
Document 1595

Letter from Lieutenant-Governor Antonio de Morga to the King, dated Manila 25 June 1595

Source: AGI 67-6-18; translated in B&R 9:154-155.

Sire:

On the 10th of this month of July [rather June], I arrived at port in these Philippine Islands with the fleet¹ of your Majesty, and the reinforcements that were sent to this place by the Viceroy Don Luis de Velasco, under my command. I found the land at peace, and more free from suspicions of enemies than it has been hitherto. There is great hope that if moderate diligence be shown, our Lord may be pleased to open the door to the preaching of the gospel among the heathen. This is proved by the harvest gathered by the four discalced friars of the order of St. Francis, who went hence to Japan last year. I found Don Luis Dasmariñas governing this land, on account of the death of his father, as your Majesty will have been fully informed before this. I will serve according to your Majesty's orders in the office of Lieutenant General of these islands with as much care as my strength will permit, until your Majesty may be pleased to order otherwise.

I humbly beseech your Majesty that the method of procedure that is to be followed here be sent to this kingdom with the utmost despatch. May those who live here be granted reward, for they have served your Majesty with much care and fidelity; and if the land is not burdened with taxes, the maintenance and advancement of it are likely to bring about great improvements even in the neighboring kingdoms, to the service of God and of your Majesty.

I shall commence the *residencia* which your Majesty orders me to take in the case of Licentiate Pedro de Rojas, my predecessor, and of other ministers, as soon as these ships for New Spain have sailed. In order not to hinder their despatch, it has seemed

1 Ed. note: Aduarte says that the ships had left Acapulco on 23 March (Tome I, Chap. XXXV).

best to postpone this work; but by the first ships I shall do as your Majesty bids me in this matter.

I was inaugurated into my office as soon as I arrived at this city, and concerning the inauguration I send the accompanying report to your Majesty. As I have come so recently I give no report in detail as to what should be done in this region. From what I have seen, however, it seems to me that I ought to remind your Majesty of what I wrote from Mexico. Your Majesty's treasury in these islands has been administered at a great loss to your Majesty's treasury, and it is very necessary for your Majesty to send someone to make investigations and set things in order for the future. In that way your Majesty will be enabled to meet the expenses incurred, without providing therefor from New Spain, as is done now. Everything is greatly in arrears.

May our Lord preserve the royal person of your Majesty for many long years, as is needed by universal Christendom, and as we your Majesty's servants desire.

Manila, 25 June 1595.

Dr. Antonio de Morga