
Document 1591C

Letter from Governor Dasmariñas, dated Manila 21 June 1591

Source: AGI 67-6-6; translated in B&R 34:403-411.

Letter from Gómez Pérez Dasmariñas¹

Although I am awaiting the ships and in them a letter from your Grace with good news of the health and prosperity that I desire for your Grace, yet I have wished because of the shortness of the time and because these ships are about to sail, to write this present letter to your Grace, in order to inform you of the condition of affairs here. I wrote your Grace last year, although briefly, for I had only been in this country for twenty days. Now that I have lived here one year, and know more about conditions here, I say that in regard to the camp and soldiers that I found here, the condition was very imperfect, and they had no organization or [knowledge of] military art.

...
There are very few soldiers here, for I only brought 270, and about 40 of those have died already. Before they reach here, those who are sent die and desert on the way. In fact the soldiers of New Spain are not suitable, and consequently, it will be advisable for those who come here to be sent from Spain.

The pay also that is given here to captains, officers, and soldiers is very little toward their maintenance. Therefore I petition your Grace to favor this, so that they may increase in service to his Majesty, and so that I may have more leeway in rewarding them and encouraging them to [exert themselves] in his service.

There was no ammunition here nor a house for it, or any magazines or money to get ammunition or other very important things. There were no barracks for the soldiers, who were quartered in the houses of the citizens, to the great discomfort of the latter. That also gave opportunities to the soldiers themselves to live loosely and sensually.

¹ Ed. note: The addressee is not mentioned, but since it was received in Spain, it may have been sent to the President of the Council of the Indies.

Consequently, I have built a barracks that will accommodate 400, and they will be readily accessible for guard duty and for anything that arises.

...

The Bishop, although I have opposed his journey as much as possible, is going overthere...

The ships have now arrived, and with them Diego Ronquillo, who gave me your letter. I am well satisfied with it, and will reply to it in another letter.¹

May our Lord, etc.

Manila, 21 June 1591.

Gómez Pérez Dasmariñas

[Post scriptum] I enclose herewith a copy of the letter which I am writing to his Majesty in regard to the affairs of the Bishop and his friars, so that your Grace may be forewarned about it, and able to show me favor in everything.

¹ Ed. note: The ships that returned From Acapulco in 1591 were the Santiago and the San Ildefonso (see Doc. 1591B). Diego Ronquillo became Master-of-Camp.

Document 1591D

Register of the ship San Felipe in 1591

Source: AGI 67-6-18; translated in B&R 8:255-256. Note: The register accompanied a letter from Governor Dasmariñas, dated 6 June 1592.

Register of merchandise carried in the ship Sant Felipe [sic]

I, Juan de Cuellar, notary of mines and registers, certify that in the galeon "Sant Felipe", now ready to set sail for New Spain from the port of Cavite, this present year of 1591, the persons named below are exporting the following bales and boxes of merchandise:

	Bales	Boxes
Don Fray Domingo de Salazar, Bishop of the Philippines, 15 bales and 33 boxes.....	15	33
The President Santiago de Vera, with the others contained in his merorandum, 60 bales and 29 boxes.....	60	29
Pedro Hernandez, for the Licentiate Rojas, former auditor of the royal Audiencia, and present counselor, etc., 19 bales and 4 boxes.	19	4
The auditor Don Antonio de Ribera Maldonado, 52 bales and 20 boxes	52	20
The Licentiate Ayala, fiscal, 27 bales and 17 boxes.....	27	17
The dean of the Manila cathedral, in the said vessel and in that of Juan Pablo [Carrión], 13 bales and 7 boxes.....	13	7
Estevan Gonzalez, canon of said church, 5 bales and 3 boxes.....	5	3
The Licentiate Herver del Corral, visitor of the royal Audiencia of Manila, 18 bales and 1 box.....	18	1
The schoolmaster of the Manila cathedral, 6 bales.....	6	
Father Cervantes, ecclesiastic, 3 bales and 6 boxes.....	3	6
The beneficiary Juan Gutierrez, 2 boxes.....		2
Father Rodrigo de Morales, ecclesiastic, 3 bales.....	3	
Father Crisanto de Tamayo, ecclesiastic, 2 bales.....	2	
Benito Gutierrez, ecclesiastic, 2 bales.....	2	

And in order that this might be evident, I give the present, signed with my name and the usual flourishes.

Given at Manila, 4 June 1591.

Juan de Cuellar, notary of registers.

Documents 1592A

The missionaries stipulate the conditions for making war on the natives

Source: AGI 67-6-18; translated in B&R 8:199-233.

Opinion of the Augustinians

Your Lordship orders us to give our judgment whether it be lawful to make war on the Zambales¹, in view of the many injuries that they have been and daily are inflicting upon our people; and, if so be that the war is lawful and righteous, what measures may be taken to attain the objective proposed therein, security.

In reply to this we say that, according to all the authorities, divines as well as canonists and jurists, **three conditions** are required in a war to make it a righteous one; and on these we will rest the justification of the war at present under consideration.

The **first condition** is that he who begins the war shall have authority; the **second**, just cause for making war; and **third**, righteous intention.

The first requires that he who begins the war and by whose order it is waged be a public person, as St. Augustine declares in *Contra Faustum Manichæum*.²

...

What is said applies not when war is waged for defence against enemies, but in other circumstances; for if it is for defence, such war is permitted to any governor or king, as the authors say, because *vim vi repellere licet*.³ Thus the viceroys and governors of the

1 Ed. note: The occasion for these opinions was the intention of the Manila Government to make war on a Filipino tribe inhabiting the west coast of Luzon, north of the Bataan Peninsula. These important documents, specially the opinion of the Jesuit superior, show the rationale then in use; when Guam was colonized in 1668, the same rationale prevailed.

2 Cited by Gratian (*23 qu. I. c. Quid culpatur*): *Ordo naturalis mortalium paci accommodatus hoc poscit, ut suscipiendi belli autoritas atque consilium penes principes sit.*

3 One may repel force with force.

Indies have authority to wage war against disturbers of the peace and quiet of the states of which they are in charge, without necessity of resorting to his Majesty for permission.

The second condition of righteous war is that the cause for which it is waged shall be a just one, as St. Thomas says: "Those upon whom war is waged deserve it for the offences that they have committed, and the grievances that they have inflicted upon the one who makes war on them."

...
The first ground of a righteous war may exist when one is hindered from doing what he may by right do. This is matter of natural and divine law...

The second ground, as I said, of a righteous war is the self-defence of the prince or of his subjects. This ground also is matter of both natural and divine right...

The third cause and ground is rebellion and disobedience of subjects...

The fourth cause and ground for a righteous war is when there is default of keeping faith or carrying out agreements; for in such case the party who has been wronged may lawfully make war on him who, by not keeping faith, has done him injury.

...
The third condition which, as we have said, must be fulfilled to make a war righteous is a right intention on the part of him who wages it; because, failing this, even when the other two conditions concur—to wit, authority and just cause—a faulty intention may render and does render the war unjust. This condition is also laid down by St. Augustine (op. cit.)...

...
Such, with all respect for the better judgment of others, is our opinion regarding the matter proposed to us by your Lordship, with command to declare our views. This we do, recommending always moderation and Christian charity, which should ever be practiced, and especially in dealing with this people who, as we have said, do not realize the gravity of their offence; and on whom, therefore, the penalties of the law ought not to be inflicted in all its rigor.

And, to signify that this is our judgment, we confirm it with our names.

Given at San Augustin de Manila on the 19th day of January 1592.

Fray Juan de Valderrama, Provincial

Fray Alonzo de Castro, Definitor

Fray Lorenzo de León, Definitor

Fray Juan de Tamayo, Prior

Fray Antonio Serrano, Prior

Fray Diego Gutierrez

Fray Diego Muñoz

Fray Diego Alvarez

Fray Alonso de Montalban, Superior

Fray Matthias Manrique

Fray Alonso de Paz