
Document 1670A

Letter from Fr. Sanvitores to Fr. Morales, dated Tinian 22 February 1670

Source: Original now in ARSI; formerly in 26 Martyrs' Museum, Nagasaki.

Note: The ms. is somewhat mutilated, i.e. 1/3 of one of the two folios is missing (top of the two main pages). This letter was written about 4 weeks after Fr. Medina had been killed in Saipan; his body and that of his assistant, Hipolito de la Cruz, had not yet been recovered by Captain de Santa Cruz. Fr. Morales was then supposed to be in Rota, on the way to Guam.

Original text, mostly in Spanish

+

Al Padre Luis de Morales,

cui ex omnimoda Belli remittitur ultima resolutio faciendi et mittendi etc. litis(?) od-i(?) ki(?) ip scr - tina scripsit.

Y en su ausencia de Rota al Padre Pedro [Casanova] de suerte que por las consultas no se detenga [h]aciendo viento nuestra banca (y si acaso esa no pudiese hacer viage) venga en todo caso Pedro con el Sirag en la banca que hallase con la carga que se dice dentro. pero hara mucha falta nuestra banca aqui.

[About a dozen lines missing]

-cas.

*Digo Angel mio, que mi parecer, y orden (si a VR^a consultando en tal caso con el Padre Pedro, y al dicho Padre Pedro no les parece lo contrario de mayor servicio de Dios), es lo primero: que VR^a ni el Padre Pedro no vengán por aca asta que yo avise otra cosa, sino es que a fines de Abril no hubiessen llegado cartas mias acerca desde punto, porque estando yo solo aqui, aseguro mas el que no obliguen a que asista a la guerra de Saipan Padre cuya asistencia era el mayor inconveniente que yo [h]allaba en dicha guerra y castigo, sino que dexemos al castellano que obre de oficio y sin el emba-
raço de contrario parecer que no se le sugete, (como seria el Sargento Mayor aunque tan Angel etc.) no avia menester nuestro inmediato consejo, asi no me dexaran salir los de Tinian, con que etc.*

2. que volviendo Sungi a instarnos de parte de los amigos de Saipan (a donde a ido 2ª vez con Marinduque por si se pueden sacar los cuerpos etc.) que no nos podemos negar a la ocasion que Dios nos pone en las manos de que entiendan estos que dos solos de nuestros compañeros que quieran pelear de parte de Dios, bastan para sacar con victoria a los que son de nuestra parte, y que si queremos usar de nuestras armas valen, etc. por el amparo de Dios etc.

3. que para mas manejable guerra es menester la pieça pequeña y assi que venga esta en todo caso en el primer viage con las dos tinajas, **Santa Cruz**, que no es creible la falta que nos hace el no tener con que pagar que por su ausencia a estado parada la otra banca y emos padecido otras muchas faltas que se llevan por amor de Dios, p[ue]ls su Magestad con los vientos etc. lo dispone.

[4.] Y que para que venga Pedro se busque persona de la tierra buena como estos desta vanca que venga ayudando a Padro a marear, y si quieren traer para volverse esta u otra banca con porte de trastos vengán los mas que se pudiere dexando para lo ultimo, tinajas de higo, Arina, vino, que no instan ya tanto su venida que eran para pasar a Gani.

5. que VRª nos haga caridad de enviar el pistolete, porque si se hace alguna prision como se desea especialmente la de **Gofisinan** que dicen fue el **Manago** en la maldad, conviene llevar semejante arma a mano, y para otros effectos. y si para la seguridad personal de VRª que importa mas, es necessaria esa defensa en Guan que es la isla mas peligrosa podrá VRª quedarse en esa de Rota, y con el pretesto que alla mejor pareciere como de aguardar aviso para venir a esta isla, y que entretanto hace mucha falta un Padre en Guan, y el Padre no se amañara tanto a llevar arma: y lo que juzgo in D[omi]no es que lo que es los Padres estamos mas seguros sin armas. la condescendencia quiza es a veces mas de la que conviniera, y es menester emmendarlos: eso mismo le dixe a otro buen compañero. y dio otros pretestos, que mostraban a lo menos demasiado dictamen en la materia, no para defensa propia sino porque decia con dicho miedo se hallaban mejor los niños para el Santo Bautismo, con que me parecia violencia demasiada: ojala rompieramos mas claramente algunas veces. **cupio emendare** etc. et **intelligenti pauca**: asta aora como aguardabamos a [5-6 words missing] -tos o cuernos de la baca quando pudieren venir de Agadña, y los pedaços quales- [5-6 words missing] -a a VRª con la dicha arma y demas cosas no la echaba tanto menos.

Pero hablando seriamente, digo que juzgo que conviene que VRª vuelva a Guan, y que con sus traças haga todo el aparato que le pareciere puede ser de temor a los de Agadña, que effectivo daño alli es mui peligroso, porque dentro del pueblo contra el mismo p[uebl]o no tenemos gente de nuestra parte como la tenemos en ocasion de guerra como esta o la que se aguarda en Saipan: y asi mas se a de hacer con miedo etc. y risa y presencia, con lo qual emos pasado en Agadña otras veces con no mas armas ni mas gente: en aciando algun peligro mayor dexando enseñado todo lo que se pudiere pasarse buenamente de la otra parte hacia **Pago**, o el puerto, por modo de **rumicao**, dejando por estafermo al inutil en Agadña, y que no se meta en oficio de Buço aunque oyga que VRª se a aogado, asta que VRª mismo se lo venga a decir: y quando faltare el

peligro en Agaña o fuese menos [menor?], que en las visitas por el otro inconveniente: quedando VR^a en Agaña ira el inutil a su rumiçao sin armas ni apariencia dellas por mi cuenta, mal digo, por la de Dios y la SS. Virgen, y si no pudiese recabar este desembaraço de armas con su compañero le puede dejar llevar una lança y un broquel, pero de ninguna suerte cuchillo ni cosa de yerro etc.

*Venga luego en todo caso el Sr. Gregorio [Martinez] con Pedro y nuestra vanca y la pieça si esta aun en Rota y la acienda siquiera de una tinaja, [marked:] **Santa Cruz**, y la segunda quando antes se pudiere. aun antes de botica y vizcocho, aunque todo es menester, y traigan las bancas la buena carga que pudieren, ya que cuestan tanto y que con los tiempos ay tantas dilaciones.*

A lo que VR^a no juzgare conveniente para mayor gloria de Dios de la cosas dichas, sin aguardar nueva correspondencia tan contingente de mar lo consultara con el Padre Pedro. y si los dos convienen por las circunstancias que alla ocurriesen, ordeno que se execute aunque sea contra mi parecer: y ruego que esto sea secluso todo respecto humano, y pidiendo luz a N[uestro] Señor, y [la] Santissima Madre y a nuestros Padres S. Ignacio y S. Francisco Xavier aplicando a las resoluciones los dictámenes que hallaren destos Santos. El Señor nos alumbre y llene de su amor.

[A dozen or so lines are missing]

*Si VR^a a menester nuestra banca y a Pedro para ir a Guan, avra de aguardar a que vuelva de aca: aunque espero que para volver a VR^a no faltara la vanca de **Itomo**, u otras ... y como vaya alla Pedro y la banca al tiempo que VR^a lleo el año pasado, se podra pasar como entonces con el favor de Dios.*

Las demas cosas que roge a VR^a y al Padre Pedro que fuesen haciendo assi de lengua como de Historia o relacion destas tierras, suplico prosiga donde se hallaren, etc. y sobre todo el cuidado de los Bautismos y cuenta de preñadas etc.

Por amor de Dios que aviendo viento no se detenga nuestra banca con Pedro y Gregorio y lo demas que pido de hacienda que nos hace grande falta para todo, y la pieça de Capfitan]a no obstante lo dicho en los otros papeles: si no es que VRas. dos con solo consulta de una Ave Maria juzguen lo contrario por de mayor gloria de Dios, que guarde a VRas, etc.

Desta fuerça de N[uestra] S[eñora] de Paz de Tinian a 22 de Feb. de 670

*Venga ya todo derecho a **Sunharon**, que yo ando de una parte a otra etc.*

Translation

To Fr. Luis de Morales, who is to have the last word about what to send and what to do during the war etc...

And in his absence from Rota to Fr. Pedro [Casanova] so that our canoe may not be delayed, whenever the wind is favorable, on account of consultations (and in case it cannot make the voyage) let Pedro¹ come with Sirag [a native] with any canoe that can

1 Ed. note: This was a European seaman whose last name was Pablo (see Doc. 1671F).

be found, with the freight that is mentioned hereunder, but our own canoe would be missed here.

[about a dozen lines missing at this point]

My dear Angel, here is my opinion, and order, (unless Y.R., after consultation with Fr. Pedro in any case, and should it appear to Y.R. and Fr. Pedro that the opposite be for the greater service of God), to wit:

1°. Neither Y.R. nor Fr. Pedro is to come overhere until I let you know otherwise, not before the end of April, if you do not receive letters from me regarding this point before then, because, since I am alone here, I have an excuse for not having any Father participate in the war and punishment in Saipan, as this would just be a disadvantage; better let the warden do his job without the nuisance of any contrary opinion that might hinder him (though it be the Major himself, though he is such an Angel, etc.) there is no need for our immediate advice.¹ Thus, those of Tinian will not allow me to go out, etc.

2°. Sungi having once again urged us on behalf of our friends in Saipan² (where he has gone a second time with Marinduque³ to find out if the bodies could be recovered, etc.) to the effect that we cannot refuse the opportunity that God places in our hands, that the people there believe that, with only two of our companions who would be willing to fight on the side of God, they would be sufficient to assure victory to those in our party, and, should they wish to make use of our weapons, it would be enough, etc. on account of God's protection, etc.

3°. In order to make this war more manageable, the small field-piece is necessary. That is why it should come on the first trip with the two jars [marked] **Santa Cruz**. It is unbelievable what we lack, for not having anything with which to pay [for things]. That is why the other canoe has been idle and we have missed many other things; send them for God's sake, since His Majesty has so arranged the winds, etc.

[4°]. In order for Pedro to come, a good native is wanted, as good as those aboard this canoe. Let him come and help Pedro to sail, and if they wish to return with the same canoe or another one the size of a war canoe, let as many of them come as possible, leaving for last the jars loaded with figs, flour, wine, as they are not as desirable now, since they had been meant for the voyage to the Gani [Islands].

5°. Y.R. should do us the favor of sending the pocket pistol, because if some arrest is made, and the arrest of **Gofisinan** is specially wanted, as they say that he was the **Manago** [instigator?] of the bad deed, it is desirable to carry such a hand weapon, and for other purposes. And, if for Y.R.'s safety which is more important, this weapon should be necessary in Guan, which is the more dangerous island, Y.R. could remain in that of Rota, and with the excuse that it might be better to wait there until word is received to come to this island, but in the meantime a Father would be wanting in Guan,

1 Ed. note: This man was none other than the Filipino conquistador of the Marianas, Captain Juan de Santa Cruz, the former blacksmith, to whom Fr. Sanvitores has given another promotion.

2 Ed. note: The people of the village of Opian had remained faithful to the Spanish.

3 Ed. note: The name of a Filipino soldiers who came from the Island of Marinduque.

and the Father would not be foolish enough to bear arms, something which disagrees with my God-given opinion that we Fathers are safer without weapons. Compliance is sometimes more difficult than it should, but it is necessary for us to amend ourselves. I have told this to another good companion and he gave me some excuses, which goes to show that there are too much divergence of opinion on the matter (not for his own personal defence, he said, but to instil fear, the better to find children to give holy baptism to); this seemed to me to be too much violence. I hope that we break up more clearly sometimes. I wish to amend, etc. and a few things have to be understood. Until now, as we are awaiting... [5-6 words missing] ...or the horns from the cow when they might come from Agaña,¹ and whatever pieces... [5-6 words missing] ... Y.R. did not miss the said weapon and other things as much.

However, to speak seriously, I say that it is proper for Y.R. to return to Guan, and work out the best schemes you see fit in order to keep those of Agaña in fear, because any effective damage overthere is very dangerous, because inside the town we have none upon which to rely against the town itself, as we should have in case of a war such as this one [in Tinian], or the one that awaits us in Saipan. That is why fear must be used, etc.² and [also] laughter and [shear] presence, such as we have used in Agaña many times, without the need for more weapons or more soldiers. Should there be some greater risk, the standing instruction is to transfer as much as you can take over to the other side, toward Pago, or to the port,³ by way of a *rumicao*,⁴ leaving the useless one in Agaña as a post-master, and he should not be given the job of diver, although I hear that Y.R. has taken the plunge, until Y.R. himself should decide to tell him so: should there be no danger in Agaña, or should it be less than in the outlying villages on account of the other disadvantage; Y.R. should remain in Agaña and the useless one is to go to his *rumicao* without weapons or anything else of the sort on my account, rather, I should say, on God's account and that of the Most Holy Virgin,⁵ and should he plead against this lack of weapons, his companion can take along a spear and a buckler, but on no account should it be a knife or anything else made of iron, etc.

In any case, Don Gregorio [Martinez] is to come with Pedro and our canoe and the field-piece, if it is still in Rota, and whatever goods are in the first jar marked Santa Cruz, and the second one as soon as possible, specially one with the pharmacy or sea-biscuits, although everything is necessary, and the canoes are to carry as good a load as they can, since they cost so much and there are so many delays caused by the weather.

-
- 1 Ed. note: A cow and a young bull had been landed two years before. The cow had by now been killed, I guess, and its horns became as valuable as the traditional tortoise shells, for trading with or buying services from the natives.
 - 2 Ed. note: In war, or peace, it is always good strategy to use preventive measures.
 - 3 Ed. note: On the southwest coast, at Hati or Umatac.
 - 4 Ed. note: Native word meaning mission tour (see Doc 1670B).
 - 5 Ed. note: From this comment, one can guess that the "useless one" was one of the missionaries, the unnamed one who wanted to carry weapons; my guess is that it was Fr. Cardeñoso.

Now, regarding the above-said things, if Y.R. should think it proper for the greater glory of God, without waiting for new correspondence (which is so dependent upon the sea conditions), you are to consult with Fr. Pedro, and if the two of you agree, based upon the circumstances occurring overthere, I order that it be carried out, although it be against my opinion; and I beg you not to think of being disrespectful, and to pray for enlightenment to Our Lord, the Most Holy Virgin and our Fathers St. Ignatius and St. Francis Xavier, then applying the dictates received from these Saints to the decision process. May the Lord enlighten us and fill us with His love.

[A dozen or so lines are missing]

If Y.R. needs our canoe and Pedro to go to Guan, you should make sure that it will return from there, although I hope that for the return trip the canoe belonging to **Itomo**,¹ or others, will not fail Y.R. and that, since Pedro and the canoe are going there at the same time as Y.R. made it last year, it will be possible to make the crossing as before, God helping.

As for the other things that I begged Y.R. and Fr. Pedro to do, concerning the language as well as a Historical narrative or Relation of these Islands, I beg you to pursue them whenever you can find the time, etc. and above all do not forget [to mention] the baptisms, and the story about the pregnant women, etc.

For God's sake, if the wind becomes favorable, do not detain our canoe with Pedro and Gregorio and the others, besides the goods that I ask, as we have such a great need for them all, not to forget the field-piece from the flagship, regardless what I said in the other papers, unless, of course, the two of you should decide otherwise, after consultation and the recitation of a Hail Mary, for the greater glory of God. May He keep Your Reverences, etc.

From this fort of **Our Lady of Peace**, Tinian, 22 February 1670.

[P.S.] Everything is to come directly to **Sunharon**, as I am constantly on the move, etc.

1 Ed. note: Itomo was a chief living in Rota (see Doc. 1671U).