
Document 1663A

Letter from the Viceroy to the King, dated Mexico 20 May 1663

Source: AGI Fil. 23-2-4, pp. 243-246, and enclosures summarized on pp. 293-296.

Original text in Spanish

El Virrey de la nueva España da cuenta a V. Mgd. los socorros que a remitido a Phili-pinas y de como llego a aquellas islas el que ymbio el año de 1662, en la Nao que hizo conducir del Realejo.

Señor

*En carta de quatro de Nobiembre deste año que imbie con un abisso que salio de la Ciudad de la nueva Veracruz en 19 de febrero del, cuyo duplicado remito en esta ocasion doy cuenta a V. Mgd. como la Nao nombrade **San Damian** que hiçe conducir desde el Puerto del Realejo al de Acapulco salio de dicho puerto para las islas Philipinas el día çinco de Abrill del año pasado de 1662. Y del socorro que remiti con ellos á aquellas islas, y que el día veinte deste mes [de abril] dio fondo en dicho puerto la Nao nombrada **San Joseph** despues de ocho meses de viaje trayendo por nuebas el miserable estado en que quedavan por los cortos socorros que avian tenido los años antecedentes, y que assi por estas notiçias como por dar entero cumplimiento a las Reales hordenes de V. Mgd. quedava solicitando su despacho con todo cuydado para remitir con ello el mayor socorro que me fuese posible, en que avia de passar su Governador Don Diego de Salçedo y aora lo hago en primer lugar de como Dios fue survido de que se me lograse mi deseo y solicitud con tantaventaja, que puedo asegurar a V. Mgd. que á mas de quarenta años no se ha remitido tan grande socorro á aquellas islas como el que ymbie en dicha Nao, la qual salio del Puerto de Acapulco el día veinte y çinco de Março con muy buen tiempo, y con todo el abio de Pilotos, y demas neçessario para su viaje: **Embarcaronse en ella mas de setecientas personas con sesenta y nueve Religiosos.** El Governador, y dos oydores llamados Don Françisco Coloma, y Don Françisco de Montemayor, y Mançilla, el uno que vino en la flota del cargo de Don Nicolas Fernandez de Cordova, y otro a quien V. Mgd. hiço merçed de esta plaça siendo Relator desta Real Audiencia:*

*La gente que llebo dicha Nao se compone de muchos y buenos Marineros y Artilleros, muy buena gente de Milicia, y algunos forçados, que con el desvelo que ponen en mi obliçacion las hordenes de V. Magd. pudo mi cuydado conseguir el que se juntase tanta gente, nunca visto, ni oydo, y menos ymajinado en tiempos tan estrechos, de lo que ymporto todo este socorro **remito testimonio**, que con lo pagado al Governador y Ministros por quenta de su sueldo, y otros gastos que se hiçieron en diferentes lugares deste Reyno para las lebas, y conduçiones de soldados, importara todo mas de seicientos mill pesos, que esta cantidad tan considerable y las demas que se han gastado en los socorros de las islas de Barlovento, han hecho mucha falta para el ymbio de la flota, y mas que todo la que ay de azoguez, de que muy indibidualmente doy quenta a V. Mgd. haviendo salido esta Nao del Puerto de Acapulco el dia 25 de Março deste año, como llebo referido, a nueve de Abrill siguiente dio fondo en aquel Puerto la Nao nombrada **Nuestra Señora de la Concepcion**, que pareçe salio de Cabite en 7 de Jullio del año pasado de 1662, con que tardo en su viaje nueve meses.*

*Las nuebas que ha traído son de que la Nao **San Damian** en que remiti el socorro el año passado de 1662 llevo al Puerto de Lampon seis dias antes que esta saliese de Cabite con feliz suçesso, y viaje, sin haver peresido persona alguna de las que se embarcaron en Acapulco, ni malogradosse cossa de todo el socorro que en ella remitia, y que con el se hallava la gente de aquellas islas muy consolada y tanto que me escribe Don Sabiniano Manrique su Governador[,] el Arçobispo, y Çiudad de Manila, y otras personas de quenta, y Religiosos, que devo repressentar a V. Mgd. que este socorro puede ser caussa de su conserbaçion respecto del estado miserable en que se hallavan, assi por la falta de socorros y arribadas de las Naos que se avían despachado a este Reyno, como por las amenazas que les haçia un Barbaro y poderosso llamado El Cogsong, llegando a ymajinar su tirania el que se le pagase tributo, y otras cossas, de que es çierto se dara quenta a V. Mgd. muy en particular por los despachos que remite su Governador, que todos los que han venido de aquellas islas van en esta ocassion registrados en Capitana, y Almiranta, y yo doy muchas graçias a Dios nuestro Señor de que aya logrado en el serviçio de V. Mgd. el cuydado que puse en conducir la Nao del Realejo, y de remitir con ella socorro tan considerable, y tan a tiempo, y espero en su Magd. Divina a de tener tan feliz suçesso el que ha despachado en este año, que siendo tan grande como llevo referido, y que no se â visto otro como el en aquellas islas a de poner orror a los enemigos Barbaros, y animo a los vasallos de V. Mgd. que asisten en ellas, para castigar sus tiranias, y conserbar en el Real nombre de V. Mgd. la christiandad, y Religion que se fixo en ellas tan a costa de la Real haçienda, y patrimonio Real de V. Mgd.*

En la Nao que oy esta en el Puerto de Acapulco, remitire el socorro que sea posible para que salga a haçer su viaje en todo el mes de febrero del año que viene, que es factible lleve notiçias de la llegada de qualquier Nao que se despache de aquellas Islas en este año.

Guarda nuestro Señor la Catholica Real Persona de V. Mgd. como la christiandad, ha menester.

Mexico y Mayo 20 de 1663 años.

JL el Marqués Conde de Baños.

[Note to file:] *Viose en el Consejo esta Relacion y cartas en 24 de Noviembre de 1663 y se mando lo viese el Señor Fiscal; cuya respuesta es la que viene cossida con esta relacion.*

Translation

The Viceroy of New Spain informs Y.M. of the succors he sent to the Philippines and how the one he sent in 1662, aboard the galleon that he had obtained from Realejo, made it to those Islands.

Sire:

In a letter dated 4 November of this [past] year which I sent with an advice boat that left the City of New Veracruz on 19 February last, whose duplicate is enclosed, I inform Y.M. about the galleon named **San Damian**, whose transfer from the port of Realejo to that of Acapulco I had arranged, left the said port bound for the Philippine Islands on 5 April of last year 1662, and also about the succor that I sent with them to those Islands, and that on the 20th of the same month there anchored in the said port the galleon named **San José** at the end of 8 months of navigation, bringing the news of the miserable state affecting them, on account of the shortages in the succors that they had received in previous years; furthermore, as much as a result of such news as to comply entirely with the Royal orders of Y.M., I was making every effort to despatch the best succor possible, with their [new] Governor, Don Diego de Salcedo. Now, firstly, I would like to say how God was pleased to let me have my wish and request so successfully that I can assure Y.M. that in over 40 years no greater succor had been sent to those Islands than the one I sent aboard the said galleon, which left the port of Acapulco on 25 March with very good weather, and a complete outfit of pilots, and other necessities for the voyage. **Over 700 persons with 69 Religious embarked aboard her**, including the Governor, and two members of the Audiencia, Don Francisco Coloma and Don Francisco de Montemayor y Mansilla, one of whom came with the fleet in charge of Don Nicolas Fernandez de Cordova, and the other to whom Y.M. favored with that post, being then Reporter of this Royal Audiencia.

The men carried by the said galleon consists of many good seamen and gunners, very good soldiers, and a few convicts, in accordance with the attention and duty imposed upon me by the orders of Y.M. Through my personal attention, I was able to obtain this large number of people, never before seen or heard of, much less imagined in times so rough. **I enclose a full record** of what this succor amounts to, including what was paid to the Governor and Ministers as part of their salaries, and other expenses that were made in various places of this Kingdom for the recruitments, and conveyances of the soldiers; the whole thing would amount to over 600,000 pesos, a considerable sum. Taking into account what has been spent in the succors sent to the Windward Islands, the result was a shortage towards the despatch of the fleet, above all the quicksilver fleet. I inform Y.M. of all of these expenses in detail. This galleon left the port of Acapulco on 25 March of this year, as I have said. On the following 9 April, the galleon

named **Nuestra Señora de la Concepción** anchored in that port.¹ It seems that she had left Cavite on 7 July of last year 1662; therefore, her voyage took 9 months.

The news that she brought is that the galleon **San Damian**, aboard which I sent the succor last year 1662, arrived at the port of Lampon six days before this one left Cavite, and had a prosperous voyage, not a single person having perished among those who had boarded her at Acapulco, nor a single thing in the succor that was sent on board her being damaged. The people of those Islands were very happy, so much so that Don Sabiniano Manrique, their Governor, wrote, as well as the Archbishop, and the City of Manila, and other persons of rank, and Religious, that I should write to Y.M. that the succor in question may be the cause of their conservation, considering the miserable condition in which they were found, not only for lack of succors and the returns in distress of galleons that had been despatched to this Kingdom, but also for the threats made by a Barbarian and powerful man named Cogsong, whose tyranny had led him to imagine that he could extort tribute, and other things, about which it is certain that a detailed report will be given to Y.M. among the despatches sent by their Governor, all of which that came from those Islands in this occasion came registered in the flagship and almiranta,² and I give many thanks to God our Lord for the success obtained as a result of my efforts in the service of Y.M. to get that galleon from Realejo, and in sending aboard her such a considerable and timely succor. I hope that His Divine Majesty will give as much success to the one despatched this year; it is so huge, as I have said already, that no other like it has ever been seen in those Islands, and it has to terrify the enemy Barbarians [read Chinese], and has to encourage the vassals of Y.M. who reside there, in order to punish their tyrannies, and preserve on behalf of Y.M. the Christianity and Religion that have been implanted there at such a great cost to the Royal Treasury and Royal patronage of Y.M.

Aboard the galleon that is now in the port of Acapulco, I will send as much succor as possible, for her to go out sometime during the month of February of next year,³ and it is possible that she might carry news of the arrival [at Acapulco] of some galleon that is being despatched from those Islands this year.

May our Lord keep the Catholic Royal Person of Y.M., as Christendom needs.

Mexico, 20 May 1663.

J.L., Marquis Count of Baños.

[Note to file:]

This narrative and letters were seen in the Council on 24 November 1663, and the Fiscal was to see it; his answer is that which comes sewn to this narrative.

1 Ed. note: Her full name was *Nuestra Señora de la Limpia Concepción*, according to her commander, Estevan Ramos (see Doc. 1665A).

2 Ed. note: The *Concepción* and *San Damian* respectively.

3 Ed. note: Only the *Concepción* returned to Manila in 1664.