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## Document 1669G

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# Cryptic letter from Fr. Sanvitores to Fr. Medina, dated Rota 26 December 1669

*Source: 1-page ms. in Guam Diocese archives, formerly in 26 Martyrs' Museum, Nagasaki, Japan; reproduced in facsimile in appendix of Ledesma's Cause of the Beatification, 1981, and in Ledesma's translation of Fr. Risco's book. The illustration is courtesy of Fr. Diego Yuuki.*

*Note: Fr. Medina was then in Tinian; he was to die of martyrdom in Saipan one month later. Fr. Sanvitores had gone to Guam and was returning with soldiers on a peace-making mission back to Tinian.*

### Original text in Spanish.

*Mi Padre Luis de Medina*

*Pax et Bellum Christi et M[ari]æ D. N.*

*Va el General de la Artilleria D. Franc<sup>o</sup> de Mendoza y el Gl. de la Cavalleria D. Gregorio Martinez, Capn. D. Joseph de Peralta[,] el Condestable Juan de los Reyes, todos del Tercio Mariano, y llevan el plenipotenciario Si Bachi y lo demas que dira con mejor letra, palabras y obras nuestro Angel y Padre [blot] &a. No digo mas, porque otro Verbo de mas importancia dira lo que fuere de mayor gloria de N.Sor, a su tiempo. para la eternidad con mucha gloria y almas marianas, &a.*

*S. Xavier de Sosa-rago, Rota, Diciemb. 26 de 669.*

*Siervo de V.R<sup>a</sup>*

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*+ Diego Luis S. Vitores*

*[P.S.] Convenidos desde aca va por cabeça en el camino de los que van en esta banca de **Nonohot** y que hara quiza algo en las paces a su tiempo. halla [sic] dicen todos tambien que estaran al orden de Dios por medio del Padre que esta en su lugar y de qualquiera que V. R<sup>a</sup> les ordenare. No tengo mas que añadir sino que **lo dicho dicho**. Dominus Deus exercitus: et Domine Castrorum Actes ordinata. Nunc refero me Goam &a. De todas las cosas que fueren alla y personas se dispondra [h]asta que yo vey a como el Sor. dispusiere por medio de V. R<sup>a</sup> las que a V. R<sup>a</sup> no se le ofreriere de cierto para que son. Haga que se guarden ay [alli] [ha]sta que yo vaya.*

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*Inutil siervo*

Mi Pe. Luis de Medina

Pax et Bellum Xpi et M. D. N.

Va el General de la Artilleria D. Fran<sup>co</sup> de Mendoza, y el G<sup>l</sup>. de la Cavalleria D. Gregorio Martinez. Cap<sup>l</sup>. D. Joseph de Peralta El Comendante suade los Reyes todos del Rey. Cio Mariano y llevan el Plenipotenciario Si Bacho y lo de mas q' dira con miq' letra, palabras y don no Angel y te. No digo mas. porq' uno verbo de mi importancia dira lo q' fuere de mayor gloria de Dios. anticipo por la certitud con mucha gloria y el honor de S. S. Xavier de Lorena go. Kota. Diciemb. 10 de 1703

Si eno de la

+ Diego Luis de Vitoria

Convenido desde aca va por cabes en el Condo de los q' un cura buena de novatos y q' hera q' a algo calapay a un tiempo. halla dicen todos tambien q' eston al poder de Dios por medio de la q' un cura la q' x. de q' un q' una leonora

Notas mas q' venir si q' lo Bicho Bicho. Dios Dios exorcismo al Dios Carreman. Actu Obisato. Nunc refero me gran la. De todo lo con q' fueron alay persona se desparece otra y otra con el m. de q' un por muchos de los. los q' una no se desparece de cicio por q' un. hay q' se quedan y otras y otras. i un: fano

**Translation of the above.**

My dear Fr. Luis de Medina

Peace and war in Christ, and Mary, our Lord and Lady.

There goes the General of the Artillery, Don Francisco de Mendoza, and the General of the Cavalry, Don Gregorio Martinez, Captain Joseph de Peralta, the Constable Juan de los Reyes, all those of the Mariana Company,<sup>1</sup> and they take along the plenipotentiary Si Bachi<sup>2</sup> and the rest which will be said with better polish, words, and deeds by our Angel Fr. [blot]<sup>3</sup> etc. I do not say more, because he will say verbally anything else that may be of more importance for the glory of the Lord, etc. in due course, for eternity with much glory and Mariana souls, etc.

St. [Francis] Xavier<sup>4</sup> of Sosarago [Sosanlago], Rota, 26 December 1669.

Your Reverence's servant,

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+ Diego Luis S. Vitores

[P.S. They have] agreed that the leader will go ahead aboard this canoe of **Nonohot**<sup>5</sup> and he might perhaps do something about the peace [negotiations], in due course. Overthere they all say as well that they will await the order from God, through the Father who stands for him and of whatever Your Reverence should order them [to do].

I have nothing more to say, except that **what was said was said**. [In Latin:] *The Lord God [is our] army. O Lord of the fortified places, regulate [our] actions. I refer now to Goam, etc.* Whatever [happens] with things and persons overthere, Your Reverence should dispose until I see how the Lord will dispose through Your Reverence. Those Your Reverence cannot deal with for sure, because they are so [blank], keep them in abeyance until I get there.

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[Your Reverence's] Useless servant

1 Ed. note: There is no logical explanation why he refers to the Spanish troop leaders with such inflated military titles, unless it was a common joke among the Fathers. This was probably the case, as his puny army, then on an expedition to Tinian and Saipan, consisted of one Spaniard with a tiny field piece, three others with muskets, and half a dozen Filipino boy soldiers. As for the cryptic postscript, there had to have been some pre-arranged meanings between Fr. Sanvitores and Fr. Medina. Francisco de Mendoza had been a survivor of the Concepción shipwreck, has previously lived in the Marianas from 1638 to 1658, and was the most knowledgeable one of two interpreters who had taught the Mariano language to Fr. Sanvitores. Juan de los Reyes was a Pampango (see Doc. 1668F & 1676C2).

2 Ed. note: Si is the Filipino prefix, or article, before any proper name. This man was most likely a native chief.

3 Ed. note: The word blotted out is Pedro, i.e. Fr. Pedro Casanova.

4 Ed. note: This is a strange name, since the name of San Pedro was given to Rota Town from the beginning. The name of St. Francis Xavier was then applied to a site on Tinian, and later on to another site on Rota.

5 Ed. note: Nonohot was a chief in Rota (see Doc. 1671U).

Mi P. Pedro de los Anos

Pax et Belli x m et m

Harto me regara qd habetata  
el p. In de Noles Bellipotens

Marianus. In maerdaq' ay seprevia  
pero q' habet credid... y succidit ex  
persindida en ladeyo gta de dia.

Delantio dano... herpu tiempseom  
qur ay adedicion en neyo dlem  
nidad. sa entloquet y entloquet Vto.

Donna loq' ante pro ledicissor  
q' usa neyo gtona. p' loq' regalle

mi angel de guarda porjine con  
victa exnal. com en bno el q' por ma  
hace loq'. un por imon. whiconley

proq' duntidigo digna... yan binculo  
historia y faict... duntidillo deq' re

101. Pedro. hio in legros consa lombra. sa  
Deus d. 1579 + hervo. N. +

el mdo de la tierra  
dipnissim de la gran  
pax