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## Document 1596A

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# Letter from Governor Dasmariñas to the King, dated Manila 30 June 1596

*Source: AGI 67-6-18; translated in B&R 9: 259-262.*

## Letter from Luis Pérez Dasmariñas to King Philip II

Sire:

With some misgiving and anxiety, Sire, I have considered whether or not I should write this to your Majesty, but necessity and not my wish obliges me.<sup>1</sup>

...

I desire that your Majesty may be pleased but to grant me grace and licence to send and despatch to Peru, if perchance it be expedient, and I am able so to do, a ship of 200 tons, with articles and goods from China, although I do not know what I can do with my small capital and means. Yet it is to be considered that here a ship is made and built at much less cost than elsewhere; and, if it were of no more than the said tonnage, it might be done in some way or other. This would be exceeding grace and relief for this least of your Majesty's servants, who humbly begs that it be so done. I ask it not with designs, plans, and desires for greater profits and riches, to be held and enjoyed; but for the relief and payment of very great necessities and strict obligations, and on behalf of others. If there should be anything left over after fulfilling these obligations, and should your Majesty be pleased to grant me this grace according to my plan, there might result profit to this commonwealth. The cargo sent there could at the same time bring aid to me and relief to the commonwealth—or, as I say, convenience and profit. A ship of so little tonnage sent only once to Peru cannot take an excessive or inordinate cargo. For this reason also, I beseech your Majesty to grant me this grace; and although I have many excuses wherewith to move and incline the royal heart and compassion of your Majesty, by referring to several of my affairs and services, I omit to do so. I only supplicate your Majesty most humbly by the royal magnanimity and the necessity of

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<sup>1</sup> Ed. note: He goes on to talk about his personal debts.

this least of your Majesty's servants. May your Majesty be pleased to grant me this grace.

Above all, I beseech the Divine Majesty of God our Lord that, if this not be for His glory or service, or if there may result therefrom some damage or prejudice to His cause or that of your Majesty, His Divine Majesty will move your Majesty not to permit or concede me this grace which I ask.

May His Divine Majesty preserve your Majesty as He is able, and as we all desire and need. Amen.

Manila, 20 June 1596.

Luis Pérez Dasmariñas

[Endorsed:] "Keep this letter until the report of the residencia which is to be taken in his case and that of his father shall be received."