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## Document 1526E

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### Salazar, ex-Loaysa—Letter from Bustamante and Salinas to the Emperor, dated 3 May 1529

*Sources: Original in Torre do Tombo, Lisbon. Transcribed by Muñoz and published by Navarrete, "Colección de los viages", vol. V, doc. XVI, pp. 314 et seq., and reprinted in the Rivadeneira Collection, vol. 77, pp. 177-181.*<sup>1</sup>

#### Letter written to the Emperor by Hernando de Bustamante and Diego de Salinas, informing him of various events that occurred in the Moluccas and India up to 1529

Sacred Cesarian Catholic Majesty,

After that other letter had been written and sent with Gutierre de Juno [i.e. Tuñón] aboard the caravel **La Florida** that had come from New Spain, I will tell Y.M. what has happened, and that is, the said caravel returned here on 19 November 1528 without being able to go to New Spain. After having sailed 800 leagues, they found contrary weather and returned here. The said caravel came in a very rotten state, so much so that there does not remain one plank that has not been replaced by another, and even a sheathing on top of that, so that it will be safer for another voyage to give news about us to Y.M. What occurred to them during the [1528] voyage was that, while they were taking on food 180 leagues from here, the four Portuguese, whom I mentioned in the other letter were aboard the said caravel, one of the two gentlemen whom I said were aboard, whose name was Simón de Brito, and the other three, plus one slave of

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1 Ed. note: Bustamante, a former barber with Magellan, was a ship accountant with Loaysa; after having written this letter, he deserted to the Portuguese at Ternate and later died at the Maldiv Islands while travelling from Malacca to India aboard a Portuguese ship. Salinas was the royal factor who was killed accidentally by a Portuguese arquebus at the surrender in Gilolo on 26 November 1533.

theirs, took the boat from the said caravel and went off in the daytime in view of everyone, without anyone being able to stop them nor learn anything more about them. So, they left without the said boat [and went] as far as the said 800 leagues.

Before the said caravel returned, some news came here from a place in Zamafo, which belongs to this king of Tidore, that they had made prisoners some three or four men and they did not know whether they were Portuguese or Spanish. To find out who they were, it was arranged to have them brought over, although they were over 100 leagues from here, and they found them to be the said Simón de Brito and one of the other Portuguese who had fled with him. The latter was a Galician who had been the mate of a galley that had been taken from the Portuguese. The others had taken the boat and had gone no-one knows where. These men were brought here as prisoners under guard, and the Captain General had a charge drawn against them, for such and such a crime, so that Simón de Brito, on account of his being a noble gentleman, was decapitated, dragged and quartered, and the mate was hanged.

In addition, a process was held against Romay who, as I said in the other letter, had taken part in the death of Don Jorge Manrique, captain of the caravel **Santa María del Parral**. He confessed having taken part in the death of the said Don Jorge and of all the others who were killed aboard the said caravel. Justice was done to him by dragging him, garrotting him and quartering him.

...

I do not write to Y.R.M. about the prices that the merchandise is worth here and those that should be sent to these countries, because I do so to the officials of the House of Trade, particularly quantities and qualities of all the things that they are responsible to provide. If Y.S.M. or his very high Council, wishes to see it, I have enclosed a copy that will go with a copy of the letter addressed to them care of Gutierre Tuñon, who carries a letter for Y.S.M., and another with Alvaro de Saavedra, the captain who has come from New Spain, addressed to the officials of the city of Mexico, for them to forward it with their own letters. In these letters, as Y.M.'s very loyal vassal and a person who knows well about it all, I say the truth of everything that happened here.

Hernando de la Torre, who is now Y.S.M.'s captain and governor at these islands of the Moluccas, has not wished to write to Y.S.M. at the same time as the officials, although he has been requested to do so, so that neither I nor the others should be responsible for this shortcoming. He has not even wished to send a messenger acceptable to him and to the others to tell the truth about what is going on here, and he has provided instead Gutierre de Tuñon, I do not know why, if not to convince Y.S.M., if something has happened against Y.S.M.'s instructions, that they both were not at fault, one for having been the cause of it with other accomplices, the other for having agreed to it as a person who could not look beyond the present; Y.S.M. will however learn the truth of it all.

I have sent an extensive account to the officials of all those who died from the men who had come in this fleet. It covers a total of 80 persons for the period when we were in company with the other naos and afterwards; 71 died of natural causes and 9 were

drowned when the nao **Sanctispiritus** ran aground. There were 9 killed by the Portuguese and at places owned by Ternate, plus one that was hanged because he had been involved in the killing of Don Jorge Manrique, plus the Portuguese and the Galician who were sentenced to death for having taken the boat from the caravel that had come from New Spain, and one negro from the said caravel who was going to Ternate. Three men stayed behind at Gomera [in the Canary Is.]; 5 have gone over to the Portuguese, one of them taking along one of the Portuguese prisoners; and two others who had come over from the said Portuguese.

There are 73 of us left here, including 7 men who had come from New Spain (there are always many sick ones), plus 3 ship's boys, 1 seaman and 8 slaves who have come from Ternate from the Portuguese camp. We have here one fusta and a brig that was built at Gilolo with the help of the king of Gilolo, plus the fusta that was taken from the Portuguese...

On 11 April 1528, Hernando de la Torre, who is now Y.S.M.'s Captain General at these Molucca Islands, arrested Hernando de Bustamante, treasurer of the nao **Sanctispiritus**, who is at present accountant, with respect to an inquiry that he had secretly held against him, and although he has released him many days ago already, he has never returned the account books to him, nor the record of the deaths up to 18 April of this year of 1529, reason for which he has been unable to attend to many things, and what he has done he has been unable to record it in the books to be able to report everything to Y.S.M., as the Captain General had them in his possession without recording anything that was happening. Please Y.S.M., do not blame the said accountant nor any other official...

In the company of Gutierre de Tuñon, the captain general is sending Manuel Fernández Lobo, Portuguese, who is one of those taken with the galley and also a gentleman, to give an account of everything that has occurred with the Portuguese, before our arrival as well as afterwards, given that he was an eyewitness to it all and will tell the truth as a gentleman and the honorable person that he is. Two other Portuguese, sailors from among the prisoners, are also being sent because we have been informed that there are no seamen there and so as not to give two seamen from the few left here with us.

...  
We have found nothing here left over from the **Magellan expedition**; no men either, because everything and all had been taken by the Portuguese. They had taken 7 men to India, one of whom was Espinosa. The Portuguese who have come over to us say that he had gone to Portugal and, while he was in prison, Y.S.M. had sent to the King of Portugal for him, that he had been sent to you and that Y.S.M. had given him some favors. If that is so, Y.S.M. is better informed that what we could write from here, because some say it one way, and others another way. The said Manuel Fernández will tell what he knows about it.

...

There was found here a letter from Juan de Campos<sup>1</sup> in the hands of the [local] governor, who is the son of king Almansoor, a bastard, who is called Guichilrrade [i.e. Cachil Rade], in which it is said what happened here and how the Portuguese had seized him, Antonio de Brito being captain there, and six others who were here at Tidore with him, along with the goods that Captain Juan Sebastián [de Elcano] had left here; a copy of it goes with the letters that the captain general is sending to Y.S.M...

The ship that was built here could not be made ready to be sent with this caravel or by way of the Cape of Good Hope, because it was built with haste and by new officials, so it turned out that it was impossible to sail with it, because most of the planking became rotten; therefore, in order to get the iron back, it was burned.

Aboard the caravel **Florida**, which came from New Spain, 58 quintals, 3 arrobas and 24 pounds net of clove have been loaded by the people mentioned in the list that goes with the letter from the officials of Your Majesty. As far as Y.S.M.[’s share], he did not wish nor could load it, allowing the rest to be loaded without taking any advice from either the captain or the officials. The officials of Y.S.M. in Mexico are being advised about this, so that they will recover the duties from it.

On 3 May 1529, died Jorge Fernández, from Avila, who had come from New Spain. There is nothing more to tell Y.S.M. except to pray God to let Y.S.M. live in your sacred state for many years to come in prosperity with an increase in many more kingdoms and dominions until he has regained the Holy House in Jerusalem.

Sealed on 3 May 1529.—

[To your] Sacred Catholic Cesarian Majesty.—

Your most humble and loyal vassals who kiss the sacred feet of Y.S.C.C.M.—

Hernando de Bustamante.—

Diego de Salinas.

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1 Ed. note: The factor whom Espinosa had left at Tidore in 1522.