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## Document 1526B

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# Salazar, ex-Loaysa—Report by Hernando de la Torre, with extracts from Martin de Uriarte's logbook

*Sources: Report by Hernando de la Torre to the King, dated Tidore 11 June 1528 and incorporating the logbook of the voyage; manuscript found in the Spanish archives at Simancas by Muñoz and copied by him in 1783. This transcript by Muñoz, bearing the marks "Nº 4" and "Nº 244 Simancas, Descripciones y observaciones de viages", is now in the British Library under **BM Additional ms. 17626**. Original now at AGI. The author of the log is the pilot Martín de Uriarte. Navarrete has also reproduced this document in Vol. V of this "Colección de los viages", pp. 241-313. It also appears in the Rivadeneira Collection, Vol. 77, pp. 125-171. This report was carried to Spain by way of Portugal by Captain Saavedra, the leader of the next expedition.*

## Extract from Muñoz' transcript

[Folio 1]

S.C.C.M. Hernando de la Torre servidor e vasallo de V. Rl. M. que al presente soy Capitan General e Gobernador en esta isla de Maluco i sus demarcaciones de V.M. beso las sacras manos e pies de V.M. a quien me paresce, i es justo que haga relacion, pues Dios me ha hecho tanto bien e merced que en mi tiempo mas que en ninguno de los Capitanes pasados que han seido oviese lugar i oportunidad para escribir a V.M. con esta Caravela que aqui V.M. mando enviar de la nueva España para saber destos desterrados hijos de Eva que siempre a V.M. clamamos por socorro de que tanta necesidad tenemos, pues que tan buena a seido mi ventura que en mi tiempo llegase a estas partes; es razon que muy por extenso yo de cuenta a V.M. de lo que en ellas nos ha sucedido despues que llegamos aqui en esta Isla de Tidore...

...

[folio 1v]...

*"En el nombre de Dios i de N<sup>a</sup> S<sup>a</sup> la virgen Maria lunes a veinte e quatro dias del mes de Jullio año de mil i quinientos i veinte e cinco años vispera de Señor Santiago antes del dia partimos de la Coruña en nuestra derrota la buelta del cabo de Finesterra, en este dia [no] se tomo el sol.*

...  
*Jueves a 9 del dho [=dicho] mes [de Agosto de 1526] no tome el altura, hecimos camino [folio 22v] al oes norueste 37 leguas acudionos el punto en el cartear en 12 grados escasos, este mismo dia acordaron todos los oficiales de la nao con el Capitan de no correr mas al Norte[,] porque se nos murio mucha gente, habimos de hacer la via de las Yslas de Maluco.*

*Viernes 10 de dho mes tome el altura en 12 grados i 25 minutos a la parte del Norte de la linea hecimos camino al oeste tomando del Norueste[,] 32 leguas.*

*Sabado a 11 de dho mes de Agosto tome la altura del sol en 12 grados i 35 minutos, este dia tenia el sol de cenique i caminamos al oeste tomando del norueste 42 leguas.*

*Domingo 12 de dho mes tome el altura en 12 grados i 36 minutos hecimos camino al oeste 40 leguas.*

*Lunes a 13 del dho mes tome el altura del sol en 12 grados i 38 minutos hecimos camino al oeste tomando del norueste 43 leguas.*

*Martes a 14 del dho mes tome el altura del sol en 12 grados i 38 minutos hecimos camino del oeste 40 leguas.*

*Miercoles 15 del dho mes tome el altura del sol en 12 grados i 32 minutos a la vanda del Norte de la linea iquinocial caminamos al oeste tomando del norueste 32 leguas.*

*Jueves 16 del dho mes tome el altura del sol en 12 grados i 3 minutos hecimos camino al oeste tomando del norueste 4 leguas.*

*Viernes 17 del dho mes tome el altura del sol en 12 grados i 32 minutos hecimos camino al oeste tomando del norueste 34 leguas.*

*Sabado a 18 del dho mes tome el altura del sol en 12 grados i 35 minutos de la vanda del norte de la linea aquinocial hecimos camino al oeste tomando del norueste 30 leguas.*

*Domingo 19 del dho mes de Agosto tome el altura en 13 grados i 25 minutos i causo solo porque la corriente nos havia hechado a la vanda del norte, este mismo dia i la noche pasada caminamos al oeste i respondiome el punto al oeste quarta del norueste 28 leguas.*

*Lunes 20 del dho mes tome el altura en 13 grados i [folio 23] 34 minutos hecimos camino al oeste i acudiome el altura con el punto al oeste quarta del norueste 30 leguas.*

*Martes a 21 del dho mes tome el altura en 13 grados i 35 minutos, hecimos camino al oeste 18 leguas, este mismo dia Martes despues de medio dia descubrimos **tierra** por la parte del Norte i luego amuramos para alla i llegamos a 3 leguas della, i era ya la tarde i no hosamos ir mas adelante, hecimos luego el bordo de la mar por la noche i pasada la segunda guardia de la noche hecimos el bordo de la tierra en busca de la Ysla.*

*Miercoles por la mañana a la 11 oras llegamos junto con ella a menos de 1 legua i hechamos las honduras i no fallamos fondo, este mismo dia Miercoles a medio dia tome el altura al costado desta Ysla de la parte del sur en 14 grados i 2 minutos, correse esta Ysla por la parte del sur una punta que tiene al Este con otra que tiene al Oeste les nordeste oes sudueste habra 10 leguas[,] desta punta del oes sudueste se corre hasta otra punta questa de la parte del norueste se corre [nor-]ueste sueste tomando de la quarta*

*del norte sur habra 9 leguas[,] dentro desta Ysla a la parte del oeste se avia una laguna muy grande i parescia el agua muy verde[,] al Leste desta laguna havia grandes arboles, aqui handovimos todo este dia i la noche nunca la podimos tomar porque la corriente nos havia hechado a sotaviento della i ansi acordamos de ir en busca de las Yslas de los Ladrones i de Maluco: pusimos el nombre a esta dicha Ysla **Sn. Bartholome** porque havia 2 o 3 dias que era pasado su dia.*

*Jueves 23 del dho mes tome el altura en 13 grados i 2 tercios, hecimos camino al oeste tomando del sudueste 20 leguas.*

*Viernes 24 del dho mes tome el altura en 13 grados i 18 minutos de la parte del Norte de la Linea, hecimos camino al oeste quarta del sudueste 42 leguas, estoy de la Ysla de Sn. Bartholome leste oeste quarta del Nordeste sudueste 70 leguas.*

*Sabado 25 dias del dho mes tome el altura en 13 grados i 25 minutos hecimos camino al oeste 48 leguas.*

*Domingo 26 del dho mes tome el altura en 13 grados [folio 23v] i 25 minutos, hecimos camino al oeste quarta del sudueste 47 leguas.*

*Lunes 27 del dho mes de Agosto tome el altura en 13 grados i 38 minutos hecimos al oeste tomando del nord[ueste] 28 leguas.*

*Martes 28 del dho mes tome el altura en 13 grados i 28 minutos hecimos camino del oeste tomando del sudueste una quarta hecimos 8 leguas.*

*Miercoles 29 del dho mes tome el altura en 13 grados i 18 minutos, hecimos camino al oeste tomando del norueste 24 leguas.*

*Jueves 30 del dho mes tome el altura en 12 grados i 45 minutos, hecimos camino al oeste quarta del sudueste 25 leguas.*

*Viernes 31 del dho mes tome el altura en 12 grados i 27 minutos, hecimos camino al oeste quarta del sudueste 25 leguas.*

*Sabado primero del siguiente mes de Septiembre del dho año no tome el altura porque no parecio el sol, hecimos camino al oeste i heche punto por la singladura i halle que haviamos andado 25 leguas.*

*Domingo [a 2] del dho mes tome el altura en 12 grados i 2/3 hecimos camino al oeste guiñando al norueste por causa de los aguazeros, hecimos 28 leguas.*

*Lunes a 3 del dho mes no tome el altura, hecimos camino al oeste 25 leguas.*

*Martes a 4 del dho mes amanesciendo vimos tierra i era una de las **Yslas de los Ladrones** quel otro viage habian descubierto, i quando la vimos estabamos norte sur con ella en la Ysla de la parte del sur i amainamos para ir sobre ella i llegando zerca della se nos hizo el viento algo mas escaso i el aguazo que nos hechaba para fuera handovimos barlobenteando todo este dia i la noche.*

*Miercoles a 5 del dho mes ansi mismo handobimos no la pudiendo tomar i nos vino una canoa con ciertos hombres de la tierra i de lexos nos saluo uno dellos que dentro en la canoa venia a la usanza i manera despaña, en lo qual no marabillamos mucho dello, i hecimos el que viniese avado<sup>1</sup> i el no hosava venir sin que le diesemos seguro, i*

1 Ed. note: Transcription error for “avordo”, rather “a bordo”. It is highly unlikely that it is “a nado” (by swimming) because most sailors then could not swim.

Indios de la isla  
 Este mismo día miércoles a la noche surtimos en esta isla  
 y lexrese por la parte del Norte de el Cabo del ora hñ  
 una punta que haze en medio de la Isla Leste de este habia  
 12 leguas desta punta questa en medio hasta el Cabo del Oeste  
 i se loxse Nordene indiente, habia 10 leguas dentro de estos  
 Cabos hay buenos surfidones en esta envenada del Nordeste  
 indiente, estovimos nos otros surtos en 40 brazas, la Isla es  
 alta de razonable manera encima xusa toda despoblada  
 desde Rededor de la marí mata gente della son hombres de  
 buenos cuerpos andax desnudos en carnes a mostrando  
 las naturas las mugeres asi mismo, reñen guerra  
 unos Pueblos con otros, en cada Pueblo hay su Rey i adoran  
 en los muertos, i quando enterran un hombre principal i  
 ven questa comido sacan los huesos i adoran ellos, asi mes-  
 mo hacen hierros de dardos con los huesos de sus Enemigos,  
 hay mucha Azeite de cocos que hacen al sol i muchas faras  
 de muchas maneras i matan mucho pescado con anzuelos  
 de palo i de hueso i con cordeler que hacen con cortenay de tibia-  
 les, en esta Isla nos dixeron que havia otras 12 Islas de la  
 misma Calidad sino que en algunas dellas havia mucho

**A page from Uriarte's logbook for Wednesday 5 September 1526, when his ship was at Guam. He was scandalized to see the natives, women included, wearing no clothes whatsoever. (From the Muñoz transcript from the original that was in the archives in Simancas in 1783, now in BM London, Addl. ms. 17626, folio 24)**

*ansi le dio el Capitan[,] el Capitan Toribio Alonso de Salazar que al presente era Capitan de la nao, [folio 24] i ansi entro en la nao el dho que nos havia saludado i dixo que era de la nao quel otro viage havia quedado en Maluco quando la otra fue a Castilla i ellos que partieron de maluco con la dha nao por la tierra del Divan<sup>1</sup> ques en la contra costa de las Indias de Castilla, i los tiempos hallaron contrarios i se volvieron a Maluco i se les murio mucha gente en el camino i que aportaron a una Ysla questava al Norte desta en questabamos agora al presente, i por miedo de la muerte huyeron el i otros dos compañeros, i ansi se fue la nao a Maluco sin ellos, i estoviendo en aquella dha Ysla dixo que havian matado los Yndios a los otros dos sus compañeros i afejl que le truxieron unos Yndios de la mesma Ysla a esta Ysla en que agora el al presente estaba.*

*Este mismo dia Miercoles a la noche surjimos en esta dha Ysla i correse por la parte del Norte desdel cabo del este hasta una punta que haze en medio de la Ysla Leste oeste habra 12 leguas [,] desta punta questa en medio hasta el cabo del oeste i se corre Nordeste Sudueste, habra 10 leguas [,] dentro destos cabos hay buenos surgideros en esta ensenada del Nordeste Sudueste, estovimos nosotros surtos en 40 brazas, la Ysla es alta de razonable manera lacima rasa toda y es poblada dende rededor de la mar [con] mala gente[,] son hombres de buenos cuerpos handan desnudos en carnes amostrando las naturas las mugeres ansi mesmo, hacen guerra unos pueblos con otros, en cada pueblo hay su rey i adoran unos muertos, i quando entierran un hombre principal i ven questa comido sacan los huesos i adoran ellos, ansi mesmo hazen hierros de lanzas con los huesos de sus enemigos, hay mucha azeite de cocos que hazen al sol i muchas frutas de muchas maneras i matan mucho pescado con anzuelos de palo i de hueso i con cordeles que hazen con cortezas de arboles, en esta Ysla nos dixieron que havia otras 12 Yslas de la misma calidad sino que en algunas dellas havia mucho [folio 24v] arroz, i ansi mismo en esta Ysla tomamos muchos palominos que tenian lo Yndios en jaulas que ellos no los comian, i ansi mismo en esta Ysla muchas aguas i buenas i esta Ysla tiene una Ysla pequena al norueste [sic]<sup>2</sup> i es llana i de muy grandes arboledas i muy poblada de gente, habra media legua de la una a la otra.*

*Viernes a 7 del dho mes de Septiembre tome el altura en esta bahia desta Ysla en 13 grados.<sup>3</sup>*

*Domingo 9 del dho mes tomamos 11 hombres desta Ysla de los que venian a vender sus cosas i los tomamos para esclavos por descanso de la gente de la nao porque haciamos mucha agua por mandado del Capitan Toribio Alonso de Salazar.*

*Lunes a 10 del dho mes antes que amanesciese partimos desta Ysla para ir en busca de las Yslas de Maluco haciendo el camino del oes sudueste y a medio dia tome el altura en 12 grados i 35 minutos.*

*Martes 11 del dho mes tome el altura en 12 grados i 8 minutos i estava de la dha Ysla de los Ladrones 35 leguas es nordeste oes sudueste de la vanda del norte de la linea.*

1 Ed. note: Transcription error for "Darien".

2 Ed. note: This must or should have been written or transcribed as "sudueste". See translation below.

3 Ed. note: There is no entry for Saturday 8 September.

*Miercoles a 12 del dho mes tome el altura en 11 grados i 54 minutos hecimos camino al oes sudueste 15 leguas.*

*Jueves 13 dias del dho mes de Septiembre tome el altura del sol en 11 grados i 18 minutos a la vanda del Norte hecimos camino al oes sudueste 23 leguas.*

*Viernes 14 del dho mes tome el altura en 10 grados i 54 minutos de la parte del Norte de la linea equinocial hecimos camino al sudueste quarta del oeste 38 leguas.*

*Sabado 15 del dho mes tome el altura en 9 grados i 11 minutos hecimos camino al sudueste quarta del oeste 23 leguas.*

*Domingo 16 del dho mes no tome el altura por que no parescio el sol hecimos camino al sudueste quarta del oeste 35 leguas por la singladura.*

*Lunes 17 del dho mes tome el altura en 7 grados escasos; hecimos camino al sudueste 38 leguas; esta noche dió un aguacero de viento que nos hizo correr al norte, y pasada la medianoche dimos las velas y hecimos camino al norueste que no nos cabía más largo.*

*Martes 18 del dho mes tome el altura en 8 grados y un tercio, y causolo que habiamos corrido la noche pasada al norte, y la corriente iba para el norte y de aqui volvimos nuestro camino del sudueste.*

*Miercoles 19 del dho mes tome el altura en 8 grados y 5 minutos; hecimos al sudueste quarta del oeste 20 leguas.*

*Jueves 20 del dho mes no tome el altura que no parescio el sol; hecimos camino al oeste; halle por la singladura que habiamos andado 14 leguas.*

*Viernes 21 del dho mes tome el altura en 7 grados 55 minutos; hecimos camino al oeste 13 leguas.*

*Sabado 22 del dho mes tome el altura en 8 grados a la parte del norte de la linea; hecimos camino al oeste, tomando del norueste 8 leguas.*

*Domingo 23 del dho mes tome el altura en 7 grados y 25 minutos; hecimos camino al sudueste curta del oeste 15 leguas.*

*Lunes a 24 del dho mes tome el altura en 7 grados y 5 minutos; hecimos camino al sudueste quarta del oeste 12 leguas.*

*Martes a 25 del dho mes tome el altura en 6 grados y 4 minutos; hecimos camino al norueste quarta del oeste 20 leguas.*

*Miercoles a 26 dias del dho mes de setiembre tome el altura en 5 grados y un tercio a la banda del norte de la linea; hecimos camino al sudueste 20 leguas. Este dia en la noche nos dio el viento al sudueste y corrimos al norueste quarta del oeste.*

*Jueves 27 del dho mes tome el altura en 5 grados y 7 minutos; hecimos camino al norueste quarta del oeste 20 leguas.*

*Viernes 28 del dho mes tome el altura en 6 grados y 8 minutos a la banda del norte de la linea; hecimos camino al norueste 20 leguas.*

*Sabado a 29 del dho mes tome el altura en 7 grados y 2 tercios a la banda del norte de la linea; hecimos camino al norueste quarta del oeste 15 leguas.*

*Domingo 30 del dho mes tome el altura en 7 grados y 43 minutos; hecimos camino al norueste tomando del oeste 15 leguas.*

*Lunes a primero dia del siguiente mes de octubre del dho año, tome el altura del sol en 8 grados y 28 minutos; hecimos camino al norueste tomando del oeste 8 leguas, con aguaceros que nos echaban al norte.*

*Martes 2 dias del dho mes, en saliendo el sol vimos **tierra**; estaba por la parte del oeste 12 leguas de nosotros, y tuvimos calma, que la nao no caminaba ninguna cosa, sino que nos echaba el aguaje para el norte; tome el altura en 8 grados y 55 minutos a la parte del norte.*

...

*Jueves a 11 del dho mes ... estuviendo surto en esta bahia, tome el altura en 8 grados y 4 minutos....”*

...

Y porque Saavedra puso tan buena diligencia con tanto trabajo y peligro, cumplio el mandato de V.M. tan bien, y tiene deseo de hacer muchos mas servicios a V.M., merece que V.M. le haga muchas mercedes, porque nadie se le puede hacer conforme a sus servicios sino V.M.; y ansi se le suplico de mi parte, y ansi quedo esperando el socorro de V.M., la cual Dios Todopoderoso con acrescentamiento de mayores reinos guarde y prospere.

Desta isla i muy leal cibdad de Tidore dia de Corpus Cristi 11 dia del mes de Junio de mill e quinientos e veinte [i ocho].

[Signed: De la Torre]

Visto. Simancas 30 de Septiembre 1783.- Muñoz.

## Translation of De la Torre's report

Sacred Cesarian Catholic Majesty,<sup>1</sup>

Hernando de la Torre, servant and vassal of Your Royal Majesty, who is presently Captain General and Governor at this island of the Moluccas within the limits of Y.M., kisses the sacred hands and feet of Y.M. to whom it seems proper that I send a report, because God has shown me so much good and favor that it is in my time, rather than at the time of any of the other Captains of the past, that he has given a place and opportunity to write to Y.M., with this caravel<sup>2</sup> that Y.M. has ordered sent here from New Spain to find out about these exiled sons of Eve who are always requesting succor from Y.M., because we have so much in need of it. Well, my own good fortune has been such that in my time we reached these parts; that is the reason for me to give Y.M. a full account of what has occurred to us in them, after we arrived at this island of Tidore...

1 Ed. note: Based on the above transcript by Muñoz and Navarrete's edited version.

2 This caravel was the Florida, Captain Saavedra, sent by Cortés from Mexico. It had arrived at Tidore on 30 March 1528.

### Extracts from Uriarte's logbook

"In the name of God and of Our Lady the virgin Mary, on Monday 24th day of July 1525, on the eve of the feast day of St. James, before daybreak we left La Coruña, headed for Cape Finisterre. On that day the sun[']s elevation] was [not] taken.

...

Saturday 26 May, we came out of the Strait with the wind SW, and it was the feast day of San Alfonso and the eve of Trinity Day.

From Saturday 26 May when we came out of the Strait until Sunday noon today 27 May, we made our way with the needle to the NNW, and covered 25 leagues from Cape Deseado. I did not apply a correction to the needle, because the sun did not appear to take the elevation and see how much westing the needle was making.

Monday 28 May, the sun was taken in  $41^{\circ}14'$ , we ran NW and reached 85 leagues from Cape Deseado.

Tuesday 29th day of May, the sun was not taken because it did not appear. We headed NW and made 15 leagues.

Wednesday 30 May, the sun was not taken. We headed NW and ran for 12 leagues.

Thursday 31st day of May, I did not take the sun because it did not appear. We ran NW  $1/4$  W for 15 leagues.

Friday 1st day of the following month of June of the said year, the sun was not taken because it did not appear. We ran WNW and made 30 leagues with the wind NW [sic]. On this day, neither the caravels nor the patache appeared.

Saturday 2nd day of June, I did not take the sun because it did not appear. The wind blew from the South and we took in the sails. After the first watch, we ran with [only] the lower foresail and, on Sunday, with a heavy sea and force of wind, we ran N  $1/4$  NW for a distance of 40 leagues.

Sunday 3rd of June, I did not take the sun because it did not appear. We ran N  $1/4$  NW with a southerly, and throughout the night with the lower foresail, and on Sunday we raised the mainsail and ran for 24 leagues.

Monday 4th of June, the sun was taken in  $42^{\circ}1/2$ . The resultant course made from Cape Deseado to here was NW, and we were 200 leagues from Cape Deseado along a line bearing NW—SE with it.

Tuesday 5 June, the sun was not taken because it did not appear. We headed WNW and ran 20 leagues. Tuesday at night, from noon until midnight, we headed NW and ran 12 leagues.

On this day, after midnight, until Wednesday noon today 6th of June, we headed N and made 7 leagues. On this day the sun was taken in  $41^{\circ}$ . This latitude gave us a point which was with respect to Cape Deseado 288 leagues along a NW—SE line with the cape. From Santa Cruz until here, the needles showed some westing.

From noon today until Wednesday night, we headed N with a westerly, and covered 13 leagues.

From midnight on, the wind turned to NW and we headed NE 1/4 E until today Thursday 9 o'clock, and ran 8 leagues. At 9, we tacked to W with the same wind. On this day which is 7 June at noon, the sun was taken in  $39^{\circ}2/3$ .

Friday 8th of June, from Thursday noon until today Friday before noon, we headed SW 1/4 W with a light NW wind. We ran 10 leagues and on this day the sun was not taken.

Saturday 9th day of the month of June, since Friday afternoon the wind turned to SW, and we ran until evening with the lower sails; then about nighttime we took in the lower mainsail, because we were hit by much wind, and we ran with only the lower foresail, and we ran with it until today noon; during the whole of last night, we changed course many times, first NW 1/4 N, then NNW, and finally NE 1/4 E, because the wind was rotating and we were forced to run before it. All these conjectured headings resulted in a run to the NNW 37 leagues; on this day, the sun was taken in 38 degrees.

Sunday 10 June; from Saturday noon until today noon we headed NNE, and ran until today morning with the lower foresail and mizzensail, and covered 20 leagues; we found ourselves 355 leagues from Cape Deseado; on this day the sun was taken in 37 degrees.

Monday 11 June, the feast day of San Bernabé, the sun was taken in 35 degrees, and on this day the sun was in the Tropic of Cancer; the heading was NW and we figured that we had covered 45 leagues, putting us  $387\text{-}1/2$  leagues from Cape Deseado.

Tuesday 12th day of June, I did not take the sun because it did not appear, and from Monday noon until today in the morning, we headed NE 1/4 N, and covered 13 leagues with the wind NNW; on this day in the morning we tacked to WSW for two hours, and then tacked back to NE with the same wind.

Wednesday 13 June, the sun was taken in 32 degrees  $1/3$ , we headed NNW and the resulting run for Tuesday and today Wednesday was NNE, with 50 leagues covered during these two days, placing us at 400 leagues from Cape Deseado.

Thursday 14 June, the sun was not taken because it did not appear; we headed NE 1/4 E with the wind NNW, and made 25 leagues.

Friday 15th of June, the sun was not taken because it did not appear; we headed NE and covered 25 leagues.

Saturday 16 June, the sun was taken in 29 degrees  $1/2$ ; he headed N 1/4 NW 21 leagues, and it was according to the map of **Nuño García** 435 leagues from Cape Deseado and, following this chart SW [SE?], I end up 37 leagues on the NE side of Cape San Ildefonso which is a cape in the Strait; and according to the map of **Diego Rive-ro**, I am from Cape Deseado 460 leagues, and going SSE, I end up 30 leagues on the SW side of Cape Deseado.

Sunday 17 June, the sun was not taken because it could not be taken well.

Monday 18 June, the sun was taken in 28 degrees  $2/3$ ; Sunday and Monday we headed WNW and it appeared that we had covered 30 leagues during these 48 hours.

Tuesday 19 June, the sun was not taken; until Monday after midnight, we headed W 1/4 SW and covered 7 leagues, and afterward on Tuesday before daybreak, we tacked

to NE; this until the afternoon, and we headed NE 1/4 N with scarce winds and made 5 leagues.

Wednesday 20 June, the sun was not taken, and from Tuesday afternoon the wind blew from SSW; we headed NW 1/4 W and made 13 leagues; and until now I have not given the leeway to NW of the needle, which was by now more than one point.

Thursday 21th of the said month, the sun was not taken; we headed NW 1/4 W.

Friday 22nd of the said month, I took the sun in 27 degrees and 4 minutes; we headed WSW.

Saturday 23th of the said month, I took the sun in 27 and 10 minutes; we headed W and a little SW.

Sunday 24th of the said month, I took the sun in 26 degrees 1/2.

Monday 25th of the said month, I took the sun in 26 degrees and 50 minutes; we headed W and a little SW.

Tuesday 26th of the said month, I did [not] take the sun; we headed WSW and at night we had so much wind that we could not maintain the sails.

Wednesday 27th day of the said month, I took the sun in 24 degrees; we headed NNW.

Thursday 28th of the said month, I took the sun in 24 degrees; we headed NNW.

Friday of the said month the 29th, I took the sun in 23 degrees 1/4; we headed NNW.

Sunday<sup>1</sup> 1st day of the following month of July, I took the sun in 21 degrees and 8 minutes; we headed N and somewhat NW.

Monday 2nd day of the said month, I took the sun in 20 degrees and 18 minutes; we headed N and a little NW.

Tuesday 3rd day of the said month, I did not take the sun; we headed W 1/4 NW.

Wednesday 4th day of the said month, I did not take the sun; we headed W 1/4 NW.

Thursday 5th day of the said month, I did not take the sun; we headed WNW.

Friday 6th day of the said month, I took the sun in 18 degrees and 14 minutes; we headed WNW.

Saturday 7th of the said month, I took 27 degrees and 6 minutes; we headed WNW.

Sunday 8th of the said month, I did not take the sun; we headed WSW.

Monday 9th of the said month, I did not take the sun; we headed NE.

Tuesday 10th of the said month, I took the sun in 16 degrees and 4 minutes; we headed NW 1/4 W.

Wednesday 11th of the said month, I took the sun in 15 degrees and 8 minutes; we headed NW.

Thursday 12th of the said month of July, I took the sun in 13 degrees and 18 minutes; we headed NW 1/4 W.

Friday 13th of the said month, I took the sun in 12 degrees; we headed NW.

Saturday 14th of the said month, I did not take the sun nor did we cover any distance because we were becalmed.

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1 Ed. note: There is no entry for Saturday.

Sunday 15th of the said month, I took the sun in 12 degrees and 12 minutes; we headed W  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW.

Monday 16th of the said month, I took the sun in 11 degrees  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; we headed NW.

Tuesday 17th of the said month, I took the sun in 9 degrees  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; we headed NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.

Wednesday 18th of the said month, I took the sun in 8 degrees and we headed NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.

Thursday 19th of the said month, I took the sun in 7 degrees and 2 minutes; we headed NW and a little W.

Friday 20th of the said month, I took the sun in 6 degrees and 25 minutes; we headed NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.

Saturday 21st of the said month, I took the sun in 5 degrees and 38 minutes; we headed NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.

Sunday 22nd of the said month, I took the sun in 6 [4?] degrees and 25 minutes; we headed NW.

Monday 23rd of the said month of July, I took the sun in 2 degrees and 35 minutes; we headed NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.

Tuesday 24th of the said month, I took the sun in 1 degree and 46 minutes; we headed NW and a little W.

Wednesday 25th day of the said month, I took the sun in 41 minutes; we headed NW; this elevation in degrees and minutes has been for southern latitudes.

Thursday 26th of the said month, I took the sun in 20 minutes on the north side of the equinoctial line; we headed NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.

Friday 27th of the said month, I took the sun in 2 degrees and 28 minutes on the N side; we headed NW.

Saturday 28th of the said month, I did not take the sun; we headed W.

Sunday 29th of the said month, I did not take the sun; we headed NW.

Monday 30th of the said month, I did not take the sun; we headed NW.

Tuesday 31st of the said month, I took the sun in 4 degrees and 28 minutes.

Wednesday 1st day of the said month of August, I took the sun in 5 degrees and 16 minutes on the north side; we headed NW.

Thursday 2nd of the said month, I took the sun in 6 degrees and 35 minutes; we headed NW.

Friday 3rd day of the said month, I did not take the sun; we headed W.

Saturday 4th of the said month, I did not take the sun; we headed NW.

Sunday 5th of the said month, I did not take the sun; we headed NW.

Monday 6th of the said month, I took the sun in 8 degrees  $\frac{2}{3}$ ; we headed NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.

Tuesday 7th of the said month, I took the sun in 9 degrees  $\frac{2}{3}$ ; we headed NW.

Wednesday 8th of the said month, I did not take the sun because it did not appear; we headed NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  W. Since yesterday noon until today noon we covered 26 leagues.

Thursday 9th of the said month, I did not take the sun; we made 37 leagues to WNW, with the chart marked off at just under 12 degrees. On this very day all the officers on board agreed with the Captain not to go further north. Because many of our people were dying, we had to make our way to the islands of the Moluccas.<sup>1</sup>

Friday 10 of the said month [of August 1526], I took the sun in 12°25' N of the Line. We ran W by N 32 leagues.

Saturday 11 of the said month, I took the sun in 12°35'. Today the sun was at the zenith<sup>2</sup>. We ran W by N 42 leagues.

Sunday 12 of the said month, I took the sun in 12°36'. We ran W 40 leagues.

Monday 13 of the said month, I took the sun's elevation in 12°38'. We ran W by N 43 leagues.

Tuesday 14 of the said month, I took the sun's elevation in 12°38'. We ran W 40 leagues.

Wednesday 15 of the said month, I took the sun's elevation in 12°32' N of the equator. We ran W by N 32 leagues.

Thursday 16 of the said month, I took the sun's elevation in 12°3'. We ran W by N 4 leagues.<sup>3</sup>

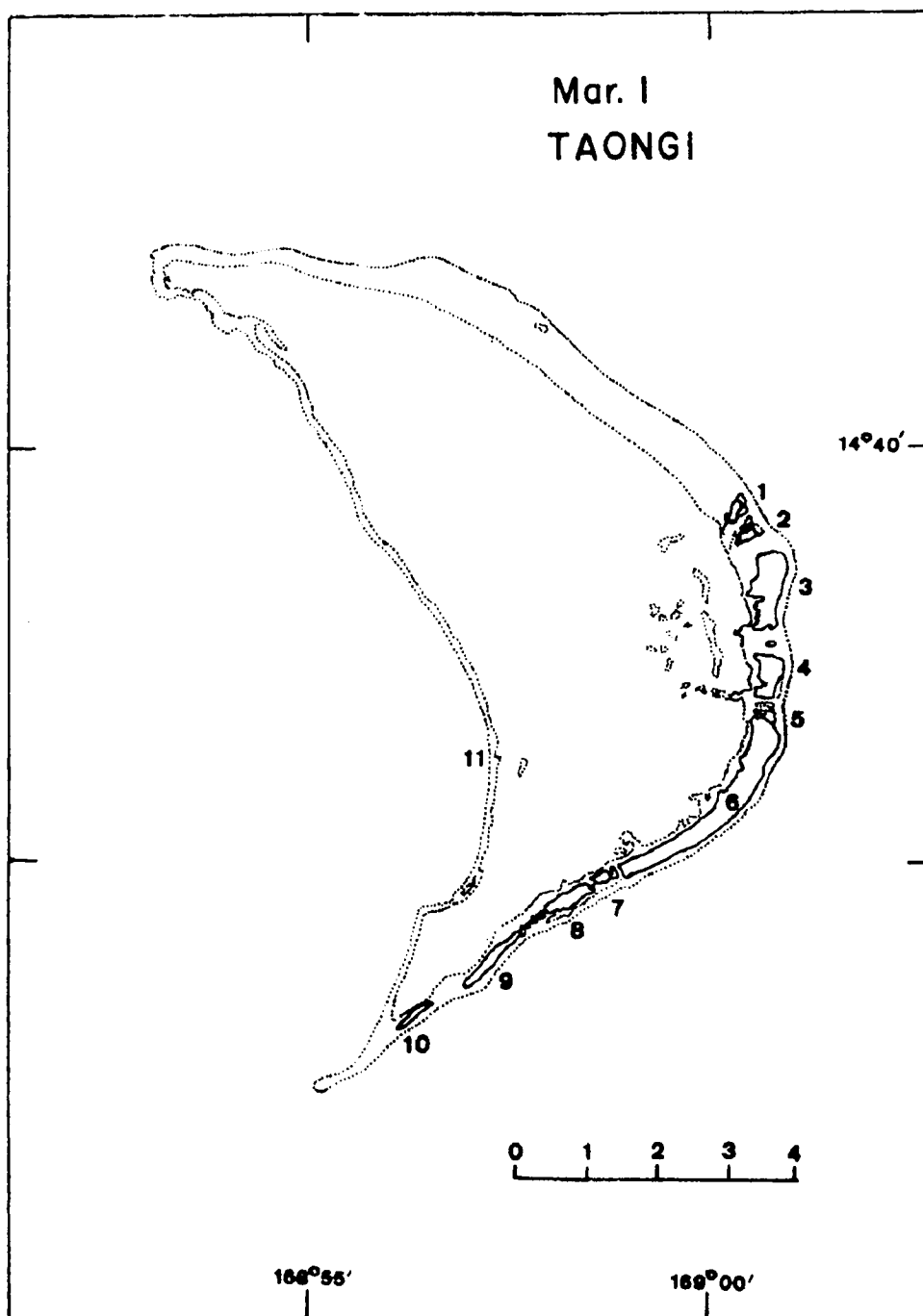
Friday 17 of the said month, I took the sun's elevation in 12°32'. We ran W by N 34 leagues.

Saturday 18 of the said month, I took the sun's elevation in 12°35' N of the equator. We ran W by N 30 leagues.

Sunday 19 of the said month of August, I took the sun in 13°25' and the reason for it was the current that pushed us northward. On this day and past night, we headed W but the point on the chart gave me a run of WNW 28 leagues.

Monday 20 of the said month, I took the sun in 13°34'. We ran W but the elevation gave me a point WNW 30 leagues.

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- 1 Ed. note: According to Navarrete (Vol. V, p. 46, footnote) who in 1812 re-constructed the track of the Victoria across the Pacific, on top of a chart drawn by Spanish Navy Captain José de Espinosa y Tello in 1812-14, and who corrected it for the known position of Taongi, the ship must have crossed the equator at a longitude of 143°50' W of Cádiz, i.e. 150° W of Greenwich. Dr. Helen Wallis in her thesis has argued that a better estimate for the crossing of the equator was 144° W of Greenwich. Loaysa died soon after, near 4°N, and Elcano followed him a few days later, near 7°N.
  - 2 Ed. note: A puzzle to me, but perhaps not to a true navigator. The sun was at the zenith at noon on that day, 11 August. Shouldn't the latitude then have been about 16° rather than 12°? Was he using a cross-staff, a quadrant or an astrolabe?
  - 3 Ed. note: The transcript says 4 leagues, but was probably 40 leagues, the average daily run that week.



**Map of San Bartolome or Taongi, discovered 21 August 1526. (From E. H. Bryan, Jr., "Guide to Place Names", Honolulu, 1971)**

### [The discovery of Taongi]

Tuesday 21 of the said month, I took the sun in  $13^{\circ}35'$ . We ran W 18 leagues. Today, Tuesday, after noon we discovered land to the north and then we changed course toward it. We came to within 3 leagues of it, and it was already late afternoon so that we did not dare go closer. We then stood off it all night, and after the second night watch, we veered toward land looking for the island.

Wednesday at 11 in the morning we came near it less than one league and we took soundings but did not find bottom. Today Wednesday at noon, I took the sun being next to the south point of the island in  $14^{\circ}02'$ .<sup>1</sup>

On the southern side of this island, it has a point in the east that is connected to another in the west along a line that runs ENE—WSW for about 10 leagues. From this WSW point, it runs to another point in the NW along a line bearing NW1/4N<sup>2</sup> for about 9 leagues.

Inside this island on the west side, there was a very big lagoon whose water looked very green. On the east side of this lagoon, there were big trees. Here we beat all day and night without being able to reach it because the current had carried us downwind from it. Thus we agreed to go in search of the Islands of the Ladrões and the Molucas. We named the said island **San Bartolome** because his feast day was celebrated 2 or 3 days earlier.<sup>3</sup>

Thursday 23 of the said month, I took the sun in  $13^{\circ}40'$ . We ran W by S 20 leagues.

Friday 24 of the said month, I took the sun in  $13^{\circ}18'$  N of the Line. We ran W by S 42 leagues. I am from the Island of San Bartolome E by N—W by S 70 leagues.

Saturday 25th day of the said month, I took the sun in  $13^{\circ}25'$ . We ran W 48 leagues.

Sunday 26 of the said month, I took the sun in  $13^{\circ}25'$ . We ran W by S 47 leagues.

Monday 27 of the said month of August, I took the sun in  $13^{\circ}38'$ . We ran W by N 28 leagues.

Tuesday 28 of the said month, I took the sun in  $13^{\circ}28'$ . We ran W by S for 8 leagues.<sup>4</sup>

Wednesday 29 of the said month, I took the sun in  $13^{\circ}18'$ . We ran W by N 24 leagues.

Thursday 30 of the said month, I took the sun in  $12^{\circ}45'$ . We ran W by S 25 leagues.

Friday 31 of the said month, I took the sun in  $12^{\circ}27'$ . We ran W by S 25 leagues.

Saturday 1st of the next month of September of the said year, I did not take the sun because the sun did not appear. We ran W and I pointed by dead reckoning and found that the daily run had been 25 leagues.

Sunday [2nd] of the said month, I took the sun in  $13^{\circ}40'$ . We ran W then yawed to NW on account of the squalls. We ran 28 leagues.

Monday 3 of the said month, I did not take the sun. We ran W 25 leagues.

1 Ed. note: The exact latitude, for a point 3 miles south of the south point, is  $14^{\circ}30'N$ . This is an error of less than half a degree, an excellent result for the times.

2 That is NW by N. Navarrete has given it as “a line running NW5°N—SE5°S”, which means the same thing. In any case, the island is much smaller than they estimated it to be.

3 Ed. note: In fact, the feast day was to be celebrated 2 days later, 24 August.

4 Ed. note: Perhaps this run was 18, rather than simply 8, leagues.

Tuesday 4 of the said month, at daybreak we saw land and it was one of the **Ladrones Islands** which they had discovered during the other voyage. When we sighted it we were due south of the southern part of the island. We lowered the sails in order to go to it, and upon nearing it the wind became somewhat scarce and the squall was taking us away. We stood off the whole of that day and night.

On Wednesday, the 5th of the said month, we continued maneuvering without being able to make it. There came to us one canoe with certain men from the land and from afar one of them aboard the canoe hailed us in the manner and style of a Spaniard, which did not fail to surprise us very much. We invited him aboard but he did not dare to come without our first giving him safe conduct. The Captain gave it to him; the Captain of the nao was then Toribio Alonso de Salazar.

So the said man who had hailed us came aboard and said that he was from the nao [Trinidad] that on the other voyage had remained behind in the Moluccas when the other [the Victoria] had gone to Spain.<sup>1</sup> They had left the Moluccas with the said nao to go to the land of Darien which is the coast opposite the Spanish [West] Indies. They met with bad weather and returned to the Moluccas. Many of their people died along the way. Then they touched at an island [i.e. Maug] that was north of this one where we were now at present [i.e. Guam]. For fear of dying, he and two other companions deserted there, and thus the nao went off to the Moluccas without them. While they were at the island in question, he said that the Indians killed the other two of his companions and as for himself, some Indians from the same island brought him to this island where he now lived at present.

### [Description of Guam]

On that same Wednesday at night, we anchored at this island. The land on the north side runs E—W from the eastern cape to a point in the middle of the island<sup>2</sup> something like 12 leagues. From this point that is in the middle to the western cape, it runs NE—SW something like 10 leagues. Between these two capes, there are good anchorages. In this NE—SW bay, we were ourselves anchored in 40 fathoms.

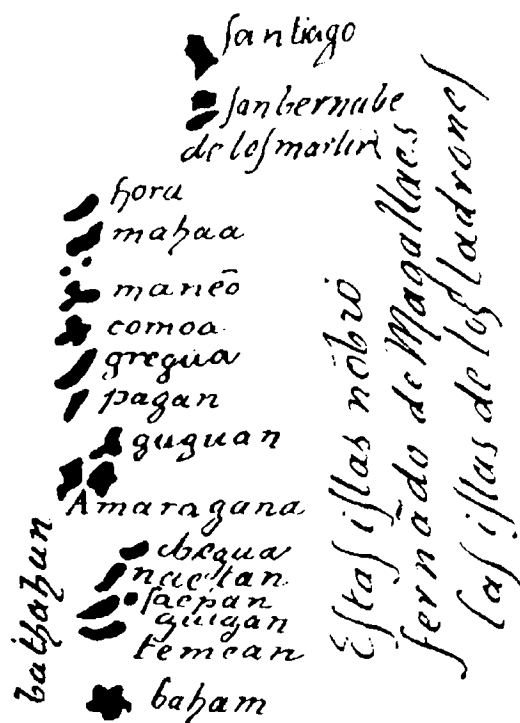
The island is reasonably high and totally bare on top. It is populated along the coast by bad people. They are men with good bodies. They go around naked in the flesh, showing their natures, the women as well as the men. They make war one town against another. Each town has its own king. They worship some dead people. When they bury one of the leading men and they see that [the body] is rotten away, they pull out the bones and worship them. They as well make tips for lances out of the bones of their enemies. There is plenty of oil from coconuts which they make in the sun.<sup>3</sup> There are many fruits of various types. They kill [sic] plenty of fish with fishhooks made of either wood or bone and with lines which they make out of tree bark.

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1 Ed. note: He was Gonzalo Alvarez de Vigo, N° 147 on Magellan's crew list.

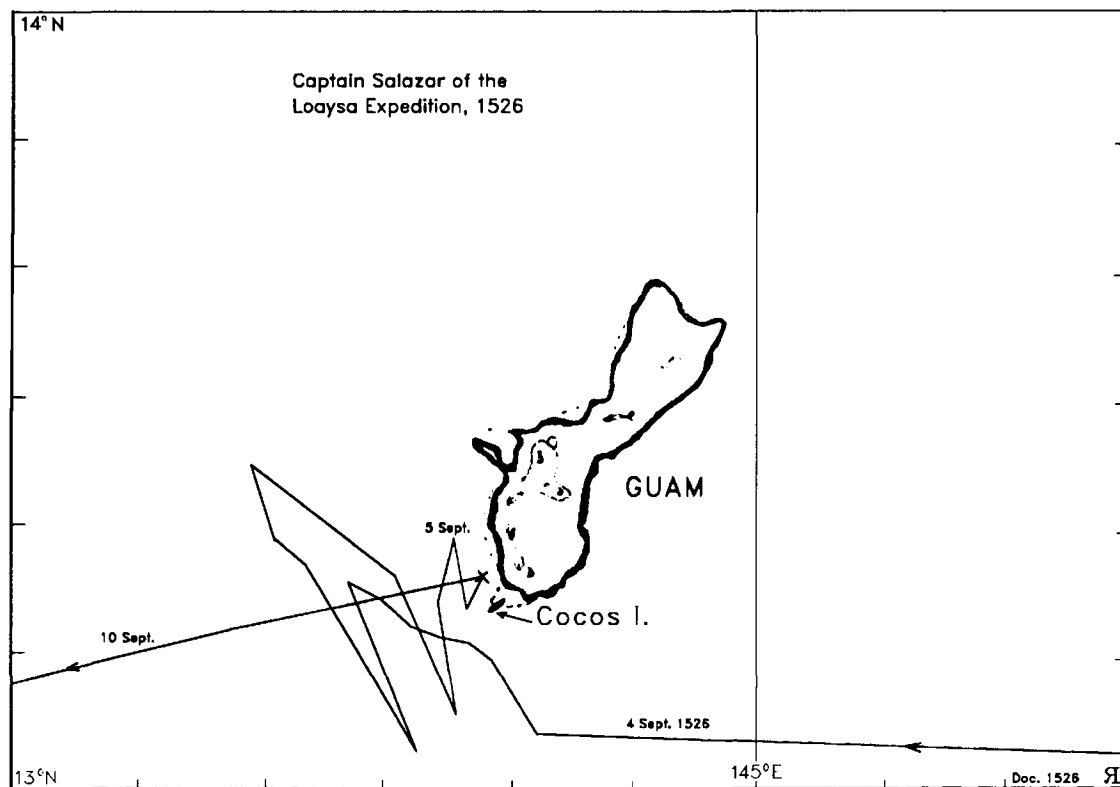
2 Ed. note: Orote Point.

3 Ed. note: That is what is said literally. What is meant, of course, is that they make sun-dried copra from which they later express the oil.



**Map of the Ladrone or Marianas by Sebastian Cabot, 1544.** The information for it may have come from the deserter Gonzalo de Vigo. The three islands at the top belong to another group. The caption on the right means: "These islands were named by Fernando de Magallanes the islands of the Ladrone". This list of 13 (rather than 14) islands is to be compared with those appearing of the Portuguese map in Document 1522D:

1. Baham = Guahan or Guam;
2. Bathahun = Rota(?); if so, the island itself is missing;
4. Temean = Tinian (also written Tenian);
3. Guigan = Aguijan;
5. Saepan = Saipan;
6. Naetan = Anatahan;
7. Chegua = Sarigan;
9. Amaragana = Alamagan;
8. Guguan = Guguan;
10. Pagan = Pagan;
11. Gregua = Agrigan;
12. Comoa = Asunción today, then Sonson, hardly recognizable;
- Maneo = No corresponding island, but probably a duplicate of the Maug Islands;
13. Mahaa = Maug (shown correctly as consisting of 3 islets);
14. Hora = Urac or Uracas.



**The track of the Santa Maria de la Victoria, Captain Salazar, in the vicinity of Guam in September 1526, as described by Martín de Uriarte.**

At this island, we were told that there are 12 other islands of the same type except that in some of them rice is plentiful.

Also at this island we took many doves which the Indians keep in cages but do not eat themselves. Also, in this island there is an abundance of water, and good too. This island has a small island to the northwest [sic]<sup>1</sup>; it is flat with big trees and is very populated. There is about half a league from one to the other.

Friday on the 7<sup>th</sup> of the said month of September, I took the sun in this bay of this island in 13 degrees.<sup>2</sup>

1 Ed. note: An obvious transcription error for southwest, because only Cocos I. can fit this description.

2 Ed. note: The wide bay NW of Cocos is at 13°15', a remarkably accurate result for the time. By the way, there is no entry for Saturday 8 September.

**[11 Guamanians become slaves for one month]**

Sunday 9 of the said month, we took 11 men from this island from among those who had come to sell their things and we took them as slaves in order to provide the people of the nao some rest because it leaked badly. This was by order of Captain Toribio Alonso de Salazar.<sup>1</sup>

Monday, on the 10th of the said month, before daybreak, we took our departure from this island to go in search of the Moluccas, heading WSW and at noon I took the sun in 12°32'.

Tuesday 11 of the said month, I took the sun in 12°8' and I was from the said island of the Ladrones 32 leagues ENE—WSW on the north side of the Line.

Wednesday on the 12th of the said month, I took the sun in 11°54'. We ran WSW 15 leagues.

Thursday the 13th day of the said month of September, I took the sun's elevation in 11°18' N. We ran WSW 23 leagues.<sup>2</sup>

Friday 14 of the said month, I took the sun in 10°54' N of the equatorial line. We ran SW by S 38 leagues.

Saturday 15 of the said month, I took the sun in 9°11'. We ran SW by W 23 leagues.

Sunday 16 of the said month, I did not take the sun because it did not appear. We ran SW by W 35 leagues by dead reckoning.

Monday 17 of the said month, I took the sun in just under 7 degrees<sup>3</sup>; we made SW 38 leagues; this evening we were hit by a wind storm that made us run N, and past midnight we made sail and headed NW as we could not follow a greater heading.

Tuesday 18th of the said month, I took the sun in 8 degrees 1/3, as a result of the northward run of last night, and the current ran northward and from here we returned to a SW heading.

Wednesday 19th of the said month, I took the sun in 8 degrees and 5 minutes; we headed SW 1/4 W 20 leagues.

Thursday 20th of the said month, I did not take the sun because it did not appear; I found by dead reckoning to have covered 14 leagues.

Friday 21st of the said month, I took the sun in 7 degrees and 55 minutes; we made W 13 leagues.

Saturday 22nd of the said month, I took the sun in 8 degrees north of the line; we headed W and a little NW 8 leagues.

Sunday 23rd of the said month, I took the sun in 7 degrees and 25 minutes; we headed SW 1/4 W for 15 leagues.

Monday 24th of the said month, I took the sun in 7 degrees and 5 minutes; we headed SW 1/4 W for 12 leagues.

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1 Ed. note: This last sentence was probably added to Uriarte's text by De la Torre, to cover himself.

2 Ed. note: This is the date generally regarded as the day Captain Salazar died.

3 Ed. note: So they passed west of Yap and Palau without sighting either group. They were then hit by a big storm that forced them to zigzag until they reached Mindanao at the beginning of October.

Tuesday 25th of the said month, I took the sun in 6 degrees and 4 minutes; we headed NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  W for 20 leagues.

Wednesday 26th of the said month of September, I took the sun in 5 degrees and  $\frac{1}{3}$  on the north side of the line; we headed SW 20 leagues. On this day, during the night the wind hit us from the SW and we ran NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  W.

Thursday 27th of the said month, I took the sun in 5 degrees 7 minutes; we headed NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  W for 20 leagues.

Friday 28th of the said month, I took the sun in 6 degrees 8 minutes north of the line; we made NW 20 leagues.

Saturday 29th of the said month, I took the sun in 7 degrees  $\frac{2}{3}$  on the north side of the line; we headed NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  W 15 leagues.

Sunday 30th of the said month, I took the sun in 7 degrees 43 minutes; we headed NW a little W 15 leagues.

Monday the 1st day of the following month of October of the said year, I took the sun in 8 degrees 28 minutes; we headed NW a little W 8 leagues, with squalls that pushed us north.

Tuesday 2nd day of the said month, when the sun came out we saw **land**; it was to the west 12 leagues from us, and we were almost becalmed as the nao did not make way, but the current was taking us north. I took the sun in 8 degrees 55 minutes.

Wednesday the 3rd day of the said month of October, I took the sun in 8 degrees 58 minutes; we were not making any headway, and stayed in the same parts as yesterday.

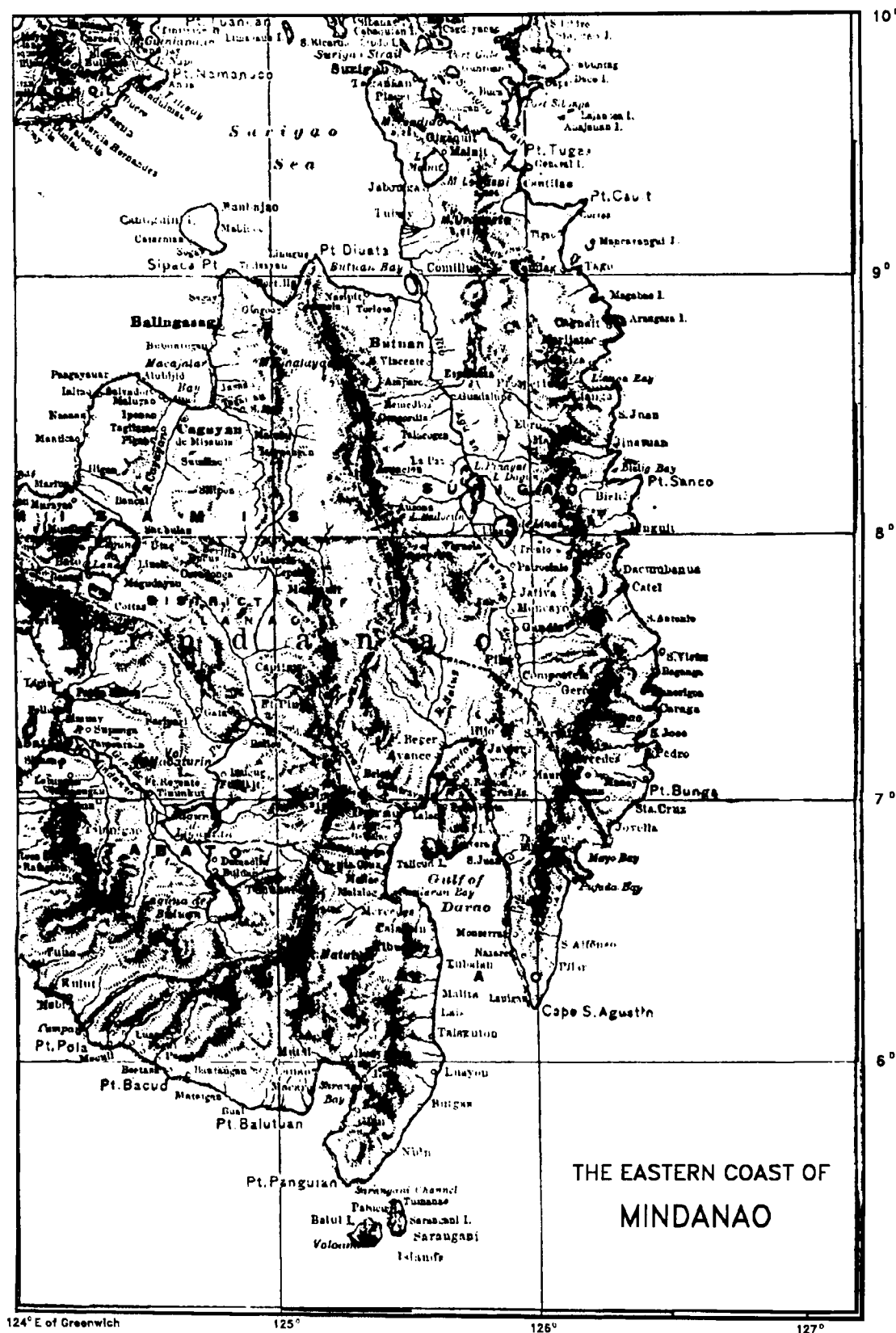
Thursday 4th of the said month, I took the sun in 9 degrees. We did not make any headway since yesterday on account of the great calm, except that the water was taking us here and there.

Friday 5th of the said month, I did not take the sun as it did not appear, and we were still becalmed.

Saturday 6th of the said month, we got a northwesterly and we went in search of the land that we had seen in the SW, and we got near the land, but did not find bottom to anchor. So, as we were coasting the island, we saw a bay that went inland for 4 to 5 leagues, and we went in that way as far as one league, and anchored among some islands that were inside in 40 fathoms.

Sunday 7th of the said month, the boat went ashore to see which land it was and what people were there, and whether there was a better anchorage further inside. I found that there was an anchorage and good running waters.

Monday 8th of the said month, we raised anchor from where we had been, and went through the bay up as far as the cape of the bay, and anchored in 50 fathoms; the whole bay is also soundable. Abreast of this anchorage, at  $\frac{1}{4}$  league, there were many very good rivers, and we picked one that looked suitable. While we were there, the king of a town visited the nao with much friendship, and brought many chickens to sell, and the captain bartered them for some [strings of] glass beads. This king and a few of those who came with him had some earrings of gold that might weigh from 1 ducat to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ducats each, and they were giving each one for half a fathom of beads. The captain did



Map of the east coast of Mindanao Island.

not consent nor wished to mention gold, so that they would not think that we coveted it, and thus it was done.

Tuesday next, the 9th of the said month of October in the morning, the boat went ashore. While we were making friends with the local king who wished to give us some provisions, there came a man from Malacca, and he told the king not to give us anything nor make friends with us, that eventually we would kill them; this man was saying that, thinking we were Portuguese, as he already knew their ways. As he was saying this, they all fled and we could never engage conversation with them, and so the boat returned to the nao without anything collected.

Wednesday 10th of the said month before daybreak, the 11 slaves whom we had taken at the island of the Ladrones fled in the same canoe that we had taken from them, and so we were at this port in which we could never make friends with those ashore nor see any provisions.<sup>1</sup>

Thursday 11th of the said month, the boat went ashore once more, and they took one Indian from the land with one pig, and so they brought him to the nao out of spite, as they had not wished to give us any provisions for our moneys. This island is called Polo.<sup>2</sup> Its people are heathens, they worship idols; these idols are fashioned by them with wood, and they paint them as best they can like our *santos*. In every village, there is a king; some of them are at enmity with one another. The Indian we took told us that there is much gold in the western part of the island, where they would take it from below the ground and sift it with some racks, according to what he told us by signs. While we were anchored in this bay, I took the sun in 8 degrees 4 minutes.<sup>3</sup>

Monday 15th of the said month of October, we departed this port in this island to go to another island that is called Cebu, which is to the northwest. However, when we were outside the capes, we were hit by a wind from the NNW, contrary to our purpose, and so we had to turn back to go in search of the islands of the Moluccas. The said island on its east side runs NW—SE.”<sup>4</sup>

...

### **De la Torre's mention of Saavedra's ship and how he learned about the fate of his companion ship Parral**

While our men were fighting at the said place of Toguale [in Gilolo], about which I have given an account to Y.M. above, they saw a nao sailing that came from the high sea in search of the Moluccas, and it came near this town where our men were fighting

1 Ed. note: It is not known whether some of the Guamanians ever made it back home, but it is quite possible. However, one year later, two Guamanians were reported as still living along that coast (See Doc. 1527B).

2 Ed. note: My educated guess is that the word “polo”, or something like it “pulo” or “pulô”, simply means “island” in most languages of the area, and was not its proper name.

3 Ed. note: From the latitude and earlier description, it appears that this bay was Bislig Bay, called Bisaya Bay in other accounts.

4 Ed. note: It is N by W, almost N—S. The excerpt from the log ends here.

and they, thinking it might be a Spanish ship, fired a shot with an arquebus and three or four with a carbine so that the ship would recognize that there were Christian people there and would stop for the night and wait until morning for further signal from the shore. The captain and the people aboard the ship did understand and they then responded with another three shots from the ship itself. That night the ship tacked offshore and in the morning tacked back to shore; as our men heard that the nao had responded, they went that night to Gilolo [town] to inform the king about the ship, in order for him to give them two or three proas in order to go with two or three men to find out from that ship what people they were, and where they came from. The king then ordered to give three well-equipped proas to those who wished to go, and they in turn left that same night and met the ship at daybreak. They saluted them and asked them where they came from. They answered that they were from Spain and vassals of Y.R.M., and they brought out a royal banner by which our men recognized the truth of what they said, and then they went aboard the ship and were happy with one another. Three men stayed aboard the ship and one returned to Gilolo to tell the king about the ship in question being from Spain, and to ask for a proa to come to Tidore and let me know, and also to ask for help because a fusta had already left Ternate to go to the said ship, as the night before they had heard the gunners.

When it was learned here which ship it was, the joy was so great that we could not believe it, but the messenger was in a hurry, because he said that the Portuguese fusta was bombing the ship and that he had heard the shots as he was coming [to Tidore]. Our own fusta was then made ready (it was already on standby) and it left at nightfall with 40 well-equipped men.

The Portuguese had gone to the ship with their fusta and asked those aboard where they came from. The captain of the ship answered that he was from Spain. The Portuguese asked which country he was from, Castile or Portugal? The captain answered once more that he was from Castile, and a vassal of Y.M. The captain of the fusta said: Well and good, that is what we need in these islands. The captain answered that he came in search of the Moluccas, because there was there a governor and captain general of Y.M. and that he was bringing him some provisions, to which the captain of the fusta answered that there was no captain nor governor, as he had called it, in these islands; rather, a nao from Castile had arrived whose captain had been Commander Fray García de Loaysa, who had died along the way, and that the nao had taken port here and had become lost inside the port here, that they had then built a small ship and they had all embarked in it to return to Spain; that this land belongs to the king of Portugal, and he requested the captain of the ship, in the name of the King of Portugal, as a fortress had been built in the island of Ternate, that he should go there to anchor, that he would be given everything he needed there, because the King of Portugal has so ordered. The captain of the ship answered that he did not bring instructions from Y.M. to that effect, but rather he was to go directly to the island of Tidore, and that once he had complied with his orders, if he should not find any Spaniard at the island of Tidore, he

would then go to the fortress of the King of Portugal; then he requested the captain of the fusta to let him pass to comply with what Y.M. had ordered.

When the captain of the fusta saw that his talking and promises got nowhere, he then ordered that a large mortar gun that they carried in the middle of the bow be fired. Fire was applied to it three times, but it pleased God Our Lord that it never caught. Meanwhile, our men were not responding. When the Portuguese saw that their gun did not fire, they began to unload the cannon by its mouth; meanwhile, they began to fire some smaller guns to which the ship responded in kind. At about this time, the wind arose and the ship moved so fast that the fusta could neither catch nor overtake it. They went to put themselves in the harbor of Gilolo, and anchored there, because they were unable to come to Tidore...

The ship came later in company with the fusta and many other proas that were towing it, and came to anchor here at the island of Tidore, on Monday 30th day of the month of March of the year 1528. Now I should say more about the ship and the things it carried.

As it were, the three ships that Don Hernán Cortés, governor of New Spain, had made ready in the South Sea were despatched in accordance with what Y.M. had ordered him, in order to come to these parts of the Moluccas to look for Commander Fray García de Loaysa, God bless his soul. These ships made it to the Ladrones Islands in sixty days, and five or six days before they got to them, two ships got separated; so that left one who was the flagship which, at something like 90 leagues from Tidore, at an island on the north side of the line, called Bisaya, it ransomed three men who had come in the caravel named **Santa María del Parral** which had been lost there, as Y.M. will see later. At about 200 leagues from this island here, the pilot of this ship whom Don Hernán Cortés had sent died, and it was left without another knowledgeable about latitudes, and they sure were lucky to be able to make it this far. Later on, the work of repairing it was begun, and then it was despatched quickly to let Y.M. know what was happening here.

On Wednesday 28 April of the said year, while the ship was being repaired and careened, I sent a proa to the island of Machian with four men from among our Spaniards to get goats for provisioning the ship...

...  
On the 22nd day of the month of May, after the seizure of the [Portuguese] galley, the Portuguese received six ships to their succor from Malacca; they were: one galiot, one brig, three ships and a large junk. As captain of the fleet, there came Gonzalo García de Acevedo; he brought in all 150 men, and with those in the fortress, that made a total of 190.

Y.M. will learn that, after we lost the caravels **Santa María del Parral** and **San Lesmes**, and the patache [Santiago], we never heard anything from them until we got to these islands of the Moluccas. After 10 months had passed, which was in October 1527, I received news from some Indians from the islands of the Celebes who came to these islands how they had heard overthere in the islands of the Celebes that at an is-

land named Sarangani one nao had been lost, and they were saying that it came from Spain; that the Indians had killed and taken prisoners those who came aboard the said nao, and that they had taken and stolen all the goods and guns, as well as all the other things aboard; and then, after they had so taken it, they set fire to the nao in order to recover the ironworks, because they could not take advantage of them any other way.

As for myself, I then wished to send someone to find out what nao it was, but I did not have any ship with oars, and not enough proas to spare, on account of the Portuguese being in Ternate, I did not dare send any so as not to abandon the country, as the Portuguese would have taken possession of it. They were then very powerful in it, because they had one fusta, one boat, one brig, two caravels, and many men, almost twice our number. Rather, I was waiting for this fusta of Y.M. that was being built at Gilolo, and some proas that were being built here at Tidore. Then, after the said fusta and proas were completely finished, and ready to go on the said voyage, I received the news that a nao had come from Spain and that it was as far as 10 leagues from the island and place of Gilolo, and as soon as I learned of it, the fusta and the proas being ready, I then sent them to learn what nao it was and to assist it against the fusta and boat of the Portuguese who were bombing it. When the Portuguese learned that our fusta was coming to the rescue of the nao, they returned to Ternate and their fortress. When our fusta came alongside the nao, it asked who they were, and they answered that they had come from New Spain on orders from Y.M. and despatched by Hernán Cortés, marquis and governor of New Spain, that the captain was Alvaro de Saavedra Cerón, who had brought along two other ships, and that they had become separated on the other side of the Ladrões Islands, and that they had never seen them again. So, they all came to this port, the fusta, the proas and the said ship. Captain Saavedra Cerón then stepped ashore and gave me a letter from Your Royal Majesty addressed to Commander Loaysa, may he rest in peace, and [the copies of] another letter and the instruction from Y.M. to Hernán Cortés for him to despatch these ships in relief of Commander Loaysa and his fleet. After I had received them, I undertook to despatch the said captain Saavedra to let Y.M. know the events here.

Y.M. will learn that the three men from the caravel **Santa María del Parral** who were ransomed by Captain Saavedra, as I have said above, gave me an extensive account of the manner in which the said caravel was lost. One of the men was named Sebastián de Porto; he told me that they had arrived at an island that is called Bisaya, where we ourselves had anchored with this nao, and that upon arrival they sent the boat ashore with 14 well-equipped men, and with them the Bachelor Tarragona to make friends and peace with the Indians, in order to obtain some food supplies which they then needed. Upon arriving ashore, the Indians then came to them to find out who they were, and so they began to make peace as best they could, by embracing one another in sign of friendship. Bachelor Tarragona gave them some trade goods and by signs they told them they would come back the next day to the beach with many pigs and foodstuffs, and that it the understanding they had of what the others were saying with their signs, because they had no other language with which to communicate. With this

much, they returned to the caravel, and Bachelor Tarragona narrated to Don Jorge [de Manrique], captain of the caravel, how he had made friends with the Indians and how he had arranged for them to bring many pigs and other foodstuff the next day when they went with the boat. That night, Don Jorge and Bachelor Tarragona talked it over and agreed that the next day the same Bachelor would go back with the boat ashore with 13 or 14 men to barter for the said food supplies as agreed with the Indians. Later in the morning, Bachelor Tarragona entered the boat with the said men and went ashore to get the said supplies. After he was gone, Captain Don Jorge and all the people left aboard the caravel were very happy, giving thanks to God for having brought them to a plentiful land.

This same day, at perhaps 10 o'clock, five large canoes came alongside with much food and all the Indians in them brought their bows and arrows, lances, and shields. The captain ordered that no-one was to barter anything on the pain of death, saying that the boat was ashore, and there they would find the food cheaper, so he ordered the canoes to go away, that he did not wish to barter anything. When they saw that we did not barter anything with them, they went toward the shore where the boat had gone. So, the poor people aboard were left with the great desire to see the boat return to kill the great hunger they had, and while they were with this worry, night fell and the boat had not returned. Everyone was wondering what could have happened to it. Some were saying that it was delayed on account of the quantity of food, while others were saying that perhaps they had gotten into some disaster with the Indians about the barter. As talks progressed, midnight arrived and still it had not come; so, they fired two or three shots to see if they would be answered but they did not. Thus, the whole night was spent with much pain and suffering, and they remained there for the whole of the next day and night, and the boat never came; they realized then that the boat had indeed been lost.

#### **[The strange story of the mutiny aboard the Parral]**

He ordered those with some food left to lock it up. When the said Sebastián del Porto saw that the captain had ordered those with any food left to lock it up, and also because the captain had threatened him to the effect that at the first land encountered he would punish him for a certain grudge he held against him, for fear of that, and on account of the hunger that tormented him, he decided to abandon the nao and go ashore with the hope that one day some ship would come from Spain and take him, that he could not stand so much hunger and labor, so he put it into practice.

His two other companions, who are called Romay and Sánchez respectively, narrated to me, after the said Sebastián had gone, the rest of the story. The following day in the morning, Don Jorge ordered the sails to be set to get near the shore to look for his boat and people. When they got near the shore, they saw many Indians on a beach, and asking them as best they could about the boat and people, the Indians made a sign with their hand to their throat, as if to cut it, the better to say that they had all been killed. Upon seeing such signs, they believed it was true, and so, they moved beyond a point 2 or 3 leagues from there. They anchored and stayed there for 4 or 5 days, and

no canoe ever came alongside. When they were about to leave, a leading man from the country came with 2 or 3 canoes loaded with food, and the captain asked that only one canoe would come at a time, and that they would barter for everything they had brought. The Indians understood them very well; the leading man ordered the canoes to move off, and he came with his to barter everything they had brought. After everything had been bartered, he went ashore and said he would return the next day to bring many pigs and other food, and so he did; then the next day in the morning, there came alongside another 7 or 8 canoes with much foodstuff and, following the same procedure as the previous day, what they had brought was bartered.

When they had already almost finished trading, Don Jorge and his brother Don Diego were on the poop channels attending to the said trade, and Benavides had his chest sticking out over them; the Indians who were trading, when they saw that, took Don Jorge and Don Diego by the arms and legs and threw them overboard; they never appeared. Then, the Indians who were in the other canoes began to throw many poisoned arrows, stones and other weapons they had brought, and they hit Juan de Benavides with a poisoned arrow in the chest and he later died that night. They also killed two other men who were sick over the quarterdeck. Those aboard the nao, not knowing what to do, a gunner decided to let them have it from a gun he had already primed, and he fired without aiming, so, they pulled off a little from the nao, and then he primed for another shot and fired again, so that they went back ashore. Those aboard the nao were all left saddened and disconsolate because of the great disaster that had befallen them, having lost the boat with 14 men, and now to have their captain killed, with his brother, and three more, leaving only 19 of them alive. They began to weigh an anchor they had overboard but they could not lift it on account of their small number. So, they let go of the cable and made sail, going wherever the wind and current would take them, because they did not have a pilot nor seaman, nor anyone who knew how to manage the sails. At the end of two or three days of sailing that way, they arrived in view of an island called Sarangani, and when they got near it, they saw a very good beach and they all discussed among themselves about what to do, and all agreed that, without a captain nor pilot nor able seamen, not even a boat, that a storm one night could throw them against the coast where they would be lost, so they all agreed to drive the caravel aground on that beach in Sarangani. However, as they were arriving near the beach, they were jumped by a headwind which cast them aside upon some rocks. The caravel was left leaning over on one side, and the Indians of the island came and began to fight with them. They shot back with some carbines and guns and made the Indians flee. The next day the Indians returned in larger numbers and began battle with many arrows, stones, lances, short spears and many other weapons, in such a way that they made them retreat to the poop. This man affirms that a servant of Don Jorge named San Miguel was killed then and there by a stone that hit him on a cheek. They threw him overboard and, for this reason, they retreated and give up. The Indians came into the nao, killed a few of them, and captured the rest, taking the goods and all the rest, as I have

already said to Y.M. Those who were captured in the nao, they say there were 7 or 8 of them alive, that they were distributed and some sold to other islands.

Four to five days after Captain Saavedra had arrived, I ordered that three proas be made ready to go to those islands to look for the two ships that had come in his company, and to look for the men of the **Parral** left there. Well then, in the said proas, there were 10 Spaniards, including Sánchez and Sebastián de Porto. Then on Easter Sunday of this year, in the morning, Sánchez and Romay came to see me to ask permission to go to a place on this island to look for food to be taken by Sánchez, as he had to go with the proas. I told them to go and get what they wanted.

On that same day, at 2 in the afternoon, many Indians from a place of this island called Mariecu, which is facing Ternate, came to me with Sánchez and Romay whom they held prisoners with their hands tied and their shirt off, and they said that they had tried to flee to Ternate. They denied ever having had such an intention but had been going around the island looking for a goat. As for myself, I thought it was so, because they had recently come to this country and did not yet know the local idiom, and thinking that the Indians had done it to rob them, I therefore did not pursue the truth further.

Two days hence, the proas left to look for the ships and Sánchez with them. At the end of 4 or 5 days after their departure, there came to me a certain man called Pedro de Raigada, supernumerary aboard Y.M.'s fleet. He told me how Romay had told him one night, when he slept at his inn, that if he promised to be discreet he would tell him a little secret. He promised to do so, then the said Romay told him: "You should know that the Indians who brought me the other day were right, because we surely would have gone to Ternate." Pedro de Raigada asked him why he was going to Ternate and Romay answered: "Pedro, I will tell you. You should know that everything we said about the loss of the caravel, and everything else, is all lies." Pedro answered: "In what way?" "You should know that Sánchez, myself, another called Fernando del Oyo, yet another Juan de Olave and four or five others more, all in all about 9 or 10 companions, we killed Captain Don Jorge, his brother Don Diego and Benavides, and after they were dead threw them overboard. After we had done that, we drove the caravel aground upon its side at Sarangani where the loss was complete. That is the reason why he feared the proas going overthere to ransom the Spaniards who are still there, that the evil they had done could not but be discovered, and they were going to Ternate on account of this fear.

When I saw such a big clue, thinking that it could be so, I ordered Romay to be arrested. Later, I had certain questions put to him in the case, and he denied everything, saying that it was all false, that someone was trying to frame him, upon which I had some treatment applied to him. Still he said that it was false, that some people were doing him harm. I, seeing that nothing, not even torture nor treatments they applied to him made him say anything, I agreed to have him put in jail until the return of the three proas that had gone in search of the ships, in order to get the truth out of Sánchez.

Therefore, I ordered that a proa be sent to contact the three proas; I ordered the arrest of Sánchez, and so the proa went after them, and found them at the port of Zamafu, which is land belonging to the king of Tidore, and it gave the letters it carried to the Spaniards. As for Sánchez, as he had anticipated what it could be, became fearful at the approach of the proa and the handing over of the letters, he then tried to go ashore, saying that he was going to relieve himself, with a sword in the hand, and he no longer returned. Meanwhile, the others in the proa read the letters that I was sending, and saw what I was telling them, they began to call after him, but he did not answer. A few days later, it was learned that he was at a place in Ternate. The three proas returned from that port, the Indians saying that they did not wish to go farther, because the wind and sea were stormy, that the proas would get lost, and so, they returned to this port of Tidore. Therefore, the said Roday will remain in prison until the truth is learned about his crimes.<sup>1</sup>

...

Y.M. will learn that at the time that Captain Saavedra came, we had a great need of many things: lead, as well as other ball-type ammunition for the cannon and other shots, and many other things. He arrived at just the right time and we were all made happy with his arrival. We all marvelled at the fact that it had come from New Spain, because here we had had very little news about that country. He brought many things of which we were in extreme necessity, for example, he brought a very good pharmacy with many drugs and ointments, and many other things belonging to the said pharmacy; he also brought three brass cannon, and left two of them here with 7 or 8 iron arquebuses and many other things, except gunpowder, which he did not bring, and at the departure they were to have given him some powder. It is surely one of the greatest services that Don Hernán Cortés has done to Y.M. by doing his best to fulfill his mandate. Not only did he despatch these three ships, but later undertook to build and equip four more to come to these parts, the better to comply with what the service of Y.M. requires.

Because Saavedra did his best with so much work and risk, fulfilled Y.M.'s mandate so well, and wished to do more to serve Y.M., so, I beg of you on my behalf, and await

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<sup>1</sup> Ed. note: De la Torre does not mention the follow-up story of the execution of Roday, that followed a letter sent by a Flemish soldier who had witnessed the crimes, one of the five or so who had remained behind as a slave somewhere in the Celebes Sea.

succor from Y.M. whom God Almighty may keep and give to him additional kingdoms.

From this island and very loyal city of Tidore, on the day of Corpus Christi, the 11th day of the month of June 152[8].”

[Signed by De la Torre]

Transcribed at Simancas, 30 Sept. 1783.- Muñoz.<sup>1</sup>

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1 Ed. note: Juan Bautista Muñoz was a Spanish historian who, by order of King Carlos III, had transcribed a mass of documents in AGI Seville, at Simancas and other places, in order to publish an official history of Spanish discoveries. Only Vol. I, about Columbus, was published under the title: “Historia del Nuevo Mundo” (Madrid, 1793). However, official funding was withdrawn apparently because the first book had hurt the pride of many Spaniards. After the death of Muñoz, which occurred before 1799, his collection of transcripts passed to the Real Academia de la Historia in Madrid. James Robertson (See his “Bibliography of the Philippine Islands”, Cleveland, 1908; pp. 30, 374) says that part of this collection was re-copied (or “separated” from the original collection) and ended up mostly in the Lenox branch of the New York Public Library (bequeathed by Mr. Rich, who had acquired it from Ternaux-Compans, who himself had got it from a certain Uguina) and some went to other places too, witness the above transcript in London.