
Document 1668B

Letter from Admiral Muñoz to the Viceroy, dated Acapulco 11 January 1668

Source: RAH 9/2676 part of doc. n° 11.

Original text in Spanish

Exmo. Señor

*Y por la bondad de Dios tiene V.Ex^a en este puerto este bajel, y la nao Capitana **Nuestra Señora del Buen Socorro** no a llegado en que confirmo la desconfianza que tengo de que aya tenido los tiempos de que se rrequieren para esta navegacion desde veynte y quatro de agosto en que desenvoque yo de las yslas con el favor del Señor y vien poca ayuda de los vientos y para entonces no tenia el otro Galeon los que eran necesarios para salir del Puerto de Albay donde estava y por esta rraçon me hace dubdar llegue a tiempo de poder bolver este año a Manila con que esta nuestro buen despacho en el favor que esperamos de V.Ex^a no aya solo logro de fin principal de nuestro viaje que es la yntroducion y asiento en los Ladrones o yslas Marianas de la predicacion del Santo Evangelio por medio de la mision del Reverendo Padre Rector Diego Luis de San Vitores y sus compañeros sino tambien el socorro tan necessario para la conservacion de todas las Filipinas que se hallan muy faltas de gente y medios para sustentarse y mantener en su conservacion la de nuestra fee Catolica en tantos naturales vasallos de su Magestad.*

Este navio Señor aunque de mediano porte pues no tiene mas de dos cubiertas y es de treçientas toneladas con todo vastante para lo preçiso del socorro de Filipinas, sin estorvar la empresa evangelica desta mision antes ayudara della pues sirbiendose V.Ex^a de ynviar la mejor gente que se pudiere para Filipinas se podra escoxer mejor la que fuere conveniente dexas en compaña de los Padres en la ysla de Guan que es en la que se pretende haçer escala[.] de las demas fuera de la gente que viene en este navio es capaz y ara llevar ziem [=cien] [h]ombres de guerra y mar y la mayor neçesidad que ay en las Yslas es de marineros los que traigo son muy pocos y aunque por la misericordia de

Dios y de la Santissima Virgen no queda en el mar ninguno de los que se embarcaron en este navio an enfermado algunos en la navegacion y estan ynpedidos de poder servir plaza de presente. Tambien ay necesidad de officiales de carpintero y galafates y dos o tres buenos marineros que entiendan algo de pilotos porque à los Padres les queden perssonas que les hagan envarcaciones para pasar de unas yslas a otras[.] neçesariamente carezemos de un cirujano que no le traemos y ara la plata y generos hordinarios del socorro y bastimentos para la gente ay bastante capacidad y para los neçesarios para el viaje en la cantidad que V.Ex^a fuere servido[.] en lo que toca a rreligiosos y lo demas en orden a la mision me rremito a lo que escribe a V.Ex^a el Padre Rector.

Sobre la brevedad de nuestro despacho no quisiera ymportunar mas porque V.Ex^a a buen seguro mirara con mas zelo que yo el que no se malogre el cumplimiento de los Santos yntentos de su Magd. en esta mision y del socorro de Filipinas este año que todo esta pendiente de la brevedad y asi esperamos de la efficaçia y zelo de V.Ex^a, que no nos a de cojer Dia de Março en este puerto como conviene para conseguir uno y otro fin mas seguramentef[.] en todo óbrara V.Ex^a dando las hordenes que fuere servido para mas serviçio de su Magd. que Dios nuestro Señor que Guarde a V.Ex^a y a toda su Excelentissima familia en mayores aumentos[.]

De esta Almiranta y Acapulco onçe Henero de mill y seisçientos y sesenta y ocho años.

Exmo. Señor a los pies de V.Ex^a.

Beso su mano su menor criado,

Bartholome Muñoz

Translation

Your Excellency:

By the kindness of God Y.E. has in this port this vessel [San Diego]. The flagship **Nuestra Señora del Buen Socorro** has not yet arrived; this confirms the suspicion that I have that she might not have had the weather that she needed for this navigation, which began when I came out of the Embocadero on 24 August with God's help. At that time, the other galleon did not have sufficient wind to leave the port of Albay where she was. For this reason I have my doubts that she will arrive on time to be able to make the return voyage this year to Manila,¹ so that our despatch that Y.E. should favor us with should not only aim at the accomplishment of the main objective of our voyage, which is the introduction and establishment in the Ladrones or Mariana Islands of the preaching of the holy Gospel by means of the mission of Reverend Father Rector Diego Luis de San Vitores and their companions, but also the so necessary succor for the conservation of all of the Philippines where men and means of subsistence are lacking, for

1 Ed. note: However, the flagship did make it and returned to Manila the same year, just as the San Diego did.

the maintenance of our Catholic Faith there among so many native vassals of His Majesty.

This ship, Sir, although it is of average capacity, for instance, she has no more than two decks and is of 300 tons, is nevertheless enough to ferry the minimum succor to the Philippines, without inconveniencing the evangelical enterprise of this mission. To the contrary, it would help it by providing better men, whom Y.E. would be sending to the Philippines, from whom to choose the best and as many as necessary to leave in the company of the Fathers at the Island of Guan, where it is intended to make a port of call. As for the rest, besides the men brought by this ship, she is capable of taking 100 seamen and soldiers. The greatest need right now in the Islands is for seamen. Those I brought along are very few in number, and although, through the mercy of God and the Blessed Virgin, none of those who boarded this ship was left in the sea along the way, a few have fallen sick during the voyage and are unable to fill a post at present. There is also a need for officers, that is carpenters, caulkers and 2 or 3 good mariners who know something about navigation, because the Fathers will need to have persons able to build boats for them, in order to pass from some islands to others. We are in extreme need of a surgeon, as we did not bring one along, and then there will be enough room for the silver and the ordinary goods of the succor and food supplies for the people, and the necessities for the voyage in the quantity that Y.E. will be pleased to give. As far as the Religious are concerned and the other things of the mission, I defer to what the Father Rector is writing to Y.E.

Regarding the urgency of our despatch, I do not wish to bother Y.E. more about it, because I know that you will take care of making sure that the holy intentions of His Majesty will be complied with, with greater zeal than I would, about this mission and the succor of the Philippines for this year. Everything depends upon urgency, and so, we hope that the efficiency and zeal of Y.E. will fix things, so that not a single day in March will catch us still in this port, as this is proper to achieve both objectives more assuredly. In everything Y.E. will act by giving the orders that you will be pleased to give for the greater service of His Majesty.

May God our Lord keep Your Excellency, Her Excellency and the rest of your family, ever with increases, etc.

From this almiranta at Acapulco, 11 January 1668.

Your Excellency.

At the feet of Y.E.,

Your minor servant who kisses your hand,

Bartholomé Muñoz