
Document 1565I

Legazpi—Letter from Legazpi to the King, dated Mexico 26 May 1563

Sources: Col. de Navarrete, t. 17, doc. 7; Col. Ultramar ii, doc. 18, pp. 139-140; summarized in B&R 2:87-88 as follows.

Summary by Robertson

Mexico, 26 May 1563.—Legazpi writes to the King that “the Viceroy of this New Spain, without any merit on my part, has thought best to appoint me for the voyage to the Western Islands, to serve Your Majesty, putting under my charge the fleet prepared for it—not because this land has few men who would do it better than I, and by whom Your Majesty would be served better on this voyage, but rather, because no-one would give himself up to it with a more willing spirit, as I have ever done in my past duties.” He assures His Majesty that he will have the utmost care in this expedition. For the better success of the voyage he has “asked the Viceroy for certain things, which seemed to me necessary... and others of which, in the name of Your Majesty, he should grant me, which although they were not of so great moment that they were fitting to be asked from so exalted and powerful a personage, the Viceroy defers and sends them to you, so that Your Majesty may order his pleasure regarding them.” He asks these things for “so important a voyage” not as “a remuneration for my work, since that is due Your Majesty’s service, but as a condescension made with the magnificence that Your Majesty always is accustomed to exercise in rewarding his servants who serve him in matters of moment.”