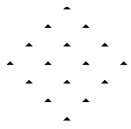


Akt Konfederacji Barskiej - Tłumaczenie angielskie

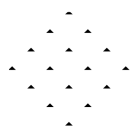
Actum [took place] in Bar on the 15th day of March in 1768.

We, council dignitaries, noblemen and citizens of the Polish Crown and the lands and counties of the province of Lesser Poland, gathered here in order to save our homeland and support our undermined faith and national rights and freedoms:

When free and independent Polish people, led to the current unfortunate and terrible fate during the past several years after the death of His Majesty King Augustus III, a good and pious ruler who enjoyed free and happy reign, learned how the first concealed crimes and breaches of law borne with patience that took place sub interregno [during the interregnum] resulted in even greater and more violent atrocities that impressed the whole world and filled all Polish lands and people with astonishment and grief, a spirit yearning for power and rule spurned the most noble gifts and honours, our faith, freedom and equality and dared to assault and abolish alliances, treaties and national laws with the help of the Russian army and inscia Republica [behind the back of the Commonwealth]. It dared to insult, humiliate and persecute virtuous citizens and great men who rendered great service to the Commonwealth and maintained our faith and freedom, to deprive hetmans of power and to deprive Prince Radziwiłł, the Vilna Province Governor and a man famous for his great achievements for the Commonwealth, of his office and senatorial service, his fortune and honour, and exile him and hound him out of his own homeland using foreign armies and court militia. On the ruins of the changed Commonwealth, it started creating and rapidly developing its own structures and consolidated them by force and with the help of the Russian forces in many provinces and lands using sophisticated methods, under the pretext of declarations of foreign courts and confederations, spread confusion in the whole nation and succumbed its acts and plans to the power and rule of the Russian army and Prince Repnin, depriving itself of power and bringing disgrace on the Commonwealth.



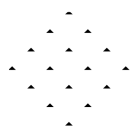
The whole nation felt it was being deceived and issued a solemn public manifesto to let the world know the misdeeds and violence unknown in the kingdom conducted contra jura Pentium et jura regni [against the law of the nations and the kingdom] by the Russian army, including violations of provincial assemblies and the Sejm in Warsaw, arresting noble and righteous citizens, for example Crown Cupbearer Feliks Czacki, Kalisz Butler and Advisor Kozuchowski, as well as other citizens, dignitaries and advisors, and keeping them under the Russian and Cossack guard; using the mentioned army to surround and lay siege to the capital city of Warsaw during a session of the Sejm, taking the deputies captive and keeping them under siege; taking the Cracow Province Governor, bishops of Cracow and Kiev, Crown Hetman Rzewuski and Dolina County Governor by force at midnight, after the beginning of the council, from their palaces and residences that had been so far safe and solemn, putting them under arrest and taking them outside of Warsaw under the escort of the Russian army, treating them as captives and criminals to this day; destroying the Sejm, which was already sine activitate [unable to act] because of past disagreements and opposition, after its members were dragged out from the council, restricting the extraordinary commission favore [in favour of] dissidents and appointing people from outside Warsaw to this new form of council; bringing deputies under the escort of Russian soldiers and – ad cladem patriae [to the country's defeat] – forcing them to sign – together with the dissidents – the worst and most harmful treaties written to humiliate and insult our Roman Catholic faith, abolish the ancient Jagiellonian statutes and constitutions of Poland and Lithuania and dismantle the Duchy of Masovia and other provinces established through Kings' promises, treaties and laws



destroying the goods of the Cracow Episcopate and those belonging to the citizens of the whole country by the Russian army, wreaking havoc on the country, robbing, oppressing, beating, incarcerating, arresting and murdering noblemen and other citizens; foraging, carrying the forage to distant places and then selling the capital and sums; besieging the capital cities of the Commonwealth, Lvov and Zamość, as well as others, by the Russian army, demanding money for ransom and lodgings, resorting to increasingly brutal and common oppression and violence contra jura divina et humana Reipublicae et contra jura gentium [against the laws of God and men of the Commonwealth and the laws of nations]. Because of this, the whole nation and all of us fear the doom of our country and the fall of our faith and freedom. We are called to defend the country and muster up courage demonstrated by our famous and brave ancestors in similar situations and remind ourselves of those numerous and fortunate victories that took place after the Tyszowce Confederation and will be remembered forever.

Our weeping and dying homeland is commending itself to our filial affection and begging us for the last act of love. The Church is praying for us and awaits solemn results of the promises made during the baptism; the whole world is waiting with what they should say about us: whether we are a nation worthy of its ancestors and whether our names will go down in history for centuries with glory or with disgrace.

We are motivated and encouraged by the praiseworthy and famous acts of bravery, courage and gallantry of those noble and great Poles who defeated their enemies with Polish arms and sabres. Following their example and the example of old confederations established with respect to our Roman Catholic faith, et circa immunitatem [the immunity] of God's temples, old laws and national freedoms, guided by great motives and justified by natural laws granted to every nation, we gather here to form a confederation to defend our faith and freedom and support and release our brethren from the terrible hostile arrest and to abolish the painful guard and end the siege laid by the Russian army to Prince Karol Radziwiłł, the Vilna Province Governor, and other confederates from Warsaw [...].



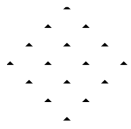
At the same time, we call for all citizens, sons to one homeland, to demonstrate their virtue and love to the country and join us in saving it [...]. We abolish, annul, cancel and invalidate all in genere et specie actus [general and specific] compulsory acts that have already been undertaken or will be planned under the pretence of the confederation and the Sejm et sub quocunque Titulo nomie et colore [and under any title, name or colour] contra mentem [against the intentions of] the Commonwealth and against past disagreements and national laws and freedoms and consider them as harmful, lawful, violent and enforced.

Since it is our priority to maintain and restabilise all national laws on which faith, freedom, civilian and military offices and ranks and hetman's authority are based, we restore to validity all the laws, privileges, decrees and other judgments and bills passed in the Commonwealth [...].

We call for all troops utriusque autoramenti [of both regular armies], the Polish and the foreign one, including all their regiments with no exception, ad Corpus confoederatae reipublicae [to join the confederated Commonwealth], non obstantibus quibusvis commissionibus praejudiciosi et dispositionibus [heedless of any harmful commissions and decrees] [...].

And before the mass levy, which we are already announcing now according to the old laws, we call on everyone fit for service to defend our faith and freedom and turn up as soon as possible after the first universal announcement. [...]

Juxta usum et formam antiqua [according to the old custom and form], we maintain confederate courts and their jurisdiction but suspend the functioning of all majoris et minoris subsellii [major and minor] courts, as well as the tribunal and commissions secundum praxim antiqua et naturam confoederationis [according to the ancient practice and nature of confederations]. [...]



In order to make sure that the Częstochowa Fortress, a place famous for its miracles and dedicated to the Blessed Polish Queen, can antiquo usu et privilegiis gaudere [enjoys ancient use and privileges] and remains under the command of a religious who is experienced in faith, virtue, devotion and the military, non obstantibus quisbusvis in contrarium emanantis dispositionibus [regardless of any contradictory decrees], we guarantee forever the entirety and security of the treasuries and treasures in gold, silver and all types of jewels that have been granted to this sacred place by monarchs, kings, princes and other admirable and righteous people as an offering to and deposit of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a sacrifice for glory and honour [...].

We postpone the consideration of other matters et criminum status [and political crimes], including the desideria [requests] of our great provinces, lands, counties and cities to the day of our next gathering.

Bar, 29 February 1768

(quoted in: Konfederacja barska. Wybór tekstów [Bar Confederation. Selection of texts], ed. W. Konopczyński [Cracow, Wrocław, 2004], pp. 5–14; less known Polish and Latin expressions explained using J. Kowalski, Niezbędnik konfederata barskiego [A Bar Confederate Kit], [Poznań, 2008], pp. 165–174)