
Document 1565G

Legazpi—Letter from the Viceroy regarding the preparations, dated 9 February 1561

Sources: AGI Patronato 1-1-1.23; Col. Ultramar ii, doc. 14 & 15, pp. 113-118; summarized in B&R 2:83-84.

Synopsis by Robertson

New Spain, 9 February 1561.—The Viceroy writes to the King concerning the fleet. Two ships and one small vessel are being built, and will be provisioned for the voyage to the Western Islands and the return to New Spain. They will be fully equipped by about the end of the present year.

“It is necessary that Your Majesty have two pilots sent to me for this expedition, men skilled and experienced in this navigation of the Ocean Sea, because, although I have three, I need two more, so that they may go two by two aboard the ships... I have appointed Miguel López de Legazpi, a native of the province of Quipúzcoa, and a well-known gentleman of the Lezcano family, as the general and leader of those embarking in these vessels who, all told, soldiers, sailors, and servants, number from 250 to 300 people. He is 50 years old and has spent more than 25 years in this New Spain. He has given a good account of the offices he has held, and of the important affairs committed to him. From what is known of his Christian character and good qualities hitherto, a more suitable man, and one more satisfactory to Fray Andrés Urdaneta, who is to direct and guide the expedition, could not have been chosen; for these two are from the same land, and they are kinsmen and good friends, and are of one mind.”