatniej, przeto agamus, mając tak wielu nieprzyjaciół i w takiej domowej swej woli, aby post facta JKM była *secura*.” *Votum episcopi plocensis S. Łubieńskiego*, Archiwum Państwowe w Gdańsku – hereafter APG, call no. 300/29, no 109, c. 135v.

²⁹ J. Serejka, *Rzeczpospolita w ostatnich latach panowania Zygmunta III (1629-1632). Zarys wewnętrznych dziejów politycznych*, Opole 1978, pp. 155-164.

³⁰ *Votum episcopum Plocensae*, APG, call no. 300/29, nr 110, c. 74-74v; *Constitutioe seymu walnego koronnego warszawskiego trzyniedzielnego, roku pańskiego MDCXXXII dnia 1 kwietnia*, Warszawa 1632, pp. 1-2; W. Graczyk, op. cit., p. 271.

³¹ Śmierć króla, Biblioteka Raczyńskich w Poznaniu – hereafter B. Rac., call no. 8, c. 11; H. Wisner, *Zygmunt III Waza*, Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków 1991, p. 212.

³² Śmierć króla, B. Rac., call no. 8, c. 12.

³³ S. Łubieński's letter to L. Sapieha of 04.08.1632, BO, call no. 157/II, c. 275v-277v.

³⁴ *Votum episcopi plocensis*, APG, call no. 300/29, no.112, ck. 22-23v.

The dissidents were against it and rejected everything. They wanted to win more, while Catholics did not intend to give up. The session of the Sejm was to end on July 14. Krzysztof Radziwiłł managed to obtain first the consent of the deputies to extend the convention and then to postpone the whole issue of the dissenters' postulates until the next day. Eventually, the resolutions of the convocation included an obligation to preserve religious peace, and moreover, to counteract if someone would like to violate the peace between those differing in faith. For fear of turmoil, the dissenters were denied the right to build churches in cities where they had not been present before. They were allowed to hold services in existing churches and in private homes. It was agreed to allow them build churches in hereditary properties without asking the bishops of the place for their opinion.³⁵ At the end of the Convocation Sejm, the issue of appointing a team of advisors to the Primate was addressed and its task would be to deal with current state affairs and receive foreign legations. Of course, matters that belonged to the Sejm were excluded from the team's competence. Seven senators and twelve deputies were appointed to the team. The group of senators included Stanisław Łubieński – Bishop of Płock as well as Jakub Zadzik – Bishop of Chełmno, Stanisław Radziejowski – Voivode of Łęczyca, Jakub Szczawiński – Voivode of Brest and Kuyavia, Rafał Leszczyński – Voivode of Bełsk, Filip Wołucki – Voivode of Rawa, and Kasper Denhoff – Voivode of Dorpat.³⁶

The election congress took place from September 27 to November 15, 1632. To start with, during the election, various urgent issues concerning the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth were discussed. On October 6, a senatorial and deputy commission was established to solve the *compositio inter status* problem. The commission worked from 12 to 17 November in Warsaw. In the course of its work a list of the clergy's harms was prepared, where, among others, the injustices suffered by the Church in the dioceses of Poznań, Sambia, and Livonia were mentioned as well as the reduction of taxes, violent raids on houses and granges of the clergy, the devastation of churches and pious foundations, for which clerics asked legal protection. The commission did not reach an agreement on the issues raised. Four MPs protested: of Sandomierz, Ruthenia, Volhynia and Lublin.³⁷ The next commission to which Łubieński was appointed was the commission for “reassuring the Greek religion.” Łubieński was aware that the problem was delicate. Above all, the threat of war on the part of Moscow demanded that the requests of Orthodox believers in the Commonwealth be considered. After the defeat of Żółkiewski's Moldovan expedition in 1620, the Jerusalem patriarch Theophanes, under the protection of the Cossacks, consecrated higher Orthodox clergy. Faced with the war with Turkey, the Commonwealth wanted to secure the cooperation of the Orthodox, including the Cossacks, rather than annoy them by acting against the renewed Orthodox hierarchy. Before the election, Chancellor Zadzik considered it necessary to recognize the Orthodox hierarchy, which did not mean the consent to give back to the Orthodox clergy all the goods on which they claimed rights. This was also the opinion of Łubieński, although he protested against further concessions to the Orthodox unless the Pope agreed to their implementation. Before the election for the king, Prince Władysław declared by the Chancellor that he would

³⁵ E. Opaliński, *Kultura polityczna szlachty polskiej w latach (1587-1652): system parlamentarny a społeczeństwo obywatelskie*, Warszawa 1995, pp. 260- 61.

³⁶ S. Łubiński's letter to L. Sapieha of 04.08.1632, BO, call no. 157/II, c. 275v-277v.

³⁷ Układ między duchowieństwem i świeckimi względem dzięsięcín, B. Czart., call no. 365, no. 59.

make every effort to calm down the Orthodox' demands.³⁸ During the election Sejm (October 19), a deputy-senatorial committee was established to consider the demands of Cossack deputies, who demanded the restoration of full rights of the Orthodox religion. It consisted of six representatives of the chamber of deputies (three represented the Uniate Church and three the Orthodox Church) and four representatives of the Senate (three of whom were Catholics and one Protestant). The Bishop of Płock, Stanisław Łubieński, was also among this group.³⁹ The work of the commission resulted in the drafting of 15 postulates. The most important of them were: the restoration of the organization of the Orthodox Church (Kiev – metropolis, dioceses: Lusk, Przemyśl, Mohylów); the metropolitan was to be appointed by the king, although from among the candidates selected by the Orthodox clergy and nobility; all decrees issued against the Orthodox Church in trials with the Uniates were to be nullified.⁴⁰

Once the most urgent matters were settled, a new king was elected. On November 8, the only candidate was elected – Władysław Vasa.⁴¹ Stanisław Łubieński, who supported the candidacy of Władysław, saw him as the only candidate who could continue worthily the policy of Sigismund III. He undoubtedly showed Władysław the kindness and sympathy he later showed him many times. In turn Władysław, once being a king (at least in the first period of his reign), returned this kindness.⁴²

Gradually, King Władysław IV chose new collaborators, thus there was no room for “old” bishops. Łubieński sensed such an attitude of the king towards himself and shared these observations in a letter to Jakub Zadzik in 1634.⁴³ The fact that in 1634, as a resident senator, he learned about the endowment of the diocese of Poznań only a week after it had happened proves that Łubieński was step-by-step sidelined by Władysław. He confided this to Jan Wężyk in a letter of September 8, 1634.⁴⁴ He also complained to Tomasz Zamoyski that although he was still close to the court, he was not included in the circulation of information important from the point of view of the royal court.⁴⁵ However, even though he did not receive information directly from the king, he still had many friends at the court through whom he was systematically informed about what was happening there. There were sometimes unpleasant situations when letters addressed to Łubieński were opened and read. Probably, in this way, the royal court checked what information leaked and by whom. Łubieński's friend, Sarbiewski, mentioned such a case in 1639. “The only letter I sent from Vilnius to Your Reverence was opened here and read. This is why I am not writing to be called again the sower of court news, as some have already called me.”⁴⁶ Łubieński's relations with

³⁸ Punkta ugody z ludźmi religii greckiej za pośrednictwem królewicza Władysława przez wyznaczoną do tego deputację omówione, B. Czart., call no. 365, no. 72, c. 1355-1358v.

³⁹ W. Kaczorowski, *Sejmy konwokacyjny i elekcyjny w okresie bezkrólewia 1632 roku*, Opole 1986, pp. 251-252.

⁴⁰ *Vetera Monumenta Regni Poloniae et Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae*, ed. A. Theiner, vol. 3, Romae 1860-1864, no. 335, pp. 398-399.

⁴¹ W. Kaczorowski, op. cit., pp. 308-309.

⁴² W. Czaplinski, *Władysław IV i jego czasy*, Warszawa 1972, pp. 95-97; W. Graczyk, op. cit., pp. 285-286.

⁴³ S. Łubieński's letter to J. Zadzik of 10.06.1634 r., BO, call no. 157/II, c. 393-394v.

⁴⁴ S. Łubieński's letter to J. Wężyk of 08.09.1634, BO, call no. 157/II, k. 419v.

⁴⁵ S. Łubieński's letter to T. Zamoyski of 29.05.1635, AGAD, AZ, call no. 351.

⁴⁶ „Jedyny list mój, jaki z Wilna wysłałem do Waszej Wielbności, otworzono tu i czytano. Oto dlaczego nie piszę, by mnie znów nie nazwano rozsiewcą nowin dworskich, jak już niektórzy mnie nazwali,” K.M. Sarbiewski's letter to S. Łubieński of 28.03.1639, in: *Korespondencja Macieja Kazimierza Sarbiewskiego ze Stanisławem Łubieńskim*, trans. and ed. J. Starnawski, Instytut Wydawniczy PAX, Warszawa 1986, p. 204.

King Władysław cooled down considerably in 1638. This happened in connection with the nomination of Prince Karol Ferdynand a coadjutor of Płock. Łubieński was a strong opponent of this idea. Anyway, he did not fail to mention it in the Sejm's vote of 1638.⁴⁷

To sum up, the years 1627-1632 were for the Bishop of Płock a period of close cooperation with the royal court and his involvement in the most important state affairs. This period of intense service to the king and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth within the framework of his reign in the diocese of Płock, during the declining period of King Sigismund III Vasa's life, was preceded by many years of earlier work alongside the king and the formation of a political attitude that would further fully develop. Particularly noteworthy are the events in the country during Zebrzydowski's rebellion, which Łubieński witnessed and described. Along with the royal nomination for the crown vice chancellor (1625), the time of Łubieński's greatest activity in the service of the Commonwealth began, when he conscientiously implemented the political plans of Sigismund III, related, for example, to the Prussian war, the threat from the Tartars and Turks or finally, the reform of the political system of the Commonwealth. As the Bishop of Płock (from 1627), Łubieński was both a senator and one of the closest advisors to King Sigismund III. He was still active in politics. The exchange of thoughts between him and the monarch on important state matters (the war with Sweden, the growing threat from Moscow, the Tatars and Turkey, treasury and political system problems) can be traced in the correspondence kept in the Czartoryski Library in Krakow, the Ossoliński Library in Wrocław, the Raczyński Library in Poznań or the Sejm diaries kept in the State Archive in Gdańsk.

As Bishop of Płock, Łubieński was at the same time the first Senator in Płock Voivodship and in the part of Mazovia that was under his pastoral care. For this reason, he made efforts to ensure that the king's projects and plans were supported by the decisions made by the local parliaments of the provinces of Płock, Mazovia and Podlasie (the bishopric of Płock did not include Podlasie, nevertheless he was interested in this area, because of the bishop's estate of the Gródek key). Thus, the last years of King Sigismund III's life, part of which coincided with Łubieński's bishopric in Płock, became the peak of his influence and political involvement.

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⁴⁷ Diariusz seymu (Sejm diary) of 1638 r., BJ, call no. 2274; Votum episcopi plocensis, Archiwum Państwowe w Gdańsku – hereafter APG, call no. 300/29, no 121, c. 5.

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