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TIMOTE GABASHVILI'S DIPLOMATIC CAREER

For Western Georgia the first half of the 18th century has been a devastating period, similar to the preceding one. Feudal disintegration and the vulnerability of the central government contributed to favourable condition for Turkish expansion.

Alexander V of Imereti could not come to terms with the Turkish politics and hoped to receive help from Russia in the struggle against Turkey.

For this purpose, Alexander V sent Timote Gabashvili, Bishop of Kutaisi to Russia. On September 26, 1737 T. Gabashvili left Imereti and arrived in St. Petersburg on April 17, 1738. Alexander V was asking for Russian military assistance, however, had his desire could not come true, he required to somehow include in the Russian-Turkish peace treaty the provision about the Russian patronage for Imereti Kingdom.

On March 18, 1740 the Vice-Chancellor Osterman presented to Timote Gabashvilia letter from Anna Ioannovastating that the peace treaty between Russia and Turkey had already been signed, however, she favoured the issue of admitting Imereti Kingdom under Russia's guardianship. The Imeretian Ambassador was sent off with the very statement and presents. T. Gabashvili's Ambassadorial mission ended without results. The king of Imereti became convinced that Russian would not offer any assistance.