
Documents 1667B

Letters from Governor Salcedo, dated Manila 4 August 1667

B1. Letter to the King

Source: AGI Fil. 9-3-50, pp. 1, 18-20.

Note: This letter was seen in the Council of the Indies on 24 January 1669.

Original text in Spanish.

*Estado, Gobierno, y Hacienda, N° 1: Da cuenta de la llegada de la Nao **Concepción**, y despacho de la nombrada **Nuestra Señora del Buen Socorro**.*

Señor

*En la Nao **San Joseph** que el Junio passado salio de estas Islas para Nueva España por el çitulado ordinario, di larga cuenta a V.M. de lo hasta alli ofreçido en todas materias de este Gobierno. Y continuando mi obligaçion, lo que se me ofreçe en esta es deçir que la Nao **Concepción** que el año de 65 despache a aquel Reyno, llevo por agosto del passado de 66 al Puerto de Palapa que dista 200 leguas de esta çiudad y por faltarle tiempo para enbocar ni llegar a esta de Cavite donde se pudiese adersar para que bolviese a hazer viaje; he dispuesto el que se acavasse la nombrada **Nuestra Señora del Buen Socorro** que mi puntualidad y diligencia previniendo se me des acçidentes havia prinçipiado fabricar en la Provincia de Catanduanes, que es la que este año haze viaje y la lleva a su cargo el general Diego de Arevalo.*

...

N° 15: Buelbe arrepresentar el inconbeniente que tiene de que pasen Religiosos estrangeros a aquellas Islas, y algunos desterrados por delictos, con ocasion de dos Carmelitas descalzos que vinieron el año pasado de la Nueva España.

En la carta del año passado represente los inconbenientes de passar algunos Religiosos estrangeros a estas Islas en las miçiones que se remiten de España, y mayores de los que de nueva España se enbian condenados por delictos, y como quiera que en la Nao ultima que bino de aquel Reyno, binieron dos religiosos Carmelitas descalzos expulsos de su Religion, y luego que llegaron aqui dejaron sus abitos se puçieron y andan con liçencia del Arcobispo en el de clerigos, no sin gran novedad que ha echo a

los naturales de esta tierra; buelbo arrepresentarlo a V.M. para que sea servido mandar se ponga remfediho conbeniente, pues si estos dos no cupieron en un Reyno tan dilatado siendo Religiosos y estando enclausados bien se deja rreconoçer, si cabran en la pequeñez de estas Islas viviendo de por si.

...

*Nº 17: Da quenta como llego la nao **San Josseph** de la Nueva España y tenue socorro que remite el Virrey de ella.*

*Estando para firmar este tube aviso de que la Nao **San Josseph** que estava aguardando de nueva España havia llegado al Embocadero de estas Islas, y aunque hasta agora no ha entrado en este puerto, ni benido los pliegos, por algunas cartas sueltas de aquel Reyno, sessabe que solo trahe de socorro 95,000 pesos cossa que me deja en el cuidado y desconsuelo que se puede conçiderar, de que me ha pareçido hazer este aviso a V.M. cuya C.R.P. guarde Dios los muchos y felizes años como la xptiandad desea y ha menester.*

Manila y agosto 4 de 667.

Diego Salcedo

Translation.

State, Government, and Treasury, Nº 1: He reports the arrival of the galleon **Concepción**, and the despatch of the galleon **Nuestra Señora del Buen Socorro**.

In the galleon **San José** that left these Islands last June for New Spain to get the ordinary subsidy, I gave a large report to Y.M. about what had happened up to that time in all matters of this Government. Continuing with my obligation, what I can report now is that the galleon **Concepción**, which I despatched in 1665 to that Kingdom, arrived in August of last year 1666 at the port of Palapa which is 200 leagues distant from this city. Since there was not sufficient time for her to go through the entrance channel and come to this port of Cavite, where she could have been made ready to make another voyage, I arranged for the construction of the galleon named **Nuestra Señora del Buen Socorro** to be completed; the plans that I had made provided for such accidents, that is why I had begun to build her in the Province of Catanduanes. She is the one that will make the voyage this year, under the command of General Diego de Arévalo.

...

Nº 15: Once again he represents the inconvenience of letting foreign Religious come to those Islands, as well as some exiles who have committed crimes; the occasion for his saying this is the arrival of two discalced Carmelites from New Spain last year.

In my letter of last year, I represented the inconveniences of letting some foreign Religious come to these Islands in the mission bands sent from Spain, but worse is the case of those sent from New Spain after they have been condemned of crimes, such as happened with the last galleon, aboard which came two discalced Carmelite Religious who had been expelled from their Religious Order. After they arrived here, they removed their habits and put on those of secular priests, and they go about with permission from

the Archbishop. This novelty created quite a stir among the natives. Once again I represent this to Y.M. so that you will be pleased to order that a convenient remedy be applied, given that, if these two were not fit Religious in one faraway Kingdom, even within a cloister, anyone can recognize whether they will fit within the small confines of these Islands, living on their own.

...

Nº 17: He informs about the arrival of the galleon **San José** from New Spain and about the slim subsidy sent by its Viceroy.

As I was about to sign this report, I received advice of the arrival at the Embocadero of these Islands of the galleon **San José** that was expected from New Spain. Although she has not yet come into this port, nor have the official mail arrived, through a few loose letters from that Kingdom it was learned that she only brings 95,000 pesos in subsidy, something which leaves me worried and disenchanted, as one can imagine; consequently, it seemed to me that I should advise Y.M. about it.

May God keep the Catholic Royal Person of Y.M. for many happy years, as Christendom wishes and needs.

Manila, 4 August 1667.

Diego Salcedo

B2. Letter to the Viceroy

Source: RAH 9/2676, part of doc. n.º11.

Note: In the same file, there is another letter to same, dated 25 June 1668, which is a summary of this first letter.

Original text in Spanish.

Ex[cententissim]o Señor

Por la ynclusa, que es copia de la que escrivi a V.Exª en la nao que a la ora desta estava para dar a la vela en el puertto de Albae fuera del enbocadero para haçer viaje a ese Reino por el socorro hordinario sera serçiorado V.Exª de todo lo que por aca se ofrezze aquel por no cansar me rremitto y asi solo servira esta de haçer saver a V.Exª como mis providençias y cuydado aunque en medio de ttanttos haogos [=ahogos] y neçesidades atendiendo al mayor serviçio de su Magd. y venefiçio destas yslas dispuse fabricar un pattache en el Puerto de Cavitte con mira de que supliese las conttingençias que pudiera y es verisimil tener aquella nao asi al tiempo del echarla a la agua como despues por no ser experimentada y porque asta agora por la gran distançia no se save de ziertto si a salido ni como por asegurar enbarcaçion para que traiga el socorro del año que viene de que ttantto se neçesita en estas yslas e resuelto ynviar este pattache y en el en virttud de zedula de su Magd. al padre Diego de San Vitores que va fiado en que V.Exª le haviara y proveera de lo neçesario para bolver en el a las Yslas de los Ladrones, donde desea lograr el gran zelo que le assiste de plantar alli la Santta fee Catholica, reduçiendo aquellas almas al verdadero conoçimiento que como quiera que la estrechez de por aca no a dado ni da lugar a los gastos de que neçesitta esta funçion y

*que tengo por çiertto tendra V.Exª a buena suertte el entrar en la partte ó en el todo desta santa obra no e querido negarme a fazilarla quanto de la mia a estado como no me negare si que soliçittare siempre quantto fuere de di[s]gusto y buen nombre de V.Exª a quien rindo las devidas graçias que puedo y devo por la brevedad del despacho de la nao **San Joseph** que se [h]a ttenido nuevas[.] lleo al Enbocadero aunque asta agora no a llegado ni los pliegos ni e visto cartta de V.Exª cossa que ttantto deseof[.] atribuyolo a la poca fortuna mia pues quando otros an reçivido muchas carttas de esse Reino a mi me falttan las que mas apreçio.*

El socorro se diçe es de nobentta y çinco mil pesos. Vien creo que para lo estrecho en que se halla esse reyno abra sido el ultimo empeño de la fineza de V.Exª que tengo muy en mi corason para agradecer la mas bolviendo los ojos a lo mucho que es preçi-so cada año para las obligaçiones a que no es posible falttar puede considerar V.Exª como se puede passar en esto conservar pues en un aderezo o fabrica de nao y havia della se gasta poco menos cossa tan yndispensable como notoria y aqui no ay otra cosa a que recurrir.

Artto olgara que se bieran llegado los pliegos y carttas de V.Exª que me serian de gran consuelo como lo seran siempre que lleguan y podre rresponder a ellas pero ya que no a lugar este año lo are el siguiente cuyo socorro me prometto del gran zelo de V.Exª sera tal que supla por annos.

Dios me guarde a V.Exª muchos años como puede y desseo.

Manila y agosto quattro de seiscienttos y sesentta y siete.

Translation.

Your Excellency:

In the enclosure, which is a copy of the one I wrote Y.E. for the galleon that is about to sail from the port of Albay, outside of the Embocadero, to make the voyage to that Kingdom for the ordinary succor, Y.E. will find out everything that has happened here, and I refer to it, so as not to tire you with repetitions. Therefore, the present is only to let Y.E. know how my careful planning, although in the midst of so many restrictions and lack of money, due care being given to the better service of His Majesty and the interest of these Islands, has led me to arrange the construction of a patache in the port of Cavite,¹ the idea being that, if there should be contingencies, such as might affect that galleon, not only at the time of her launch but also afterwards, as she will be yet unproven, and because until now, on account of the great distance, it is not known if she has left for sure, and how. In order to make sure that next year a ship will bring the subsidy, which is so necessary in these Islands, I have decided to send this patache, and aboard it, by virtue of a decree of His Majesty, Fr. Diego de San Vitores, who goes with the hope that Y.E. will outfit and supply him with necessities to return to the Islands of the Ladrones, where he wishes to achieve what his great zeal want, that is the implan-tation there of the holy Catholic Faith, by reducing those souls to the true knowledge.

¹ Ed. note: The patache San Diego.

However, the shortage of funds here has not, and does not, give the possibility of spending what is necessary for this function, and I am sure that Y.E. will think it lucky to take some part in this holy endeavor, or in all of it. I did not wish to deny myself some participation in it, to the extent possible, but I must also appeal, though it be against my will, to the good name of Y.E., to whom I render the due thanks that I can, and must, on account of the timely despatch of the galleon **San José**, about which news has been received that she has arrived at the Embocadero, although until now I have not received the official mail, not even a letter from Y.E., something that I wish so much. I attribute this to my poor luck, given that others have received many letters from that Kingdom, and I am missing the ones that I most appreciate.

They say that the subsidy is 95,000 pesos. Well, I believe that the kindness of Y.E. could not do better because of the shortages that are found in that Kingdom. I hold Y.E. enough in my heart to be able to thank you the more, keeping in mind how very difficult it is every year to fulfill one's obligations, that simply cannot be forgotten. Y.E. must be making what you can to carry them out, since it is well known that for the preparation or construction and outfitting of the galleon not much less than these 95,000 pesos are indispensable, and there are no other source of funds here.

I will be glad to receive the official mail and letters of Y.E. that will no doubt be of great consolation to me, as long as they come and I am able to answer them, but since I do not have this opportunity this year, I will do so next year, when the subsidy I hope to get from the great zeal of Y.E. will be one that will be sufficient for years.

May God keep Y.E. for many years, as He can and I wish.

Manila, 4 August 1667.