

*The issue of instruction in the Russian language in schools in the Polish Kingdom*

**Summary**

Policy aimed at the liquidation of the Kingdom of Poland after the failure of the January Uprising was determined by three decision-making centres. The first of these was a body acting under the personal direction of Tsar Alexander II, created in St. Petersburg by the ukase of 25 February / March 8, 1864, the Committee for the Kingdom of Poland (Komitet do Działania Carstwa Polskiego), which later became the coordinating body supervising all plans and projects regarding political reforms in the Kingdom of Poland. Russification of the educational system in the Kingdom of Poland was primarily concerned with implementation of ordinances issued by the aforementioned Committee and aimed at gradual unification of educational systems in the Kingdom of Poland with educational systems in the Empire. The minutes from a Committee for the Kingdom of Poland meeting presented here reflect the course of one of the last discussions concerning the introduction of Russian as the official administrative and instructional language for both state and private schools in the Kingdom of Poland. Its content deserves much consideration, partly due to the inclusion of a fairly large passage from a speech of the minister of public enlightenment, count Dmitry A. Tolstoy, who was invited to that sitting. During said conference, on that exact day, the Minister revealed his intention to mandate that Catholic Religious Education be taught in Russian only. This also included his plans for preparing Roman Catholic priests to accomplish this task.

**Keywords:** Russification of the educational system, the Kingdom of Poland, Dmitry A. Tolstoy, Roman Catholicism.