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## Documents 1565AC

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### Legazpi—Father Urdaneta's reports

#### AC1. Fr. Urdaneta's summary of the return voyage

*Sources: Uncilla's Urdaneta (See Bibliography), note I, page 261; translated in Wagner's Spanish Voyages, p. 113, as follows.*

About the return from Zubu to New Spain, what there is to say is that we left the place where our friends remained, June 1, 1565, and September 18 saw the first land and the coast of New Spain, an island named **San Salvador**<sup>1</sup> in 33° 50'. October 1 we arrived off the Port of Navidad and, not wishing to enter, passed on to the Port of Acapulco, as that is a better port and is nearer Mexico by more than 45 leagues.

On the return, what with contrary winds and sickness, we passed through great hardships. Sixteen died before anchoring in the port, and 4 others afterwards, besides an **Indian of the Ladrones** whom the General sent, and 3 Indians from Zubu. Felipe de Salcedo, the grandson of the General, came as captain of the ship and carried himself very well in the discharge of his duty.<sup>2</sup>

#### AC2. Urdaneta's opinion given to the Council of the Indies about the ownership of the Philippines

*Sources: AGI Patronato 1-2-2-2/6, n° 12; the draft copy in BN Paris, ms. #ESP.325; published in Revista Agustiniana, Vol. I, Nos. 3 and 4 (March & April 1881); translated in Lopez & Felix' Christianization of the Philippines, pp. 309-318.*

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- 1 Ed. note: Baptized Deseada by Pilot Espinosa, it is the island of San Miguel today. Fr. Urdaneta thought it corresponded to the San Salvador on his chart. Wagner says that the island that Cabrillo had called San Salvador is now known as Santa Catalina.
  - 2 Ed. note: It seems so difficult for me to believe that Urdaneta did not leave a fuller account of this very important voyage. Perhaps one day, authentic copies will surface in the religious archives of Mexico, where he died in 1568. Since there was about 200 persons aboard the San Pedro (See B&R 2:279) and 24 died, the attrition rate was about 12%. As for Fr. Aguirre, much later, in 1584, he wrote a letter referring to the possible existence of rich islands in the North Pacific (See Doc. 1584B).



*Francisco de  
Cortana*

**Preliminary note.**

The true original copy of this paper by Urdaneta is his own draft copy which he took back to Mexico during Lent in 1567. After his death, which occurred on 3 June 1568, his private papers seem to have passed into the possession of his colleague and perhaps his confessor, Fr. Alonso de Vera Cruz. In turn, the papers of this friar ended up in Paris, where they are preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale in a collection of Spanish and Portuguese manuscripts, under #325, a volume of 260 folios entitled "Relation des Philippines". Urdaneta's "Opinion" is in folios 1-7; it is entitled "Relation du voyage [sic] de Fr. Andres de Urdaneta de l'ordre de Saint-Augustin, aux Philippines. 1566." This document is practically unreadable because it is full of holes; ink has spread over and through the porous paper. The assigned title in French is misleading, because it is not a narrative of the voyage, but an expert opinion on a geographic matter. One important paragraph, which I thought worth deciphering at the time<sup>1</sup> is as follows:

"En cuanto al segundo punto digo que la isla de Çubu y las islas filipinas q. estan dentro del empeño q. se ha echo al serenissimo señor rrey de portugal por rrazon de q. es contrato..." That was enough to indicate that he thought that the islands were within the territory pawned to Portugal in the Treaty of 1529.

When Fr. Urdaneta, Fr. Aguirre and Melchor de Legazpi arrived at Madrid in April 1566, the old controversy about the possession and ownership of the Moluccas and Philippines was revived. The Council of the Indies decided to put **two questions** to Fr. Urdaneta and to the following Royal Cosmographers: Alonso de Santa Cruz, Pedro de Medina, Francisco Faleiro, Gerónimo de Chaves and Sancho de Gutierrez. One question was whether the Moluccas and the Philippines belonged to Spain or to Portugal by the terms of the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas. The other whether they were included in the pawn which the Emperor Charles V had made with the King of Portugal in the 1529 Treaty of Zaragoza. The cosmographers issued a joint statement that the islands in question were within the partition of the King of Spain, but were included within the territory pawned to Portugal. The cosmographers also made individual reports. That of Fr. Urdaneta is translated below.

**Opinion of Father Fray Andrés de Urdaneta about the demarcation of the Moluccas and Philippine Islands, dated 8 October 1566**

Most powerful Sir:

I, Father Andrés de Urdaneta, Augustinian, have been directed by you to present my views on two points relative to the Philippines and in particular to Cebu where at present is settled the Governor Miguel Lopez de Legazpi. The first point is whether Cebu, and the Philippines in general, is included in the contract made in 1529 by the Emperor and the King of Portugal; the second point is whether the Moluccas and the Philippines lie within the jurisdiction of the King of Spain.

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1 I did not yet know then that it had been published in the Augustinian Review.



**Father Fray Andrés de Urdaneta, O.S.A.** *He is credited with the discovery of the return route from the Philippines to New Spain. (From a painting in the Monastery of El Escorial)*

My answer to the **first point** is in the affirmative; the reason is that, according to the specific terms of the contract entered into in 1529 by the Emperor and the King of Portugal, all the lands lying 17-1/2 degrees, or a distance of 297-1/2 leagues, east of the Moluccas would belong to the King of Portugal until the Emperor paid the 350,000 ducats he received as payment of the yielding of his rights; this meant, of course, that no ship or man of His Majesty would be allowed to cross the line for any reason whatsoever. I am sure, further, that the Philippines are included in the contract because I went to the Moluccas in 1529 and was stationed there for 8 years in the service of the Emperor, and again returned to the Philippines in 1565 to find the route back to New Spain. My position, then, is that Cebu and the Philippines in general fall within the terms of the contract.

As to the **second point**, my answer is again in the affirmative and that not only Cebu, the Philippines and the Moluccas, but also many other islands west of them, fall within the jurisdiction of His Majesty; and I base my position on the terms of the agreement signed in 1494 between the Kings of Spain and of Portugal.

That agreement stipulated that a demarcation line should be drawn 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands and that every land discovered or to be discovered east of that line would belong to the King of Portugal and that every land discovered or to be discovered west of the line would belong to the King of Spain.

I base my position as to the second point on calculation. The line of demarcation, of course, applies equally to the other side of the earth. Now, the island of San Antonio, one of the Cape Verde Islands, is exactly 17-1/2 degrees north of the Equator; at this latitude, 370 leagues are equivalent to a longitude of 22°10'. In other terms, the island of San Antonio is about 21° West of Toledo, which means that the demarcation line is about 43°8' west of this city.

To continue with my argument. One of the Augustinian priests whom I brought with me in the Legazpi expedition is Father Martin de Rada, an eminent astronomer, cosmographer and mathematician born in Pamplona. When we were about to leave New Spain for the Philippines, I persuaded Father Rada to bring along a certain instrument which would allow him to estimate our position wherever we went in relation to the meridian of Toledo. We landed in Cebu, where for a whole month before my return to New Spain Father Rada had full opportunity to make his calculations. What he found was this: taking into account the latitude of Toledo and that of Cebu, which happens to be 10° north of the Equator, Cebu lies 216°15' West of Toledo, according to the tables of Alphonso, or 215°15' according to the tables of Copernicus, whom I will follow in these calculations because of his modernity.<sup>1</sup> If we subtract now from these 215°15' the 43°8' from San Antonio to Toledo, we are left with 172°7' and since the jurisdiction of His Majesty extends to 180° we have that all the lands lying 7°53' west of Cebu belong to the King.

On the other hand and bearing in mind that according to the demarcation line agreement positions may be estimated in distances or in degrees, we find that as we descend towards the Equator distances are longer, and since some of the Moluccas are along the Equator, we get here an additional distance which is equivalent to about 4°20' which, in turn, added to the 7°53' we had before, add to a total of 12° and almost 15 minutes. Since this longitude is estimated at the Equator, we get a total of almost 214 leagues.

To summarize, we find that not only the Philippines and the Moluccas, but also most of Borneo and part of Java, with the islands in between, fall within the jurisdiction of His Majesty. Needless to say, not only the entire New Guinea, but also the best part of

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<sup>1</sup> Ed. note: His error is about 15° in longitude, something which led Fr. Urdaneta into error. The Philippines were in fact within the limits of Portugal. The exact position of Cebu City is 10°20'N and 123°50'E of Greenwich, which corresponds to 236°50' West of Greenwich.

China and the adjacent islands, with Loncor [Luzon?], Lequios and Japan, lie also within His Majesty's jurisdiction.

I have based my position on my own experience and on the calculations made by Father Rada, whom I consider an expert in these matters and a man of absolute integrity.

Father Andrés de Urdaneta

I arrived at the same conclusion that the demarcation line passes West of the Moluccas and of many other islands from the study of two Portuguese charts which I have had in my possession for over 28 years, ever since I got them in Lisbon from a man who used to travel the India run. One of them is a master chart which shows the coastline from Europe to the Malabar Coast and ends in Cape Comorin at the Southern tip of India; the other, which is a smaller one, shows the coast from the Red Sea to Cape Chinchao in China, 25° latitude North, as well as the Moluccas and many other islands all the way to the **Ladrones**. I will add, incidentally, that the master chart was already quite worn, doubtless because it had long been used in the navigation to India.

Now, from those charts I can prove in two ways that the Moluccas really lie within the jurisdiction of the King, and I do this, first by measuring the 180 degrees which belong to the King of Portugal going East along the Equator from the point 370 leagues West of the island of San Antonio. On the basis of the master chart, my findings are that there are 140 degrees along the Equator from that point West of San Antonio to Cape Comorin, and then I find on the basis of the smaller chart that there are 45 additional degrees from Cape Comorin to the Moluccas. This means that from the demarcation line west of San Antonio to the Moluccas there are 185° or 5° in excess of the 180 which belong to the King of Portugal; in other words, the Moluccas and all other islands as well as the sea 5 degrees west of the Moluccas belong to the King.

My second proof to justify my contention, and I consider this better because it is more objective, is based on the calculation in terms of arcs and chords of the longitude East from the demarcation line. From mathematical calculation of the sines according to the usual tables as one follows the coast, I arrive at the conclusion that the Moluccas are 194 and 1/4 degrees East of the demarcation line, which would give 14 and 1/4 degrees West of the Moluccas for the King. To be precise, the jurisdiction of the King of Portugal includes just a small portion of the island of Borneo. This means that everything East of the meridian passing through that point belongs to the King of Spain. The following are my specific calculations:

22°10'—By common agreement, the demarcation line passes 370 leagues West of San Antonio, one of the Cape Verde Islands. At 16° and 1/2 latitude North, this distance is equivalent to 22°10' longitude West of the island; however, the length of one degree of longitude at this latitude is equivalent to the length of only 57'13" and 1/4 second along the Equator; this in turn is equivalent to a reduction in the total distance of 16 leagues and a little more than 2 miles, on the basis of 3 miles to the league.



8°48'—From San Antonio at 17° and 1/2 latitude North and going ESE down to 14° latitude North, we advance 8°48' East, leaving the point 10 leagues from Cape Verde on the mainland.

7°7'—From (this point) at 14° latitude North and going SE to 7° latitude North, we advance 7°7' East, leaving the point by a small island at the mouth of the Santa Ana river on the mainland.

7°17'—From this point at 7° latitude North and going ESE to 4° latitude North, we advance 7°17' East, leaving the point 11 leagues from and at the same longitude as the San Andres River.

16°44'—From this point at 4° latitude North and going 292 leagues East, we advance 16°44', leaving the point 9 leagues from and at the same longitude as the San Bartholome River.

3°20'—From this point at 4° latitude North and SE to 1 degree latitude South, we advance 3°20', leaving the point 3 leagues from Cape Gonzalez.

3°14'—From this point 1° latitude South and going S by E to 17° latitude South, we advance 3°14' East, leaving the point 11 leagues from Cape Negro and at the same latitude with it.

4°—From this point 17° latitude South and going SE to 26° latitude South, we advance 4° East, leaving the point near Little Cove.

0°26'—From this point 26° latitude South and going S by E to 28° latitude South, we advance 26 minutes East, leaving the point 8 leagues from a port which has no name.

3°25'—From this point 28° latitude South and going SSE to 35° latitude South, we advance 3°25' East, leaving the point 9 leagues from **Cape of Good Hope** and almost at the same longitude.<sup>1</sup>

And as it appears from the sum up to here, there is from the said demarcation line to the Cape of Good Hope 76°31' of longitude.

1°57'—From this point 35° latitude South and going East for 28 leagues, we advance 1°57', leaving the point by Cape Agulhas.

6°6'—From this point 35° latitude South and going E by N to 34° latitude South, we advance 6°6', leaving the point 12 leagues from the mainland.

2°54'—From this point 34° latitude South and going NE by E[?] to 33° latitude South, we advance 2°54' East.<sup>2</sup>

9°10'—From this point 33° latitude South and going NE to 25° latitude South, we advance 9°10', leaving the point 10 leagues from the mainland.

2°39'—From this point 25° latitude South and going ENE to 24° latitude South, we advance 2°39', leaving the point 10 leagues East of Cape Corriente.

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1 Ed. note: The position of the cape itself is 34°22'S and 18°25'E of Greenwich.

2 Ed. note: Although this paragraph is mutilated in the original, it can be reconstructed, given the pattern used in the other paragraphs.

3°6'—From this point 24° latitude South and going NNE to 17° latitude South, we advance 3°6' East, leaving the point by a small island 10 leagues from the Angoxar River (Zambezi?) on the mainland.

2°46'—From this point 17° latitude South and going NE by N to 13° latitude South, we advance 2°46', leaving the point 15 leagues from the mainland at the same latitude of the San Miguel River.

2°24'—From this point 13° latitude South and going N by E to 1° latitude South, we advance 2°24' East, leaving the point 10 leagues from the mainland.

6°—From this point 1° latitude South and going NE by E to 3° latitude North, we advance 6 degrees East, leaving the point at the mouth of the Madaguaxo Cove.

4°50'—From this point 3° latitude North and going ENE to 5° latitude North, we advance 4°50' East, leaving the point 16 leagues East of the Point of Shoals.

3°22'—From this point 5° latitude North and going NE by N to 10° latitude North, we advance 3°22' East, leaving the point 4 leagues from the mainland.

3°59'—From this point 10° latitude North and going NNE to 17° latitude North, we advance 3°59' East, leaving the point 5 leagues from Darfir.

7°38'—From this point 17° latitude North and going ENE to 20° latitude North, we advance 7°38' East, leaving the point 5 leagues from the island of Mecira (Al Masir-ah?).

2°31'—From this point 20° latitude North and going NE by N to the Tropic of Cancer in 23°30' latitude North, we advance 2°31', leaving the point 6 leagues from the mainland.

6°14'—From this point on the Tropic of Cancer and going 100 leagues East, we advance 6°14', leaving the point on the Diu River.

6°42'—From this point, still on the Tropic of Cancer on the Diu River, and going SSE to 8° latitude North, leaving the point right at Cape Comorin. Here ends the master chart.

At this point we find that from the Cape of Good Hope to Comorin we have progressed East 71°18', which added to the 76°31' we found from the demarcation line to the Cape of Good Hope give a total of 147°49'.

3°48'—Following now the second master chart and starting from Cape Comorin, which on this chart is in 7° and 1/2 latitude North, we go NE [by E] to 10° latitude North and advance 3°48', leaving the point 10 leagues from the mainland.

4°17'—From this point 10° latitude North and going NNE to 20° latitude North, we advance 4°17' East, leaving the point near the mainland.

1°35'—From this point 20° latitude North and going NE by E to 21° latitude North, we advance 1°35' East, leaving the point again near the mainland.

6°14'—From this point 21° latitude North and going due E for 102 leagues, we advance 6°14', leaving the point 12 leagues further West than Bacala (Akyab?).

0°53'—From this point 20° latitude North and going SSE from the Cape of Bacala down to 19° latitude North, we advance 53' East, leaving the point near Cape Abrollo.



2°6'—From this point 19° latitude North and going SE by S to 16° latitude North, we advance 2°6' East, leaving the point 5 leagues from Cape de la Serra.

2°37'—From this point 16° latitude North and going S by E to 3 degrees latitude North, we advance 2°37' East, leaving the point by the island of Çamatra (Sumatra), near a river.

2°25'—From this point 3 degrees latitude North and going ESE to 2° latitude North, we advance 2°25', leaving the point at the entrance of the port of **Malacca**.

We find at this point that Malacca is 23°5' East of Cape Comorin and 171°44' East of the demarcation line, with only 8°16' left to complete 180°.

1°20'—From our point 2° latitude North and going SE by S to the Equator, we advance 1°20', leaving the point on the Equator 22 leagues East of Sumatra.

6°56'—From this point on the Equator and going due East for 2<sup>1</sup> leagues and 1 mile, we advance 6°56' to complete 180 degrees that belong to the Most Serene King of Portugal. This point is 37 leagues within Borneo, at a distance of over 143 leagues from Sumatra.

The totals from our first set of points add up to 62°6'; the totals from the second add up to 58°15'. In all, we have 180 degrees.

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1 Ed. note: A transcription error for 121 leagues, because 143 leagues from Sumatra minus the 22 leagues E of Sumatra (the previous point) gives 121. Also 6°56' correspond to 121 leagues as well.



We find, then, that the 180 degrees are completed on the island of Borneo along the Equator, and this is proven on the basis of the Portuguese charts in my possession, the first of which shows that Cape Comorin is 147°49' East of the demarcation line, while the second shows that the point we found on Borneo is 32°11' East of Cape Comorin, with both sections adding up to 180 degrees. Now, following from that point to the Moluccas along the Equator we have a distance of 250 leagues, which are equivalent to 14°17', clearly belonging to His Majesty. This means that all the islands and land East of the meridian which passes through that point 14°17' West of the Moluccas belong to His Majesty, including a small part of Sava [Java], most of Borneo, most and the best part of China, and islands and lands that I have said are within the limits of His Majesty, sailing eastward as I did.

Fray Andrés de Urdaneta.

(Facing page) **The Legazpi-Urdaneta Monument erected at Manila in 1901.**

*At the end of the Spanish regime in the Philippines, a Manila resident, Señor Gutierrez de la Vega, initiated a public subscription to pay for the erection of a statue to Legazpi, founder of the city. Later on, the plan was changed to include Fr. Urdaneta as well. A Spanish architect, Luis María Cabello, designed the monument and Agustín Querol, a Spanish sculptor, executed the statue. It was cast in bronze and shipped to Manila. When the Americans invaded Manila, the crates containing various pieces of the monument were found in the customs warehouse. The military government of Manila under General Dwight F. Davis decided that it would be a graceful act on their part to erect the monument. The monument now stands in Luneta Park adjacent to the old walled city of Manila.*

*Father Urdaneta symbolically holds forth a cross in front of the royal standard of Spain. He lived through the Golden Age of Spanish Discovery and he made an outstanding contribution to it. His discovery of the correct route for the crossing of the Pacific from west to east brought security to an empire that was to last one-third of a millenium. (From the 1903 Census of the Philippine Islands, vol. 1, p. 31. Photo provided by the Ayala Museum—Library and Iconographic Archives)*