
Document 1596F

Instructions given to Governor Tello

Source: AGI 105-2-11, libro 2, folios 100a-101b; translated in B&R 9:218-258.

Re-establishment of the Audiencia of Manila

What you, Don Francisco Tello, knight of the order of Santiago, whom I have appointed as my Governor and Captain General of the Philippine Islands, and president of my royal Audiencia, which I have ordered to be re-established there, are to do in the service of God, and my own, and for the good government of those islands, is as follows.

...

[Ordered to settle the Ladrones]

It seems an inhuman thing, and contrary to all Christian charity, to have left the Indians of the Ladrone Islands without instruction, since all who go to the Philippines make port in their lands; and since after receiving help from them, and no resistance or injuries, the governors and prelates have passed by those people without furnishing them any instruction. This is a great cause of grief, and a bad example.

In order that it might be rectified, since you and the archbishop are going together, you shall examine the disposition of the land, and you shall leave there, from the religious who are sailing now, those who seem suitable for the conversion and instruction of those natives. If it seems advisable, you shall also leave with them some soldiers for their protection, and as a defence from the dangers of those barbarians, in accordance with the ordinance regarding new discoveries.¹ You shall advise me of what is done in this.

...

Upon the departure of Gómez Pérez from this country, he took my decree to hand to the Viceroy of New Spain, in which I ordered the latter to send to the islands 12 mares, 2 stallions, 24 cows, and 2 bulls. Inasmuch as I do not know yet whether or not

¹ Ed. note: See Document 1573D.

they have been taken there, you shall investigate the matter in the said New Spain. If it has not been done, you shall request the Viceroy, as I write him, to have those animals taken in the vessels in which you sail from Acapulco to the said islands.

...

At Toledo, on the 25th day of May, in the year 1596.¹

I, the King.

By order of the King, our sovereign:

Juan de Ibarra

Signed by the president and members of the Council.

¹ Ed. note: In a letter dated 12 July 1599 (B&R 10:245), Governor Tello complains to the King that the above instructions did not reach him until May 1598 (see B&R 10: 73-74).