Between 1581 and 1584, Giovanni Francesco Bonomi represented the Pope and Roman Curia at the Imperial court of Rudolf II. His official correspondence is currently in preparation for publication. The spectacular case of Giacomo Paleologo, who was wanted by the Roman Inquisition, played a special role in the papal diplomat’s agenda. After his arrest in Moravia and imprisonment in Klosterneuburg, Paleologo was handed over to the Roman authorities by Rudolf II at the urging of the Nuncio. The article deals with Paleologo’s long stay in the Habsburg lands which was marked by numerous upheavals; the problem of his transfer from the Empire to the Roman “Tribunal of the Faith“ (with an overview of other comparable prominent cases of extradition from a sovereign state – for example, Spain, Venice, Tuscany); and the course and organisation of the prisoner’s transport to the Papal States where Paleologo was finally executed in 1585.

Keywords: Giacomo Paleologo – nuncio Giovanni Francesco Bonomi – Emperor Maximilian II – Emperor Rudolf II. – Roman Curia – Heresy