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BRASIO 4, 113

LETTER FROM KING D. FELIPE II TO  
FATHER BALTASAR BARREIRA, 19.11. 1611

Baltasar de Barreira, superior of the Religious of the Society in the Cabo Verde Islands. I the king send you many greetings. I was particularly happy to learn that you had baptized the king of Serra Leoa and the king of its other coast, and to hear about the many matters in which you are employed in those parts in the service of God and myself, for which I give you many thanks. I hope that by your virtue, prudence and example much else will be achieved, and that by means of you, all the heathen there may come to a true knowledge of our holy faith, which is what I desire above all.

I thank you for the memoranda you give me, with respect to what you tell me about the kings of Biguba and Guinala; the aid against the Bijagos they propose I should order to be given to them; the damages done by these heathen which are being inflicted on the villages of the Rio Grande and on the trade of my vassals; and the need there is that they should be punished. As regards what you further say, that Sebastiao Fernandes Cassam is ready for this undertaking, I commend your discussing it with him if he wants to pursue it on his own account, as he has offered. Let him note the items he requests for this, so that I can order it/him to be seen and can then arrange whatever I consider appropriate for my service. What you discuss with him, his response, and his notes, you will inform me about as quickly as possible.

Concerning the trade in which you say the Portuguese who live in Portodalle and Icala are involved, and the iron which is taken from there to disperse in Guinea, I have ordered that they should observe what is set out in the bull da Cea and the laws which I have made, so that foreigners will not participate in my trade. And in particular, since you have also written to me that there should be a Captain at Cacheo, I have ordered what you will there hear (?).

Written in Lisbon, 19 November 1611.

The King.

(From Baltazar Tellez, Chronica da Companhia de Jesu da Provincia de Portugal, Lisboa, 1647, vol. 2, pp. 642-643)





