
Document 1565P

Legazpi—Instructions given to the fleet, at sea, on 25 November 1564

Sources: Col. de Navarrete, t. 17, doc. 8; Col. Ultramar ii, doc. 26, pp. 215-217; summarized in B&R 2:104 as follows.

November 25, 1564.—Legazpi gives instructions on this day to the captains and pilots as to the course to be pursued. Hitherto, since leaving port, a southwest course has been steered; but now, in accordance with the royal instructions, and in the opinion of the captains and pilots, it seems advisable to change the heading. They shall sail first west-southwest to a latitude of 9 degrees, and then take a due course for the Philippines, stopping at the island of **Los Reyes** [i.e. Wotje] on the way. If by any chance one of the vessels becomes separated from Legazpi's vessel, the pilots are to return to the above latitude, stopping at any port that they may find, for eight or ten days, in hopes of meeting the other vessels, whether they find the island or not, and do not find the other vessels, this ship shall continue on the course toward the Philippines. A token and letter must be left at any port they may reach. When the island of Los Reyes is reached, the ship will wait there 10 days, after which time they shall continue their course, stopping likewise at **Matalotes** and **Arrecifes**, leaving tokens at all places, and trying to explore them and discover their products.

