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Summary of the doctoral dissertation entitled

The Polish Protectorate at The Holy See (1503-1589)

The national protectorate was a form of representing the political interests of the rulers at the pope by the so-called cardinals-protectors paid by heads of state. The beginning of the functioning of this office is considered to be the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries, when most European monarchs paid selected cardinals. The first cardinals won by Polish kings appeared in the times of Jan Olbracht and Aleksander Jagiellończyk. At that time, Polish diplomacy was in contact with several cardinals, but finally Pietro Isvalies (1505-1513), former legate of Hungary and Poland became the first protector of Poland confirmed in sources. His successor was another exlegate in the Jagiellonian countries, Achilles de Grassi (1513-1523). In the case of the first two protectors the Polish ruler chose the cardinals he knew and, who favored the kingdom and were familiar with its affairs. During the next elections, King Sigismund hired the influential cardinals who were the closest associates of the pope: Lorenzo Pucci (1523-1531), who was later replaced by his nephew Antonio Pucci (1531-1545). The next protector was the grandson of Pope Paul III, Cardinal Alessandro Farnese, who for the next 44 years was in charge of Polish affairs in the Holy See. During his protectorate, the custom of establishing the so-called vice-protectors who replaced him in the performance of his duties. During the Farnese protectorate, there were five of them: Francesco Sfondrati (1545-1550), Bernardino Maffei (1550-1553), Giacomo Puteo (1553-1563) and Giacomo Savelli (1562-1587) and Enrico Caetano (1588-1589).

The cardinal protectors played a double role. As part of the administrative apparatus of the Holy See, they served as the so-called consistorial relators, that is, at secret consistory, they

presented candidates appointed by the monarchs to the benefice indicated by them, for approval by the pope. On the other hand, protectors performed tasks similar to diplomats: they represented their principals at the papal court, were their informants and negotiated on their behalf. The dual role of cardinals protectors is key to understanding this office.

The national protectorate in a unique way combined the issues of pan-European politics with minor, local problems of the Polish Church. On the one hand, the cardinal was involved in a great politics in which the most important issues of pan-European importance were settled, such as papal attempts to drag the kingdom into an anti-Turkish crusade, settling a dispute between Poland and the Teutonic Order or a schismatic Moscow, or confirming the legitimacy of an elected ruler to the throne of Poland. Protectors were also involved in the attempts of Polish rulers to return the so-called Neapolitan sums, as well as other matrimonial issues of the Jagiellonians. On the other hand, the protector was drawn into local games for influence in the Polish Church. The cardinal was very often asked for support in the matter of commission for bishoprics, canons and other prebends, and also participated in resolving conflicts over the benefits and accusations of heresy of members of the Polish Church. It should be emphasized, however, that the division into political and diplomatic matters as well as church and administrative or religious matters was not always clearly established.

The text is divided into two main parts: the first, covers the beginnings of the Polish protectorate during the activity of the first four cardinals (1503-1544). The cut-off date is 1544, when Alessandro Farnese became the cardinal-protector of Poland. During his protectorate, the custom of establishing the so-called vice-protectors. The activities of each of them are discussed in a separate chapter. The arrangement of the content in the chapters corresponds to the problematic division of responsibilities of protectors. First, the political and diplomatic activity was discussed, and only then the church and administrative activity, i.e. benefits and religious matters. The end of each chapter is a synthetic summary of the cardinal's activities and an assessment of his activities.