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## Document 1573A

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# 1572-1573 annual report by Governor Lavezaris to the King, dated Manila 29 June 1573

*Source: AGI Fil. 67-6-6; translated in B&R 3:179-188.*

### Affairs in the Philippines after Legazpi's death

Sacred Catholic Royal Majesty:

When I came to these islands in company with the General Miguel López de Legazpi, I gave your Majesty an account of the events of the expedition. Since then I have not done so, understanding that the Governor sent word by every ship, as was proper, how affairs were going here. Now was our Lord pleased to take him from this life, and I, being treasurer of the royal treasury, succeeded him in the office by a royal provision, emanating from the royal Audiencia of New Spain.

...

In a chest was found the royal decree, by which, in your Majesty's name, he enjoyed and exercised his office as Governor and Captain General. Before his death, the said Miguel López had founded, on the island of Cebu, where we first resided, a city called El Santissimo Nombre de Jesús [The Most Holy Name of Jesus] because of an image of the child Jesus that we found there. Here in this island of Luçon, he founded the city of Manila<sup>1</sup> where from that time until his death he resided, with all his people.

...

Last year, 1572, the Governor Miguel López despatched two ships<sup>2</sup> to New Spain a few days before his death; but, as it was late when they started, and the weather bad, they could not make the voyage that year. They came back, therefore, much disabled

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1 Ed. note: Manila was so named by Legazpi on 3 June 1571, but the city was officially founded on 19 June 1572.

2 Ed. note: The Santiago and the San Juan, which turned back.

and disordered. After the death of the Governor, who had made liberal provision for their repair and [ms. torn here] rigging and pitch, which it has been no little trouble to find. This year, therefore, God willing, three ships<sup>1</sup> will go, so that they may not for lack of vessels neglect to send reinforcements.

Since the death of Governor Miguel López, I have had made from the gold that has been brought and given by the natives as tribute and service, some **jewels**, which I send to your royal Majesty and to the Queen our mistress, with some specimens of the articles brought by the Chinese [traders].

These two ships now carry 136 marks<sup>2</sup> of **gold**, just as it was obtained from the natives who gave it as tribute. I hope that our Lord, that henceforth your Majesty will be better served with the first fruits of this land. I am also sending to New Spain 372 quintals of **cinnamon**, which I brought from the island of Mindanao, where there is a great quantity of it. There is no longer any necessity for the Portuguese to export hereafter any more cinnamon into your Majesty's kingdoms and dominions, because a greater quantity can be brought from these districts than can be sold in Europe, if ships are supplied. I am sending also to New Spain shoots of the cinnamon and pepper trees, so that they may be planted there and benefit your Majesty. I have also sent previously a **tamarind** tree, and have been informed that it is already bearing fruit in New Spain.<sup>3</sup>

I have tried to have some **rigging** for the ships made on this island, because what is brought from New Spain is completely rotten and useless, and for want of rigging the vessels have many times been unable to sail. God has been pleased that we should succeed in our endeavors—a thing that will be of great service in the despatching of the fleets that your Majesty will cause to be constructed here. I have also procured **pitch** for the same purpose; and, although there is not much of it, what has been discovered will be of great assistance.

...

May our Lord for many and fortunate years guard and prosper your Majesty's state with increase of greater kingdoms and dominions, as we, your Majesty's faithful vassals, desire.

Manila, 29 June 1573.

Your Sacred Royal Catholic Majesty's faithful vassal and most humble servant, who kisses your royal feet.

Guido de Lavezaris.

1 Ed. note: The Espiritu Santo, the Santiago, and the San Juan; the latter turned back once more.

2 Ed. note: 1 mark was 8 ounces or 1/2 a pound.

3 Ed. note: This tree, called *sampaloc* in the Philippines, is a leguminous tree whose scientific name is *tamarindus indica*. The tender leaves and pods are used to flavor stews, and the ripened pods are eaten as snacks and incorporated into desserts. All parts of the tree, even ashes from the wood, can be used for medicinal purposes (See vol. 2 of Padua et al. Handbook on Philippine Medicinal Plants, UP Los Baños, 1978).