
Document 1526F

Salazar, ex-Loaysa—Other existing primary accounts

F1. Letter from Alfonso Mexía to the King of Portugal, dated Cochin 30 December 1528.

Source: Original in Torre do Tombo, Gaveta 1º, mazo 41, nº 41. Translated into Spanish by Navarrete and published in his "Colección de los viages," vol. V, between Docs. XIII and XIV.

A nao of the Spaniards has arrived at the Moluccas, and our captain overthere has gone to her to make certain representations, and the Spaniard did not wish to yield to him; therefore, our people went to Tidore and when they arrived, it was fortified with entrenchments and guns with the manner of a fortress. Our people bombed their nao which they say has been left in no state to sail. At that time, Don Jorge [de Meneses] had not yet arrived there; he was the captain of two ships and 70 men. From Malacca they write that G. Gómez de Azevedo was making ready to go there with 100 men and one ship, two brigs and one large boat.

F2. Letter from Pedro de Montemayor to the King of Portugal, dated Cochin 14 January 1533

Sources: Original in Torre do Tombo, transcribed by Muñoz and published by Navarrete, op. cit., Doc. XIX. This letter was written in Portuguese by a Portuguese accountant named Fernão de Lemos on behalf of Montemayor.

On 11 July 1527, our Captain General Martín Iñiguez [de Carquisano] died and he was honorably interned by us in Our Lady of the Rosary. It became well known among us that he died of poison that Dom Jorge de Meneses had ordered be given to him, and they also threw some into our well, but Our Lord took care of us, so that only our captain died, and later that same day we elected as our captain general and governor Hernando de la Torre who, from that time until now is His Majesty's captain general and who, following orders, has come to India. The said Hernando de la Torre has done many deeds in the service of Your Highness, as he shall see from the letters from his captains and other people, which are manifest and cannot be denied. At the time the said Hernando de la Torre was elected governor, he began with much diligence to com-

plete the preparations of the ship that was to be sent with news to His Majesty, and, given that we had not yet made peace between us and the Portuguese, we held talks among ourselves and at the time of Dom Jorge de Meneses, captain of Ternate, he sent one man whom we picked up, and he was a Spaniard; so, we treated him as best we could. Some 15 days later, other Portuguese came over, as they used to do, but they carried some fire materials in order to burn our ship and they delivered it into the hand of that Spaniard who had fled from them to us, in order for him to leave inside the ship. He did so and the Portuguese were waiting for him; they picked him up and they returned to Ternate. So, that is how they burned our ship and it could not be of any use to us anymore...

On the 22nd of May 1528, after the capture of the galley, there came from Malacca six Portuguese relief ships, which were one galliot, one brig and three more ships and one large junk. As captain of them all came Gonzalo Gómez d'Azevedo and he brought 150 men who, with the 50 Portuguese already in the Moluccas, made a total of 200.

The caravel that had come to us from New Spain was despatched soon after by the same route that it had come, because the Emperor had so ordered, and at that time one Portuguese came over to us from the fortress at Ternate, whose name was Simão de Brito, and he said he defected to us because he had killed a certain Diogo Gaga, and that he feared he would be arrested for that, that he came to serve the Emperor. He swore to be his servant and vassal. Because we had a need for a pilot, he offered to guide the caravel to New Spain. So, he took the post of pilot and the caravel was despatched. At 200 leagues more or less from the Moluccas, he agreed with other Portuguese to rebel and steal the said caravel, but there were not enough of them to manage it, so he decided to steal the ship's boat with other things, and he carried it out. That is why the ship did not make the voyage, which it would surely have made, and all on account of the sins of Simão de Brito who later came into the hands of Hernando de la Torre who had him executed, the better to serve Your Highness and the Emperor.

The caravel sailed for 8 months, lost without a boat, at the end of which it turned back to the port of Tidore where we were. It was repaired again, a boat built, and it was despatched once more for New Spain. It sailed for 6 or 7 more months without making the passage, and again turned back to us. The said caravel, when it returned the second time, we had already lost the country and thus, that was the end of the caravel.

...

I, Fernão de Lemos, accountant of Your Highness in these parts, attest that the above was written at the request of Pedro de Montemayor at Cochin on the 14th day of January of 1533.

I kiss the royal hands of Your Highness.—

Pedro de Montemayor.

F3. Another report by Hernando de la Torre about the events in the Moluccas from 1529 to 1533, undated but begun in 1533 and completed on 15 August 1534

Sources: Original in AGI. Published by Navarrete, op. cit., Doc. XX.

On the 28th day of October of the year 1529, the Spanish who had been with Commander Loaysa being at the island of Tidore, the Portuguese who were at the island of Ternate came upon them with all their power with many Indians who were their friends...

When this captain Hernando de la Torre was here in Zamafo, on the 8th of December of the said year of 1529, there arrived the caravel named **La Florida**, that had gone from the island of Tidore to New Spain and, on account of contrary winds, had turned back. In it were 22 persons; five had died. They wrote about its arrival to the king of Gilolo and the king answered that he had received believable news to the effect that the Portuguese in Ternate had prepared a great fleet to come against them and take the caravel from them. So, they, according to the agreement, agreed to move to Gilolo, because they thought they would be in a better position to defend themselves there, the better because the king of Gilolo had more people and food in reserve and that such were already lacking there. So, they boarded the caravel and the brig and went overthere. During the voyage, as they could not round a point of the island of Gilolo, they were forced to return to Zamafo with the caravel, but the brig rounded it and went to Gilolo...

On the 26th day of the following month of August [1530], the Spanish made peace with the Portuguese and the local peoples, the ones with the others, with their capitulations...

On the 3rd of November of the said year, one galley, one ship and one junk arrived at Ternate with 70 Portuguese. As captain came a certain Gonzalo de Pereira, who became captain and governor in replacement of Don Jorge de Meneses. With this man were confirmed the terms of the peace agreement made with Don Jorge de Meneses...

On the 26th of November of the above-said year [1533], there came to Ternate a Portuguese captain named Tristão de Atáide with two caravels. As soon as he arrived, he despatched a proa with some letters he carried from the Governor of India for the king of Gilolo and for Captain Hernando de la Torre, in which he thanked them for their intercession between the queen of Ternate and the Portuguese. Aboard these caravels came back Pedro de Montemayor whom the captain had sent to the Governor of India for the latter to certify what had been done between His Majesty and the King of Portugal regarding the commerce with the Moluccas, because they had already been in those parts for 7 years, and they had begged him, on account of their diminished numbers and no longer being able to live off the land, to send them some help for their living expenses and some nao in which to return to Spain. The Governor answered that he had only heard about the agreement through letters and that he was sending them 2,000 cruzados on the Emperor's account and a nao of up to 200 tons. When this was learned by those of Gilolo (the news of which could not be kept secret), they began to

revolt, saying publicly among themselves that they [i.e. the Spanish] had to be killed if they tried to go. When they realized that the Portuguese were responsible for their going, they stopped taking food to the fortress as they used to do. For this reason, the captain of the Portuguese, Tristão de Atáide, ordered them to do as before and bring them the foodstuff as they used to, but they refused, so he decided to go upon them with a good-sized fleet. As for us, being only 17, with most of that number being sick, we could not sustain ourselves nor defend ourselves from them, so we came to terms with Tristão de Ataide. When we came out [to give ourselves up], they wounded Y.M.'s factor, Diego de Salinas, who died a short time later in the fortress. That Tristão destroyed and burned the place of Gilolo, although the people there had set up our guns at their places as best they could, but he brought all our artillery to the fortress in Ternate. Here the 2,000 cruzados were delivered to Captain Hernando de la Torre, who distributed them between himself and his companions, and also allotted all the leftovers from Gilolo, about which he left a recognition of debt in the name of His Majesty in favor of the Portuguese with their captain Tristão de Atáide.

On the 17th of February 1534, they embarked for India aboard the nao sent by the Governor and, by way of Amboina where they took on food, went from there to Banda, and from there they stopped at the island of Java for almost two months on their way to Malacca, taking in refreshments, and from there to Malacca on the 15th of August of that same year.

F4. Declaration of Juan de Mazuecos, made at Palencia on 17 September 1534

Sources: Original in AGI. Published by Navarrete, op. cit., Doc. XXI.

[Not reproduced]

F5. Letter from [Tristão de] Atáide to the Count of Venuoso, dated Maluco 20 February 1534.

Sources: Torre do Tombo, Gaveta 18, Maço 8, N° 15. 4 leaves, beginning with: "De India me despachó el Governador Nuño de Acuña¹ ..." and ending with: "No he visto animal tan cruel como este Alcaide."²

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- 1 Ed. note: Nuño da Cunha was Viceroy of Portuguese India in the early 1530s. It is strange that this letter was written in Spanish by a Portuguese official to a Spanish count.
 - 2 Ed. note: James Robertson (B&R 53:241) says that there is a transcript in the Lenox branch of the NYPL.

F6. Two declarations made by Andrés de Urdaneta and Macías del Poyo, a short one made at Valladolid on 4 September 1536, and a longer one made on 25 October 1536.

Sources: Original in AGI 1-2-1/4, R.34. Navarrete, vol. V, Doc. XXII and XXIV.¹ Excerpts from the latter follow.

...
[Question] 22. *Item*, let the witnesses declare if it is true that they brought with them an account of the whole voyage with latitudes, recorded in detail and collected in a book, and other charts specifically including the log of the voyage to the said islands and the South Sea; and how the said witnesses came this year of 1536 to the kingdom of Portugal aboard a Portuguese nao that took them to the city of Lisbon, and that the Major Guard posted there by the most serene King of Portugal, took a letter pouch that the witnesses carried, inside which there was an account of everything said above, as well as a letter that Hernando de la Torre was sending to H.M., that they also took the account book of H.M.'s nao that had gone to the Moluccas, and another book and charts upon which were drawn the islands of the Moluccas, Banda and other islands, that they also took the logbook of the voyage from New Spain to the Moluccas, and other writings and records regarding the above, all of which they refused to give back and they were left in the possession of the said Major Guard. Let them say what they know.

The said Andrés de Urdaneta, from Villafranca which is in the province of Guipúzcoa, having been sworn in in due form, and having had the questions of the interrogation put to him, said the following:

... To the 22nd question, he said that this witness had in his possession all the records, books and charts mentioned in the question, and when he entered Portugal, the Guard, at the time of disembarkation, took them all from him, and refused to give them back, although he had requested it many times. Before he had been advised that the King of Portugal had ordered his capture to prevent him from coming to report to H.M., so that this witness came on the sly to these kingdoms, and that later on the said King of Portugal sent from Évora for him and his companion to Lisbon, where they were. Given that this witness had come away, they did not find him but they took away Macías del Poyo, the pilot, his companion, to Évora. He does not know what happened there, only what he has heard about it, that he [Poyo] got away from the guards who were bringing him and went secretly to Luis Sarmiento, H.M.'s Ambassador in Portugal, who told him to come over without saying on word to the King of Portugal and gave him a horse to leave with.

¹ Ed. note: Macías del Poyo was the pilot of Saavedra's Florida on the first return attempt in 1528. The inquiry was begun at the end of 1536 and the last deposition taken about February 1537.

... He was asked about the general questions, and he said that he was 28 years old¹ more or less, and that he is not concerned with the rest. And that is the truth based on the oath he has taken, and he signed it with his name.— Andrés de Urdaneta.

The said Macías del Poyo, from the city of Murcia, having been sworn in in due form, and been asked the questions of the said interrogation, said the following:

... To the 22nd question, he said that this witness and his companion Andrés de Urdaneta carried all the records mentioned in the question, which came inside a box of the said Andrés de Urdaneta, and at the time of disembarking in Lisbon the Major Guard of Lisbon took them from him and, although this witness and his companion asked for them, they did not want to return them; that the King of Portugal sent from Évora for this witness and his companion, as he learned about their arrival; that when they asked the Major Guard for the records, they were told that they had been sent to the King of Portugal at Évora; that this witness, by order of the King of Portugal, went to Évora; and when he entered the city, he split from those who were taking him there and went to the inn of Luis Sarmiento, H.M.'s ambassador who told him to come to these kingdoms and not to go before the said King of Portugal, and he gave him a horse with which to leave so that they would not catch him; and that he did come to these kingdoms to give a report to H.M. and has been at this Court about six months.

... It is the truth in accordance with the oath he took, and he signed it with his name.— Macías del Poyo.

F7. Declaration of Francisco de Paris, made at Valladolid on 25 October 1536

Sources: Original in AGI. Navarrete, vol. V, Doc. XXIII.²

[Not reproduced]

F8. Summary of all the eyewitness reports before the Council of the Indies

Sources: AGI and Navarrete, vol. V, Doc. XXV, also in the Rivadaneira Collection, vol. 77, pp. 223-225.

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1 Ed. note: Here is the origin of the error that has misled many historians. Was not Urdaneta then 38 years old?

2 Ed. note: This Greek sailor was from Piraeus, the seaport of Athens, not Paris, France. However, the name Paris has been perpetuated. He is said to have been with Magellan. If so, he may have been the Francisco Piora, N° 17 on my list.