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Summary

This collection of documents from 1907-1908 details a jurisdictional dispute between the Bishop of Macau, João Paulino d'Azevedo e Castro, and the Apostolic Prefect of Canton, Bishop Merel, regarding the exchange of the island of Hainan and the Shao-King (or Shewing/Shiu-ing) district. A 1903 decree from the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide, confirmed by a pontifical decree on March 16, 1904, ordered this exchange. The Bishop of Macau asserted that the exchange should include the sub-prefectures of San-ing, San-ui, and Shuntac, adjacent to Shao-King, but the Holy See clarified that only Shao-King was designated. Negotiations between the two prelates, involving several meetings in Macau between April 1906 and March 1907, resulted in an agreement: Hainan for Canton and Shao-King for Macau. This agreement was communicated to the French and Portuguese governments. However, Bishop Merel subsequently delayed the exchange, citing Christian opposition in Shao-King, disproportionate value between Hainan and Shao-King (exacerbated by the sale of two houses in Hoi-how by Macau), and alleged Portuguese intentions to revert to the pre-1903 status quo. The Bishop of Macau refuted these claims, citing documentation and correspondence, and travelled to Rome in May 1907 to address the matter directly with the Holy See. By July 1907, Cardinal Merry del Val communicated that the exchange was definitively settled. Despite this, the issue persisted into 1908, with the Bishop of Macau requesting Portuguese government intervention to secure Chinese recognition of the new arrangement.

Transcription

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1ª Repartição

Macau

Processo ácerca do acordo celebrado entre o Bispo de Macau e o Prefeito Apostolico de Cantão relativamente á troca de jurisdições sobre a ilha de Hainam e o distrito de Shao-King (ou Shew-ing).

Ano de 1907

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SECRETARIA D'ESTADO
dos Negocios
da Marinha e Ultramar

Direcção Geral do Ultramar

1.^a Repartição

2.^a Secção

N.º

[Marginalia, left, in red ink]

Officio ao Ministro
dos Negocios Estrangeiros
em 25-5-1907.

[Top right corner, handwritten]

(Copia para acompanhar
o officio a S. Ex.^a)

S. Ex.^a o Ministro concorda.

16 de V de 1907

Horty

O bispo de Macau, dando conta
da opposição ultimamente feita pelo
prefeito apostolico de Cantão á realisa-
ção do accordo sobre a troca de jurisdi-
cções na ilha de Hainan e no districto
de Shao-king, pediu em officio de 8 de
fevereiro ultimo que, pelo Ministerio
dos negocios estrangeiros, fossem dadas
providencias para que, tanto junto do Go-
verno de Paris, como junto da Santa Sé,

se não levantem duvidas que possam causar embaraços á prompta execução do decreto pontificio de 16 de março de 1904.

Pouco depois recebeu um telegramma do prelado pedindo licença para vir ao reino, via Roma, a fim de tractar directamente do assumpto perante a Santa Sé.

No incluso officio de 2 d'abril ultimo agradece o ter-lhe sido concedida aquella licença e renova o pedido das alludidas providencias, feito no anterior officio de 8 de fevereiro.

O facto de o prelado resolver ir a Roma tratar da questão, fez com que esta Rep.^a nada informasse sobre o pedido; mas, em vista da sua instancia, é de parecer que se remetta uma copia do officio de 8 de fevereiro ao Ministerio dos negocios estrangeiros solicitando a expedição dos despachos necessarios ao nosso

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representante em Paris e ao Embaixador junto da Santa Sé para procurar remover quaesquer difficuldades que ainda se levantem sobre o assumpto.

Em 14-5-907.

Z-Couto

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GOVERNO ECCLESIASTICO

DA

DIOCESE DE MACAU

N.º 27

[STAMP: DIOCESE DE MACAU]

[STAMP: ULTRAMAR

18 MARÇO 1907

Rep. N.º 179]

Ill.mo e Ex.mo Senhor

Tenho a honra d'accusar a recepção dos officios de V. Ex.^a de 11 d'outubro e 17 de dezembro ultimos dando-me conhecimento das communições recebidas pelo Ministerio dos Negocios Estrangeiros, de S. Ex.^a o Ministro Portuguez em Paris, ácerca do accordo celebrado entre mim e o Snr. Prefeito Apostolico de Cantão relativamente á tróca de jurisdicções sobre a ilha de Hainan e o districto de Shao-King (ou Shiu-ing). Effectivamente entre mim e os delegados d'aquelle Prelado, a pós varias e demoradas conferencias a que de proposito vieram por differentes vezes a Macau, resolveu-se procedermos á execução do Decreto da Propaganda de 3 de fevereiro de 1903, em forme se applicou o Decreto Pontificio de 16 de março de 1904. Eu pretendia, como em varios officios fiz ver ao Governo de Sua Magestade, que a tróca

de Hainan viessem para a jurisdição de Macau, além do districto de Shao-King, algumas sub-prefeituras ao sul d'este, e sustentei esta pretensão ainda depois das explicações dadas pela Santa Sé ao Decreto de 3 de fevereiro, porque o Prelado de Cantão se mostrava disposto a entrar em um accordo comigo sobre uma differente delimitação. Mas a final desisti, porque aquelle Prelado não me cedia o que eu reclamava, e a troca do que me queria ceder, pretendia que eu lhe cedesse, além da ilha de Hainan, a melhor parte do districto que os Decretos da Santa Sé

1.^a REPARTIÇÃO

DA

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

2.^a Secção

Macau N.º 39

11 de Março de 1907

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davam a Macau!

Convencidos de que não podíamos chegar a um accordo, tomámos, na derradeira conferencia celebrada em 4 de setembro ultimo, aquella resolução: – a ilha de Hainan passaria desde logo para a jurisdição do Prefeito Apostolico de Cantão e o districto de Shao-King (Shew-ing) viria para a jurisdição effectiva do Bispo de Macau. Alem d'isso fixou-se o meado d'outubro para uma nova reunião em que se faria a reciproca entrega dos territorios permutados e se lavraria e assignaria o competente auto, devendo logo a seguir a este acto os missionarios francezes abandonar o districto de Shew-ing e o pessoal da missão portugueza a ilha de Hainan. Foi este o accordo que o Prelado de Cantão disse em telegramma para Paris ter sido celebrado entre mim e elle, e que depois replicou em relatorio. E' este tambem o accordo a que se refere o nosso digno representante junto do Governo da Republica franceza nas communicações feitas para o Ministerio dos Negocios Estrangeiros. Cumpre-me dizer a V. Ex.cia que desisti da minha pretensão a obter uma maior compensação pela cedencia da ilha de Hainan por varias razões: 1.º o Decreto Pontificio de 16 de março de 1904 explicando o de 3 de fevereiro n'um sentido restricto para mim, não me permitia reclamar outros territorios alem do districto de Shew-ing; 2.º no decurso das negociações

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entabuladas por mim e o Prelado de Cantão para chegarmos a um accordo sobre uma nova delimitação, convenci-me, como já disse, da impossibilidade de, por este meio, reivindicarmos a posse de quaesquer territorios do nosso Padroado actualmente sob a jurisdicção dos Padres das Missões Etrangères de Paris: 3º. hoje estou convencido de que mais convem ao Real Padroado o districto de Shao-King do que a ilha de Hainan por varias razões: a) é muito mais proximo de Macau, a um dia de viagem apenas, e rio acima; b) é muito mais populoso, c) tem muito maior numero de christãos, e muitos d'elles descendentes d'antigas familias chamadas ao christianismo por nossos missionarios, e d) possui mais e melhores egrejas e residencias para missionarios. Apesar de terem decorrido mais de tres mezes depois da epocha fixada para a entrega definitiva dos territorios permutados, ainda esta se não celebrou. E' devida esta demora a ter ficado assente entre mim e o Prelado de Cantão que missionarios das duas jurisdicções iriam antes visitar os lugares de missão para darem e tomarem conhecimento por meio d'inventarios do que houvesse nos differentes lugares.

Fez-se isso em Hainan onde os nossos missionarios procederam cavalheirosamente para com o enviado do Snr. Prefeito Apostolico, recebendo este um exemplar do inventario assignado por elle e pelo Superior da Missão Portugueza

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que a toda a parte o acompanhou.

Em Shao-king não tem sido facil
fazer-se outro tanto por causa de certa apposição
da parte d'alguns christãos, de pouca importancia
na realidade, mas a que os missionarios francezes,
para seus fins, pretendem dar grande vulto.

Não quero affirmar que sejam elles os
promotores d'essa apposição, e' porem evidente
que d'ella são conniventes, como ja'o declarei a
Monsenhor o Prefeito Apostolico.

O clero de Cantão não recebeu de bom
grado o Decreto de 3 de fevereiro de 1903, e agora
que se trata da execução d'elle, procura por todos
os meios impedil-a ou pelo menos difficultal-a.
Bastará dizer a V. Ex.cia que desde a publi-
cação d'aquelle decreto e por causa d'elle ja' foi
um dos padres de Cantão por duas vezes a'
Europa!

Por duas vezes depois que se resolveu entre
mim e os delegados da Prefeitura, o que acima
disse, mandei missionarios de Macau a Cantão
com destino a Shao-king, para que se cumprisse
ali a clausula do nosso accordo. Da primeira vez
o missionario não passou de Cantão, sendo despedido
a pretexto de que por Hainan e' que devia começar
a visita! Da segunda vez foi o Missionario ate'
Shao-king, e a Yulit do districto, mas retirou-se
immediatamente sem de nada tomar conhecimento,
porque se viu insultado por um bando de mulheres
na presença e junto da casa do missionario do lugar,

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GOVERNO ECCLESIASTICO

DA

DIOCESE DE MACAU

N.º

sem que este fizesse a menor diligencia para pôr termo a taes insultos!

Protestei energicamente perante o Senr.

Prefeito Apostolico contra este modo de proceder, tanto menos digno quanto Monsenhor me havia promettido fazer acompanhar o missionario portuguez por um padre missionario, seu delegado, que o fizesse respeitar, e não cumprio o que promettera, pois em vez d'um padre auctorisado, mandou um alumno do seu Seminario!

Ultimamente, no dia 28 de janeiro, para ali mandei o Superior da Missão de Hainame, Pe. Manuel José Pitta, que de proposito chamei para o encarregar d'essa missão.

De differentes pontos me tem elle escripto dando-me conhecimento do modo como tem sido recebido, promettendo estar de regresso em Macau no principio de março.

Devo dizer a V. Ex.cia que cada vez mais se evidencia a má' disposição dos missionarios francezes entre nós, e digo francezes, porque da parte do missionario china, unico que ha no districto, missionario muito bom e muito prestante, tem sido o nosso missionario muito bem recebido, e na sua christandade nenhuma afflicção soffreu o nosso.

Para que V. Ex.cia se convença de que não
exagero queixando-me n'estes termos dos missiona-
rios francezes de Cantão, bastará notar os seguin-
tes factos:

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1º Os dous missionarios europeus que ha no districto para não terem que ajusar o nosso missionario na visita que ia ali fazer, retiraram-se para Shanghai e d'ali para o Japão, deixando abandonadas as christandades, do seu Prelado, em resposta ao meu protesto, em haver assegurado que ao nosso missionario daria todo o apoio para que a nova visita fosse coroada de bom exito.

2º Um d'esses missionarios, aliàs muito bom sacerdote, é pessoalmente interessado em que se não faça a troca, porque ha bastantes annos missiona na capital do districto e ahi tem despendido dinheiro seu na construcção de boas egrejas. Ora eu já sabia ha muito de bôa fonte, que por esta razão, muito custava ao clero de Cantão a cedencia d'aquella parte do districto. Conheci mesmo durante as negociações que celebrámos o maior empenho em que aquella parte do districto não sahisse da jurisdicção do Snr. Prefeito Apostolico de Cantão. Pois foi justamente nas suas christandades sujeitas a esse tal missionario que se manifestou a opposição da parte dos christãos.

3º O Snr. Prefeito Apostolico em lugar de fazer acompanhar d'esta ultima vez o nosso missionario por um padre que cumprisse o que me promettera, mandou com elle o P. Fourquet, isto é, aquelle missionario que desde meado de 1903, já foi por duas vezes á Europa para vêr se conseguia a derogação do Decreto de 3 de

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fevereiro d'aquelle anno!

V.^a A. bôa vontade d'ajudar o nosso missionario, que já era de presumir, mostrou-a o P.e Fourquet logo em Cantão antes de partir para Sheu-ing, dizendo ao nosso missionario que talvez a pessoa encarregada das chaves da egreja e residencia missionaria se recusasse a apresental-as. Foi o que succedeu, fingindo aquelle sacerdote, representante do Prelado de Cantão n'uma christandade que o seu missionario havia abandonado, ignorar que em taes circumstancias o seu dever era procurar o Mandarim local, para se fazer respeitar e obedecer, e não consentir que mais uma vez fosse ludibriado e insultado o missionario portuguez!

Logo que o P.e Pitta regresse a Macau, deve ter lugar, conforme foi resolvido entre mim e Monsenhor Prefeito Apostolico de Cantão, o acto final da reciproca entrega dos territorios permutados.

E' possivel que esse Prelado venha com novos pretextos para protellar ainda por mais tempo esta malfadada questão.

Não ha porem motivo serio para que seja attendido. O receio da apostacia dos christãos de que pretendem tirar partido, é infundado, como já lhes mostrei, para não dizer fingido. Porque os christãos que ha em todo o districto são pouco mais de 2:000 e acham-se distribuidos por muitas christandades, em duas das quaes

page_00011

apenas se tem manifestado alguma opposiçaõ,
e essa pelo modo que eu já disse.

Espero que o Governo do Real Padroeiro
pelo Ministerio dos Negocios Estrangeiros,
dê as necessarias providencias para que tanto
junto do Governo de Paris como junto da Santa Sé,
não se levantem duvidas que possam causar
embaraços á prompta execuçaõ dos Decretos.
Oportunamente informarei o Governo
de Sua Magestade de quaesquer occurrencias que
mereçam ser tomadas em consideraçaõ.

Deus Guarde a V. Exc.^a

Paço Episcopal em Macau, 8 de Janeiro de 1907

Ill.mº e Ex.mº Senhor
Conselheiro Director Geral
do Ministerio do Ultramar.

+ João Paulino d'Azevedo e Castro
Bispo de Macau.

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GOVERNO ECCLESIASTICO

DA

DIOCESE DE MACAU

N.º 70

[Stamped text in a box]

ULTRAMAR

[Doodle] -6 MAIO 1907 [Doodle]

Rep. N.º 291

[Handwritten text in red ink, crossed out]

A copia não

veio á entrada

[Illegible word]

[Handwritten text in red ink in the left margin]

Não veio á entrada

para a 1ª repartição

a copia a que se

refere n'este officio

17-5-907.

[Handwritten text in black ink]

Illmo e Ex.mo Senhor

Em meu officio de 8 de fevereiro

ultimo para a Ex.a Direcção Geral do Ultramar

prometti informar o Governo de qualquer occur-

rencia digna de menção relativamente á questão

de Hainan e Shao-king.

E' o que venho fazer, bastante mal

impressionado pelo procedimento inesperado

de quem fôra provisto do Prelado de Cantão.
O P.e Pitta deu finalmente por
terminada a sua visita ao districto de Shao-king
onde se demorou um mez, visitando quasi todas
as christandades d'alguma importancia. Tudo
lhe correu bem, sendo bem recebido em toda
a parte, a não ser em duas christandades,
onde, como já referi no dito meu officio, soffreu
alguma opposição em que só figuravam al-
gumas mulheres. Para se avaliar o que vale
certa opposição bastará dizer que as duas chris-
tandades apenas contam, segundo documentos
authenticos fornecidos pela Prefeitura Apostolica,
uma 148 christãos, e outra 185, homens, mu-
lheres, velhos, crianças, novos e nechos chris-
tãos (estes ultimos são affeioados á Missão
portuguesa)!
E o P.e Pitta regressou a Macau sem

[Printed text in the bottom left corner]

1.^a REPARTIÇÃO

DA

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

2.^a Secção

N.º 60

H. de Maio de 1907

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que o Prelado de Cantão me dissesse, como se lhe tinha pedido, onde e quando convinha nos reunissemos para a decisão final.

Instado por mim em meu officio de 8 do corrente no qual eu o convidava a reunir-se comigo em Hongkong em um dos dias proximos antes da Semana Santa, respondeu-me 15 dias depois, em officio que junto por copia, declarando-me contrariamente ao compromisso comigo tomado, que não procedia á excusad dos decretos pontificios pelas razões que alleja, (que não passam de vãos pretextos já por mim d'ante-mão refutados todos) sem consultar de novo a Santa Sé!!!

No dia immediato áquelle em que recebi este officio, telegraphiei para o Ministerio do Ultramar, dando-lhe parte d'esta occurrencia e pedindo licença para ir ao reino passando pela cidade de Roma e levar comigo o meu secretario.

Felizmente no dia 28 recebi a desejada resposta ao meu telegramma com a licença pedida. Muito agradeço a V. Ex.cia ter-se dignado deferir ao meu pedido, pois acho que em quanto eu não fôr pessoalmente tratar esta questão

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que tanto me tem dado que fazer, ella será sempre protellada, com grave prejuizo nosso e das nossas missões.

Opportunamente em relatorio que pretendo fazer, exporei todos os seus pormenores. Entretanto, renovo o que em o meu supracitado officio pedi, a saber: que se previnam a tempo os representantes de Portugal em Paris e junto da Santa Sé para que procurem evitar novas complicações e embaraços que porventura se pretendam levantar á execução dos Decretos Pontificios. Eu devo partir em breve para a Europa; toda a demora é devida a não haver lugar nas primeiras malas que teem de largar de Hong-Kong com aquelle destino.

Deus Guarde a V. Ex.cia

Paço Episcopal em Macau 2 d'abril de 1907.

Ill.mo e Ex.mo Snr. Ministro d'Estado dos Negocios da Marinha e Ultramar.

+ João Paulino d'Azevedo e Castro
Bispo de Macau.

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Lisboa 2 de Outubro de 1906

Ministerio
dos
Negocios Estrangeiros

Direcção Geral
dos Negocios Politicos
e Diplomaticos

1ª Repartição

[STAMP: ULTRAMAR
8 OUTU 1906
Rep. N° 5261]

[STAMP: MINISTERIO DO ULTRAMAR]

[SIGNATURES]

Para relação ao officio de V. Ex^a de 12 de
Julho ultimo, em virtude do qual dei ins-
trucções ao nosso representante em Paris
para insistir pela resolução da questão re-
lativa á troca de jurisdições entre os bispos
de Cantão e Macaú, cabe-me a honra
de informar a V. Ex^a que o Governo francez
acaba de dar noticia ao Snr Conde de Langa-
Rasa, de terem aquelles prelados chegado a
accordo sobre o assumpto. Á data da expe-
dição da nota, esperava o Governo da
Republica o relatorio do bispo de Cantão,

considerando todavia como definitiva-
mente regulada a troca das jurisdições,
e em via de execução os respectivos actos
de posse.

Deus

[Marginalia, left side, rotated 90 degrees counter-clockwise:]

Off^o ao Bispo
de Macaú em
11-10-1906

[Marginalia, left side, under the previous note:]

Processo 72
1^a Rep^a 2^a Secção
Convem enviar
a n/ma copia
d'este off^o ao
Bispo de Macaú
para seu conhe-
cimento.
9-10-906
MHenriques

[Footer, bottom left:]

1.^a REPARTIÇÃO
-> DA <-
DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR
2 Secção [Signature: Nery]
N.º 10
J de 10 de 1906

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Deus guarde a V. Ex.cia

Aff.mo Am.o Cr.do Ministro e Secretario

d'Estado dos Negocios da Marinha e Ultramar.

Luiz de Carvalho

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[Marginalia, left, vertical, handwritten in red ink:] Cópia ao Bispo de Macao em 12-12-1906

Ministerio
dos
Negocios Estrangeiros

Direcção Geral
dos Negocios Politicos
e Diplomaticos
1ª Repartição

[Stamped in green ink:]

ULTRAMAR

[Handwritten within the stamp:]

L. 1 DEZ 1906

[Handwritten in red ink:]

J. Dep. N.º 6218

[Handwritten in black ink:]

Lisboa 29 de Novembro de 1906

[Handwritten in red ink:]

Visto

[Handwritten in black ink:]

Nº3

[Handwritten in black ink, partially illegible signature and text:]

Exmo Snr

M. de o Ministro concordar

H de XII do 19.0[illegible]

[Signature:] Monty

Com referencia ao officio de V.Ex^a de 12 de Julho e em additamento ao meu
Processo 72. officio de 2 d'Outubro ultimo, tenho a
1^a Repas 2^a secção honra de communicar a V.Ex^a, segundo
et esta Repas
parece que deve informar o nosso representante em Paris,
ser communicado ao
Bispo de Macao que a questão da troca da jurisdição
o facto constante
do presente officio, de Hainam pela do districto de Shao-
e dizer-se-lhe que,
no caso de entender
conveniente se dirija King acaba de ser resolvida nos termos
citarem-se do Gov.
mesmo francez mais do decreto da propaganda de 3 de fevereiro
algumas providencias
das a bem dos de 1903 e do decreto pontifical de 16
interesses do Real
Padroado as in- de Março de 1904, em resultado das ne-
dique para serem dadas, as cor-
respondentes in- gociações entaboladas entre o bispado de
strucções comple-
mentares ao nos- Macau e a Prefeitura Apostolica de Cantão.
so representante
em Paris.

Em 6-12-906

Mousigne

V.Ex^a se sirvará transmittir-me, se
assim o julgar necessario, quaesquer
instrucções complementares que sobre

este assumpto devam ser enviadas ao
Snr. Conde de Souza Roza.

Deus

[Footer, left:]

1.^a REPARTIÇÃO

[Arrow pointing right] DA [Arrow pointing left]

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

2a Secção

Remo N.º 378

3 de Dezembro de 1906.

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Deus Guarde a V.E.^a

Ill.mo e Ex.mo Snr. Ministro e Secretario d'Estado
dos Negocios da Marinha e Ultramar

Luiz da cunha e azevedo

page_00019

[Handwritten annotation at the top right]

D. Urb.º o Bispo foi auct.º vide

despº de 27/7/907

Foi auctorizado a vir a Lisboa,

via Roma, por ter de ahi

procurar tratar dos negocios, mas

não lhe foi dada commissão

para isso, como se diz n'este parecer.

[Printed header]

MINISTERIO

DOS

Negocios da Marinha e Ultramar

INSPECÇÃO GERAL

DE

Fazenda do Ultramar

2.ª Secção

Nº 152

[Handwritten annotation in the left margin]

Direcção geral

do Ultramar.

1ª Rep.ad 2ª secção

Chamo Nepas offº

rece-se ponderar

que o bispo de

Macau não foi

incumbido de ir

a Roma tratar

da questão da troca

de jurisdição, mas
resolveu elle pro-
prio ir alli, e
apenas pediu li-
cença ao governo.

Em 23-5-907

Z. Antº

[Main text]

Informação

Acerca do incluso telegramma do Governador de Macau, de 1 do corrente que veio com a informação da 1ª Repartição da Direcção Geral do Ultramar, e versa sobre o subsidio da despesa de viagem para Roma sollicitado pelo Bispo d'aquella diocese; tem esta Inspeção Geral de Fazenda a honra de dizer, que desde que o mesmo Prelado vae a Roma com o seu secretario em commissão de serviço, e por este motivo lhes foi mandada abonar passagem por conta do Estado, acha esta Inspeção que tem direito ao abono do competente subsidio de viagem que se abona por lei em semelhantes occasiões entre os adeantamentos que se fazem aos funcionarios publicos.

O Governador de Macau, em telegramma de 4 do corrente perguntára se podia abonar ao Prelado despesas para essa viagem, e Sua Ex^a o Ministro, em resposta telegraphica da mesma data, auctorisou o subsidio de sua viagem a Roma.

Inspeção Geral de Fazenda do Ultramar em 21 de Maio de 1907.

O Inspector Geral,

[Signature]

University of Saint Joseph

Bibliotheca Diocesis Macaonensis

José Norasso de Abreu

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[Coat of Arms]

GOVERNO DA PROVINCIA DE MACAU

EXPEDIENTE GERAL

No. 18

Palacio do Governo de Macau,

3 de Maio de 1907.

Objecto

Confidencial

[Stamp: MINISTERIO DO ULTRAMAR ARQUIVO]

[Stamp: ULTRAMAR

E. 4 JUN 1907

1ª Rep. No. 151]

Ill.mo e Ex.mo Snr.

Tenho a honra de confirmar
o meu telegramma de 1 do corren-
te concebido nos seguintes ter-
mos: — "Ultramar-Lisboa = Bis-
"po-pede-abono-subsidio-despeza-
"viagem-Roma-allegando-esta-
"do-inbieri-Estado-Peço-res-
"posta-maxima-urgencia-(a) Go-
"vernador." — e de dizer a V.Exª que
o mesmo telegramma foi mo-
tivado pelo officio de Sua Exª
Rev.ma o Bispo de Macau, que
remetto por copia a V.Exª.

Deus Guarde a V.Ex^a.

Palacio do Governo em Macau, 3

de Maio de 1907.

Ill.mo e Ex.mo Snr. Ministro e Secretario de Estado

dos Negocios da Marinha e Ultramar.

O Governador da Provincia,

Pedro de Azevedo Coutinho

[Stamp:

1.^a REPARTIÇÃO

DA

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

2 Secção

N.º 16

3 de Maio de 1907]

page_00021

SECRETARIA GERAL DO GOVERNO

DA

PROVINCIA

DE

MACAU

---oOo---

Copia.

Governo Ecclesiastico da Diocese

de Macau. - N.º 112. - Ill.mo Ex.mo Snr.

Estando eu auctorisado por Sua

Exa. o Ministro do Ultramar, a ir

ao Reino, via Roma, onde terei

que me demorar algum tempo

em serviço d'interesse para o

Real Padroado da Corôa, rogo a

V. Exa. se digne providenciar para

que pelo cofre da Provincia, alem

das passagens já auctorisadas

por S. Exa. o Ministro para mim

e meu Secretario, me seja dado

algum subsidio d'ajuda de cus-

to para occorrer ás despesas ex-

traordinarias que necessaria-

mente serei obrigado a fazer

nesta viagem e na prosecu-

ção do fim a que ella mira. -

Deus Guarde a V. Exa. - Paço Epis-

copal em Macau, 1 de Maio de

1907. - Ill.mo Ex.mo Snr. Governador

da Provincia de Macau. - (a) +

University of Saint Joseph

Bibliotheca Diocesis Macaonensis

João Paulino d'Azevedo e Castro,

Bispo de Macau. -

Está conforme.

Secretaria Geral do Governo em

Macau, 2 de Maio de 1907.

O Secretario Geral,

ayrhes

[Seal: GOVERNO DA PROVINCIA DE MACAU - SECRETARIA GERAL]

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MINISTERIO

DOS

Negocios da Marinha e Ultramar

INSPECÇÃO GERAL

DE

Fazenda do Ultramar

2ª Secção

[STAMP]

ULTRAMAR

[Handwritten] 22 MAIO 1907

Rep. N.º [Handwritten] 2512

[/STAMP]

[STAMP]

ULTRAMAR

[Handwritten] 22 MAIO 1907

Rep. N.º

[/STAMP]

Á Direcção Geral do Ultramar tem esta Inspeção Geral a honre de devolver com a sua informação, N.º 152 de hoje, o incluso telegramma do Governador da Provincia de Macau, de 1 do corrente que veio com informação da 1ª Repartição d'essa Direcção Geral e que versa sobre o subsidio da despeza de viagem para Roma sollicitado pelo Bispo d'aquella diocese.

Inspeção Geral de Fazenda do Ultramar em 21 de Maio de 1907.

[STAMP]

INSPECTORIA GERAL

DA FAZENDA DO ULTRAMAR

[/STAMP]

O Inspector Geral,

[Signature]

José' Navarro de Andrade

page_00023

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DIRECÇÃO GERAL

DO

ULTRAMAR

—

6.^a Repartição

—

[Top left corner, handwritten]

Copia conforme

em

1-5-907

Scolio

[Top center, handwritten]

2.^a Secção

16-5-907

[Signature]

à 1.^a Repartição

[Top right corner, stamped]

INSPECÇÃO GERAL FAZENDA

ULTRAMAR

[handwritten] 20 MAIO 1907

[stamped] Fazenda

Nº 2293

[Top right corner, handwritten]

à Inspeção

do Ministerio

7-V-907

[Signature]

[Center, handwritten]

Telegramma vindo de Macau
em 1 de Maio de 1907

Bispo pede abono subsidio despesas
viagem Roma allega ser esta in-
teresse Estado; pedir resposta com
maxima urgencia.
(a) Governador

[Stamped seal in the center]

ARQUIVO
DIRECÇÃO GERAL
DO
ULTRAMAR

[Handwritten text below the seal]

1ª Rep. 2ª secção

Nos termos do despacho de 27 de março
ultimo exarado no adjunto telegramma
do bispo, foi a este concedida licença para
vir ao reino, via Roma, com o fim princi-
pal de tratar junto da Santa Sé, da ques-
tão da troca de jurisdição na ilha de Tai-
van, á qual o Prefeito Apostolico de Cantão
oppor difficuldades.

Mandou-se em telegramma da referida data
ao gov.or de Macau abonar passagem ao pre-
lado e a um seu secretario.

Como se vê do presente telegramma o bispo
pretende que se lhe abone tambem subsidio
para despesas viagem.

Esta Rep. não conhece disposição de
lei que permitta o abono de tal subsidio.

Deve ser ouvida a Inspeção geral
de fazenda do ultramar.

Em 1-5-907.

[Signature]

[Bottom left corner, printed and handwritten]

E n.º 172—Outubro de 1906—3:000 ex.

1.^a REPARTIÇÃO DA FAZENDA DO ULTRAMAR

[Red line]

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

2 Secção

[Red line]

1917—IMPrensa NACIONAL—1906-1907

de [handwritten] Maio de 190[handwritten] 7

page_00024

DIRECÇÃO GERAL

DO

ULTRAMAR

-

6.^a Repartição

Copia conforme

em

23-3-907

Motta

[Marginalia, left side, rotated 90 degrees counter-clockwise]

E n.º 172 — Outubro de 1906 — 35:000 — e foi em 27-3-907-

A' 1.^a Repartição

Concordo

P. 27.3.07

M de Ornellas.

[Stamp]

INSPECÇÃO GERAL FAZENDA

ULTRAMAR

[Handwritten] O-LO MAIO 1307

Sec. N.º 2203

Telegramma vindo de Macau

em 23 de Março de 1907

Prelado Cantão recusa execução de-
creto pontificio troca jurisdição, peço
licença ir Roma, via Numa, levar
do secretario, tratar dos negocios. (As.)

Bispo Macau.

[Stamp]

MINISTERIO

DOS

NEGOCIOS

DA

MARINHA

E

ULTRAMAR

DIRECÇÃO GERAL

A' Rep.^a da 2^a secção

No adjunto officio de 8 de fevereiro recebido n'esta Rep.am em 18 do corrente mez, o bispo de Macau expoz os termos em que com o prefeito apostolico de Cantão celebrou o accordo para a troca da jurisdição da ilha de Hainam pela do districto de Shan-king, de que S. Ex.^a o Ministro dos negocios estrangeiros deu conhecimento em officio de 29 de novembro de 1906. Demorando-se, porem, a realisação do accordo por motivo de difficuldades levantadas pelos padres francezes de Shan-king, o bispo pediu providencias do Governo, pelo Ministerio dos negocios estrangeiros, para se não levantarem duvidas, tanto junto do Governo de Paris, como junto da Santa Sé, sobre a execução do decreto pontificio de 1904, relativo á mencionada troca de jurisdicções.

1.^a REPARTIÇÃO

DA

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

2.^a Secção

N.º 3

26 de Março de 1907

Em vista do presente telegramma
parece a' Rep.am que convem ser o bispo
autorizado, como pede, a ir tratar

[Printed text at bottom left]

1317—IMPrensa NACIONAL—LISBOA—1907

page_00025

do assumpto em Roma, aguardando-se as suas, ultteriores communições para se solicitar então do Ministerio dos negocios estrangeiros o que elle, porventura, entenda ainda ser necessario.

Se V. Ex.^a assim o entender deve telegraphar-se ao prelado, concedendo-lhe a licença, e ao gov.or de Macau ordenando o abono de passagens ao mesmo prelado e ao seu secretario para virem ao reino via Roma.

Em 23-3-902.

MHenriques

page_00026

1ª

Ill.mo Ex.mo Snr.

p 25-7-07

ms

[Stamp: ULTRAMAR | 25 JUL 1907 | 1 Rep. N.º 449]

[Circular stamp: MINISTERIO DO ULTRAMAR | ARQUIVO]

Tenho a honra de fazer chegar
às mãos de V. Ex. uma copia da Communi-
cação que me fez em 19 do corrente Sua Emi-
nencia o Cardeal Secretario d'Estado de Sua
Santidade, de ter sido definitivamente resol-
vida, como era de justiça, a questão da permu-
ta da ilha de Hainan e o Districto de Sheun-
ing entre a Prefeitura Apostolica de Cantão
e o Bispado de Macau, de modo a não poder
ser impugnada nem retardada a execução
do decreto que a ordenara.

Felizmente encontrei quer
da parte de Sua Eminencia o Cardeal Secreta-
rio d'Estado quer da parte de Sua Eminen-
cia o Cardeal Prefeito da Propaganda as me-
lhores disposições para que nos fosse feita
justiça!

Junto tenho a honra de
remetter a V. Ex. um exemplar da memo-
ria com que instrui a minha reclama-
ção perante a Santa Sé.

Tendo atingido o fim da

minha vinda a Roma devo em breve partir
para Portugal, onde conto chegar em principios

[Stamp: REPARTIÇÃO DA 3ª | DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR | 2ª Secção | N.º
106]

[Handwritten in red ink:] 26 de Julho de 1907

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d'agosta

Deus Guarde a V. Ex.a

Roma, Collegio Portugues, Via Banco Santo
Spirito, 30 de Julho de 1797.

Ill.mo Ex.mo Snr. Conselheiro d'Estado

Ministro da Marinha e

Ultramar, Lisboa.

João Paulino de Azevedo e Basto

Bispo de Macan

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MEMORIA

relativa alla questione dello scambio di giurisdizioni in Hainan e nel Distretto di Shao-Hing (o Shiw-ing), fra il Prefetto Apostolico di Canton ed il Vescovo di Macao

[STAMP: ARQUIVO HISTORICO ULTRA MARINO]

Questa questione ha tre fasi:

- 1° - Preparazione del Decreto della S. Congregazione di Propaganda che ordinò lo scambio di giurisdizione. Principiò nel 1898 e proseguì fino al 1903, anno della pubblicazione del Decreto.
- 2° - Decreto della S.C. del 3 febbrajo 1903: sua notificazione; controversia relativa all'articolo secondo; interpretazione di questo. Da quella data fino al 15 Dicembre 1905.
- 3° - Negoziati fra il Prefetto Apostolico di Canton ed il Vescovo di Macao per l'esecuzione del Decreto. Dal 9 Aprile 1906 fino al 20 Marzo 1907.

I.

Per il Concordato del 21 febbrajo 1857 stipulato fra il Romano Pontefice ed il Re di Portogallo, il Patronato della Corona Portoghese nell'Estremo Oriente, in altro tempo estesissimo, rimase ridotto nella China, alla Provincia di Kouang-tom, eccettuata l'isola di Hong-Kong(1); e il Concordato del 23 Giugno

(1) - Vedi Carta Top. della Provincia di Kouang-
tom. Doc. I.

-1-

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1886 confermò questa disposizione del Concordato precedente relativamente al Patronato nella China e alla Diocesi di Macao (Art. XI). Pertanto, secondo il Diritto Concordatario, ancora non abrogato, tutta la Provincia di Kouang-tom, ad eccezione dell'isola di Hong-Kong, appartiene alla giurisdizione del Vescovo di Macao. Non ostante ciò la giurisdizione "effettiva" del Vescovo di Macao nella Cina, che per molto tempo fu circoscritta al piccolo territorio del dominio Portoghese, solamente abbraccia, oltre a questo territorio, il Distretto di Heung-Shan e le isole adiacenti, compresa quella di Hainan, che in forza delle lettere apostoliche "Universis Orbis Ecclesiis" del 15 Giugno 1874, passarono alla giurisdizione di Macao, continuando anche oggidì la maggior parte di quella estesissima provincia, eretta in Prefettura Apostolica dal 1850, sotto la giurisdizione della S.C. di Propaganda, che la affidò ai Padri delle Missioni Estere di Parigi.

Ultimamente questa Società, non soddisfatta dei vastissimi territorî affidati allo zelo dei suoi 70 Missionarii, ed in cui vi sono più di trentasei milioni di anime da evangelizzare, cominciò di nuovo ad agognare all'isola di Hainan per esercitarvi la propria influenza spirituale, ed in questo senso indiriz-

(1) - Vedi i "Trattati stipulati fra S.M. Fedelissima e la S. Sede", Pag. 3 e seg., specialmente lo articolo 6° e allegato A e pag. 20 e seg. e spec. art. II. Doc. 2.

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zava tutte le sue pratiche, sia procurando introdurre i proprii missionarii sotto pretesto di venire in aiuto ai Missionarii Portoghesi e con promessa di servire sotto la giurisdizione del Vescovo di Macao, cosa questa che non venne loro accordata(1), sia facendo in modo che il Governo Francese istituisse negoziati con il Governo Portoghese per conchiudere un accordo che avesse per iscopo di ottenere dalla S. Sede il passaggio di quell'isola nuovamente alla giurisdizione del Prefetto Apostolico di Canton(2).

Si concluse effettivamente questo accordo ed il S. Padre accogliendo favorevolmente la domanda dei due Governi interessati, emise un Decreto che soddisfaceva l'ardente desiderio della Congregazione delle Missioni Estere, ordinando nel medesimo tempo una compensazione per la Diocesi di Macao.

II.

Il giorno 3 febbrajo 1903 fu pubblicato dalla S.C. di Propaganda il Decreto Pontificio che contiene i seguenti tre Articoli:

"Decretum.

.....

1° - Ut in posterum insula Hainan Praefecti Apostolici Kuam-Tom jurisdictioni subjiciatur;

(1) - Documenti 4, 5, 6, 7.

(2) - Pro-Memoria della Legazione Francese al Ministro degli Affari Esteri in Lisbona.

Doc. N° 8.

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2° - Ut Episcopi Macaonen. jurisdictio extendatur ad Districtum Ciao-King, qui Hean-Scian districtui adjacet.

3° - Ut hujusmodi confinimum mutationes provisoria dumtaxat ratione perfici debeant, ad instar scilicet mutationis quae peracta fuit anno 1874, in quo per Bullam diei 15 Junii supradicta insula Heinan Macaonensi Diocesi adnexa fuit.

Sanctitas Sua rationibus hinc inde allatis mature perpensis, supraenunciatam confinimum mutationem ratam habere et confirmare dignata est et praesens Decretum confici jussit".

Il testo di questo Decreto fu comunicato da S.E. il Sig. Card. Segretario di Stato all'attuale Vescovo di Macao il 17 febbrajo dello stesso anno e fu da questo ricevuto in Lisbona quando si trovava colà di passaggio per andare alla sua Diocesi, dopo la sua consacrazione episcopale in Angra.

Soltanto dopo il suo arrivo a Macao nel Giugno di quell'anno e dopo le prime occupazioni che naturalmente gli imponeva l'amministrazione della Diocesi in cui entrava, potè il Vescovo conoscer bene l'oggetto del citato Decreto, ed appena conosciuto, si adoperò subito per intavolare negoziati con l'altro interessato, il Prefetto Apostolico di Canton per procedere ambedue d'accordo all'esecuzione di esso.

Da parte di questo Prelato però sorsero fin

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d'allora difficoltà attinenti all'interpretazione dell'articolo secondo del Decreto, ritenendo che, a tenore di questo, il Vescovo di Macao dovesse ricevere in compenso dell'isola di Hainan, soltanto il Distretto di Shao-King, visto che soltanto questo è ivi designato.

Da parte sua il Vescovo di Macao pretendeva che dovessero passare sotto la sua giurisdizione il Distretto di Shao-King e le tre Sotto-Prefetture di San-ing, San-ui e Shuntac, situate fra i due Distretti, 1° perchè l'articolo secondo dice: "Districtum Shao-King qui Heang-Scian Districtui adjacet", e la perfetta e completa contiguità dei due Distretti non esiste, se non mediante quelle tre Sotto-Prefetture. 2° perchè era appunto questo ciò che chiedeva il suo predecessore, il Vescovo di Macao, D. Giuseppe Emmanuele de Carvalho, in cambio di Hainan, e cioè "alcuni Distretti e particolarmente quello di Shao-King, limitrofi del West River, prossimi e contigui al Distretto di Heung-Shan".

La controversia giunse a conoscenza della S. Sede, che nel suo alto ed illuminato criterio, dopo attento e serio esame di tutti gli elementi che formarono a suo tempo la base per la compilazione del citato Decreto, credè bene di dichiarare: "Che la giurisdizione del Vescovo di Macao, in compenso della cessione dell'isola di Heinan alla Prefettura Apostolica di Kuam-tom, debba estendersi al Distretto di Chao-King,

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ma non alle tre Sotto-Prefetture di San-Ning, San-Oui e Shien-Tak".

Dichiarò inoltre la S. Sede "che laddove il Governo Portoghese e quello Francese convenissero sopra una delimitazione di confini diversa da quella stabilita, essa non mancherà nel caso di esaminare le relative conclusioni dei Governi, riservandosi, ben inteso, di prendere quelle decisioni che giudicherà più opportune per il bene e la salute delle anime".

Questa dichiarazione che porta la data del 16 di Marzo 1904 fu comunicata ai due Prelati di Canton e di Macao.

Quest'ultimo, considerando che la seconda parte della dichiarazione gli permetteva di nutrire la speranza di ottenere per la sua diocesi in cambio dell'isola di Heinan, oltre il distretto di Shao-King le tre già menzionate Sotto-Prefetture, fece ancora nuovi tentativi insieme alle stazioni competenti, ma senza il risultato desiderato, per quanto nel principio del 1906, in risposta ad un reclamo documentato, accompagnato da una estesa esposizione di fatti, che ultimamente dirigeva alla Nunziatura Apostolica per far portare a conoscenza della S. Sede tali fatti(1), ricevesse il seguente dispaccio: "Che avendo l'Emin. Card. Segretario di Stato preso conoscenza di tutto quanto era esposto, la S. Sede non ravvisava motivo

(1) - Deve esistere nella Segreteria di Stato

dove la fece venire Mgr. Nunzio Apostolico in Lisboa.
na.

-6-

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sufficiente per tornar sopra all'argomento, e modificare quanto già erasi deliberato".

Roma locuta est, causa finita est.

III.

Era necessario ed urgente dare esecuzione ai Decreti, perchè l'opera dell'Evangelizzazione veniva ad essere gravemente pregiudicata da tali indulgi.

I negoziati per l'esecuzione del Decreto del 3 febbrajo 1903, interpretata da quello del 16 Marzo 1904, fu Mgr. Prefetto Apostolico di Canton quegli che si fece innanzi a proporli, scrivendo a questo scopo al Vescovo di Macao il 9 Aprile 1906. Da questa data in poi, allo scopo di trattare di questo affare, delegò Sacerdoti della sua giurisdizione, i quali furono sei volte a Macao, muniti di poteri bastanti, e scrisse una lunga serie di comunicazioni e lettere, nelle quali suggerì e propose le sue idee, precisò, approvò e confermò le deliberazioni prese di comune accordo, le quali pertanto possono con ragione considerarsi quali atti autentici delle sessioni tenutesi fra i delegati di Canton ed il Vescovo di Macao, in quanto ha tratto a ciò che fu ivi trattato.

Fin da principio Mgr. Prefetto Apostolico è d'opinione che si proceda all'esecuzione del Decreto 3 febbrajo 1903, salvo che si convenisse in un'altra delimitazione di giurisdizioni da sottomettersi

all'approvazione della S. Sede(1).

(1) - Vedi Doc. N° 9, del 3 Maggio 1906.

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Si tennero varie sedute, nelle quali si fecero varie proposte da una parte e dall'altra. Da principio i Delegati mostravansi disposti a cedere al Vescovo di Macao ciò che egli loro richiedesse a Sud e ad Ovest del Distretto, in cambio di una parte al Nord. Chiedeva quegli le tre Sotto-Prefetture di San-Nig, San-ui e Shun-Tac, e cedeva due Sotto-Distretti al Nord del Tropico del Cancro. In seguito rinunziava già alla Sotto-Prefettura di Shun-Tac perchè i Delegati tenacemente sostenevano non esser loro conveniente di cederla, e chiedeva piuttosto quella di Yeung-Kong, ed a Nord cedeva, oltre ai due già riferiti, un Sotto-Distretto in più ed una striscia di terra che collegasse i tre a Nord del Tropico. I Delegati da parte loro cedevano tutto ciò, ma pretendevano tutto quanto resta a nord del fiume Si-Kiang, o per lo meno ciò che si estende da quella parte fino ad un po' ad Ovest della capitale del Distretto, rimanendo questa con tutto il territorio da quel lato del fiume e ad Est incorporato nella Prefettura Apostolica. Il punto da essi maggiormente caldeggiato era la capitale del Distretto, che era l'antica capitale dei due Kouangs, prima del suo cambiamento con Canton.

Nella seduta del 10 Agosto mantenevasi il Vescovo di Macao fermo nella sua proposta e nell'alternativa che questa non fosse accettata, chiedeva l'esecuzione del Decreto Pontificio, e cioè: la Prefettura Apostolica riceverebbe l'isola di Hainan, e la Diocesi di Macao il Distretto di Shau-King.

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Il sedici Agosto Mgr. Prefetto Apostolico, scrivendo al Vescovo di Macao, dichiara che rigetta la prima delle due proposte ed opta per l'unica che è conforme ai Decreti di Roma, e che pertanto esso Prefetto Apostolico riceverebbe l'isola di Hainam, ed il Vescovo di Macao il Distretto di Shew-ing solamente, senza le Sotto-Prefetture di Shun-Tac, San-ui e San-ing(1).

Era così stipulato l'accordo per l'esecuzione dei Decreti Pontifici. Solo rimaneva a fissare il giorno in cui dovrebbe effettuarsi lo scambio e la consegna delle Christianità e delle Cappelle, come diceva il Prefetto Apostolico di Canton, il quale fin d'allora promise d'inviare nuovamente i suoi Delegati, ciò che effettivamente fece giorni appresso. Infatti il 17 Agosto si riunirono i Delegati col Vescovo di Macao ed in questa seduta restò convenuto che la consegna delle giurisdizioni avesse luogo il giorno 15 Ottobre, e si stabilì che, prima di questo giorno, l'isola di Hainan ed il Distretto di Shew-ing fossero visitati rispettivamente da un missionario della propria giurisdizione e da uno dell'altra allo scopo di prender conoscenza oculare con gli inventarî dei beni mobili ed immobili delle differenti missioni; decisioni queste che Mgr. Merel pienamente approvò, designando anche le persone che avrebbero da figurare come suoi Delegati in tutti questi

(1) - Lettera di Mgr. Merel in data 16 Agosto 1906. L'essenziale sta nel testo innanzi.

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atti, indicando l'ordine in cui questi si succederebbero, fino al momento di ritirare delle missioni il personale missionario ivi attualmente impiegato(1).

Ecco qui le parole di Monsignore nella sua Nota del 16 Agosto:

"Pour faire suite aux conversations que Votre Grandeur a bien voulu avoir, avec les PP. Fleureau et Gauthier relativement à l'échange de la juridiction ecclésiastique de Hainan, j'ai l'honneur d'annoncer à Votre Excellence que des deux solutions proposées j'accepte celle qui est la plus conforme aux vues du Souverain Pontife.

Votre Grandeur cédera à la mission de Kouang-tong l'Île de Hainan et en compensation prendra la seule Préfecture de Cia-King sans les Sous-Préfectures de Shun-tac, San-woui e San-ing, conformément au Décret (N° 4345) daté du 16 Mars 1904, qui établit le sens de celui de la S.C. de la Propagande daté du 3 Février 1903.

"Reste à fixer le jour" où se feront cet échange et la remise des chrétientés et des chapelles.

Je me permettrai d'envoyer les PP. Fleureau et Gauthier s'entendre avec Votre Excellence à ce sujet et régler définitivement cette question".

Nella sua lettera dell'otto Settembre diceva il Sig. Prefetto Apostolico al Vescovo di Macao:

(1) - Lettere dell'otto Settembre e undici Ottobre 1906. (L'essenziale è più innanzi nel testo).

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"Je souscris volontiers" à la décision de
Votre Grandeur qui fixe au 15 Octobre prochain le
jour où nous échangerons les juridictions de Hainan
et Shiu-ing pour nous conformer au Décret du Saint
Siège en date du 16 Mars 1904.

Selon votre avis un Père de Votre Diocèse
visitera les diverses Chrétientés à échanger de con-
cert avec un Père de notre Mission afin de dresser
un état de ces diverses Chrétientés.....

..... Dans ce but je me permets d'envoyer près
de Votre Grandeur le P. Gauthier en vous priant de
l'acréditeur près des missionnaires de Hainan pour fai-
re avec eux cette visite".

L'undici Ottobre scrivo ancora Monsignore
al medesimo:

"Après avoir réglé (le P. Gauthier) selon
vos instructions les inventaires avec le R. Père Pit-
ta (missionario di Macao in Hainan) il se rendra dans
les districts de Shao-king pour continuer ves inven-
taires de concert avec le Rév. Père Gomes (missiona-
rio di Macao destinato per la visita a Shew-ing) ces
inventaires terminés le P. Gauthier se présentera de-
vant Votre Grandeur qui voudra bien régler avec lui
les derniers arrangements relatifs à l'échange des
juridictions ecclésiastiques.

Nos missionnaires quitteront les Districtes
de Sau-kin lorsqu'ils connaîtront ces arrangements

et pourront se rendre à Hainan remplacer le R.P. Pit-
ta qui aura toute faculté de rentrer à Macau et d'y
ramener les Soeurs (le Religiose Canossiane di Macao

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che stanno servendo in Hainan)".

Deliberatamente trascrivemmo qui il proprio testo delle lettere di Mgr. Prefetto Apostolico per dimostrare l'esattezza di tutte le nostre affermazioni, e che diciamo soltanto la verità, niente di più, niente di meno.

Appena stipulato fra i due Vescovi l'accordo di cui si è ora parlato, Mgr. Prefetto Apostolico di Canton si affrettò a dar conoscenza di questo fatto al Governo di Parigi, da principio con telegramma, ciò che lascia ben vedere quanta urgenza egli aveva di veder terminata questa questione, poi con relazione circostanziata.

Da parte sua il Governo della Repubblica lo comunicava immediatamente al Ministro di Portogallo a Parigi, e questi a sua volta lo portò a conoscenza del governo del proprio paese, dandosi i due Governi per intesi e soddisfatti della soluzione di questo affare, e come definitivamente risolta la questione di Hainan Shao-king in conformità dei Decreti della S. Sede(1).

Ecco ciò che il 2 Ottobre il Ministro degli Affari Esteri comunicava al Ministro delle Colonie relativamente a questo affare:

(1) - Note del Ministero degli AA. EE. al Ministro delle Colonie e della Direz. Gen. di questo al Vescovo di Macao, la prima in data 2 Ottobre 1906, e

la seconda in data 12 Dic. 1906. (La parte essenziale è nel testo sopra).

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"In relazione alla nota di V.E. in data 12

Luglio u.s., in forza della quale diedi istruzioni al nostro rappresentante in Parigi di insistere per la soluzione della questione relativa allo scambio di giurisdizioni fra i Vescovi di Canton e Macao, mi onoro informare V.E. che il Governo Francese ha data ora notizia al Sig. Conte De Souza Rosa di aver quai Vescovi concluso un accordo sull'argomento. Alla data della spedizione della nota il Governo Francese aspettava la relazione del Vescovo di Canton, "considerando come definitivamente regolato lo scambio delle giurisdizioni", ed in via di esecuzione le relative prese di possesso."

Nella nota del 12 Dicembre la Direzione Generale delle Colonie comunicava al Vescovo di Macao quanto appresso:

"Per mezzo di nota del Ministero degli Affari Esteri in data 29 Novembre ultimo, S.E. il Ministro della Marina e delle Colonie ebbe conoscenza che la questione dello scambio di giurisdizione di Hainan con quella del Distretto di Shao-king ""era stata risolta"", secondochè informò il nostro Rappresentante in Parigi" nei termini del Decreto di Propaganda 3 febbrajo 1903 e del Decreto Pontificio 16 Marzo 1904 per effetto dei negoziati istituiti fra la Diocesi di Macao e la Prefettura Apostolica di Canton""

Frattanto si procedeva alle visite convenute all'isola di Hainan e al Distretto di Sew-ing, prendendo i missionarii delegati a questo scopo conoscenza

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delle missioni e dello stato di esse dal punto di vista dei beni mobili ed immobili e del numero dei Cristiani.

In Hainan tutto procedè bene, grazie al tatto ed alla buona volontà con cui si prestò il Superiore della missione a ricevere il delegato di Mgr. Prefetto Apostolico di Canton ad accompagnarlo per tutto e a dargli conoscenza oculare di ogni cosa e dell'inventario previamente fatto con la maggiore chiarezza e buon metodo.

Sarebbe nostro desiderio dire altrettanto relativamente a Sew-ing, dove, perchè le visite avessero luogo e si compissero, fu mestieri mandare successivamente da Macao tre missionarii, essendo riuscite inutili le visite dei primi due in conseguenza di ostacoli, talora sollevati, talora acconsentiti da chi aveva obbligo di appianare tutte le difficoltà. Tutto porta a credere che vi era un piano ordito e ben combinato per far andare a vuoto le visite dei missionarii di Macao a quel Distretto, allo scopo di far credere che era impossibile, o per lo meno non conveniente e pregiudizievole per l'opera dell'evangelizzazione il passaggio di questo distretto sotto la giurisdizione di Macao!

La necessità di esser brevi ci obbliga a non estenderci in questo punto, in cui molto avremmo da dire, provando tutto con documenti di valore incontestabile. Tuttavia molto ci costerebbe il doverci dimostrare severi, sia pure per nostra difesa, quando con

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questo venga a soffrirne la carità.

Condotta a termine con felice esito la visita dell'ultimo missionario spedito da Macao al Distretto di Shew-ing, speravamo che Mgr. Prefetto Apostolico, il quale più d'una volta aveva lamentato il dannosissimo indugio che si verificava per la soluzione definitiva di questa questione, si sarebbe affrettato ad annuire all'invito che in data 7 Marzo del corrente anno gli rivolgemmo per una riunione, nella quale avremmo detto l'ultima parola sull'argomento, essendo impegnato, come lo sapevamo, dalle risposte perentorie della S. Sede, dalle istigazioni del Governo Francese(1), dal suo onore interessato in un accordo con lui stipulato e da lui stesso comunicato ai Governi e da questi accettato e ratificato.

Vana speranza! Al nostro invito Monsignore risponde che ritiene suo dovere consultare di nuovo la S. Sede e di attendere, prima di procedere allo scambio delle giurisdizioni, la decisione che sarebbe stata emessa !!

(1) - Effettivamente i Delegati di Canton fin dalle prime sedute si dissero autorizzati a dichiarare che era volontà del Governo Francese, per far cosa gradita al Governo del Portogallo, che il suo Prelato giungesse al più presto ad un accordo col Vescovo di Macao circa la questione di Hainan e Shew-ing; ed il Ministro di Francia in Pechino Signor Bapst,

di passaggio in Macao, visitando il Vescovo della diocesi glielo confermò ancor più, e cioè che Mgr. di Canton era pronto ad annuire alle esigenze del Vescovo. Con questa visita del Ministro coincideva la venuta dei Delegati di Canton per la prima volta a Macao, cui seguirono altra molte intramezzate da insistente corrispondenza epistolare. Correano voci che il Governo Franc. era proclive ad impadronirsi dei beni delle missioni e specialmente della Cattedrale di Canton; così si spiega tanta straordinaria attività.

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Mgr. Merel pretende giustificare la sua rissposta con tre considerandi già da noi precedentemente confutati nella nostra corrispondenza con quel Prelato e che ora passiamo a discutere.

I Considerando su cui si basa Mgr. Merel sono tre:

1° - "OPPOSIZIONE" dei Cristiani di Shew-ing a far passaggio da quel Distretto alla giurisdizione di Macao e timore che le Cristianità "si rendano apostati", come avvenne in Hainan.

2° - SPROPORZIONE fra Hainan e Shew-ing, dal doppio punto di vista delle proprietà e del numero dei Cristiani, necessità di una compensazione tanto maggiore in quanto la disproporzione fu aumentata dalla "vendita delle due case" in Hoi-ow, capitale dell'isola, appartenenti alla missione di Hainan.

3° - INTENZIONE del Governo Portoghese, espressa dal suo Rappresentante in Parigi, di tornare allo status quo anteriore al decreto del 1903(1)

1°

Opposizione dei Cristiani, timore delle apostasie, decadenza della Missione di Hainan.

a)

Il numero dei Cristiani sparsi per tutto il

(1) - Nota del Prefetto Apostolico di Canton del 20 Marzo 1907. Doc. N° 10.

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distretto di Shew-ing in lontane e poco numerose Cristianità(1), non eccede, secondo documenti autentici, forniti dai missionarii del Distretto, i 2609(2); il quadro statistico di tutta la prefettura apostolica relativo al 1905-1906 gli attribuisce ancora un minor numero di Cristiani, soltanto 2361(3).

Da qui si può vedere che valore possa avere l'opposizione di Cristiani così poco numerosi ed in condizioni così sfavorevoli per potersi concertare in un programma di resistenza!

Ed infatti l'opposizione cui accenna Monsignore, era fatta principalmente da donne e ragazzi da esse instigate, come unanimemente riferiscono i due missionarii Portoghesi che di tale opposizione furono oggetto: il P. Roliz e il P. Pitta. E solamente si manifestò in due luoghi: nella capitale di Shew-ing e in una cristianità posta ad una buona distanza al Nord, ambedue soggetti al medesimo missionario, il Padre Clauset; circostanza che non si deve perder di vista. Nelle altre Cristianità il missionario Portoghese che le visitò fu ben ricevuto dai Cristiani, come lo attestano i proprii missionarii della Prefettura Apostolica(4).

Ora nella capitale vi sono appena 148 Cri-

(1) - Vedi Carta Top. della Provincia di Kouang-tom e gli inventari delle missioni di Shew-ing Doc. I. II. 12. 13.

(2) - V. Inventari delle miss. di Shew-ing Ibid.

(3) - V. "Administr. miss. Kwan tong 1905-06"
Doc. 14.

(4) - Lettere dei PP. G.B. Lii. G.B. Wong e Gaston Boucheron. Doc. 15, 16, 17.

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stiani e l'altra Cristianità ne conta poco più(1), e quanto ridotto sarebbe il loro numero se si sottraessero quelli che non potevano o non volevano figurare in tali manifestazioni, e specialmente i vecchi, i ragazzi e gli antichi Cristiani, i quali, conforme al detto di un missionario della Prefettura Apostolica, absolute volunt recipere PP. Lusitanos(2)!

Effettivamente vi sono in queste Cristianità molte famiglie antiche convertite al Cristianesimo dagli antichi missionarii di Macao(3), e che perciò sono naturalmente affezionate ai PP. Portoghesi. Gli stessi missionarii della Prefettura riconoscono e confessano questa affezione degli antichi Cristiani verso i missionarii di Macao(4).

Di questo fatto rendono testimonianza i Cristiani e persino i Gentili dei vari luoghi della Cina, ove attualmente risiedono i Padri di Macao, e specialmente la circostanza attestata dal missionario di S. Lazzaro della città di Macao, il quale dice esser costume che nel decorso dell'anno molti Cristiani vengano dalla Prefettura Apostolica e dal distretto di Shew-ing a Macao per assistere alle nostre feste, per confessarsi e comunicarsi qui come fanno molti di essi per precetto pasquale(5).

(1) -V. gli inventarii delle Miss. di Shew-ing e quello del R.P. Clauset. Doc. II.

(2) - V. Lettera del P.G.B. Wong scritta dal Collegio du Sacré Coeur in Canton li 17/3/1906. Doc. 15.

(3) - V. Inventario del R.P. Gervais. Doc. No 12.
Note.

(4) - Lettere dei PP. G.B. Lii, G.B. Wong e Gaston Boucheron. Doc. No 15, 16, 17.

(5) - Lett. del P. Atanasio Tang. Doc. No 18.

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Non è meno eloquente il fatto che vengano a Macao Cristiani dalla Prefettura Apostolica in cerca di donzelle della nostra missione di S. Lazzaro o di educande dei nostri collegi e asili per sposarsi con esse e costituir famiglie, e, ciò che è ben degno di esser notato, molte volte sono gli stessi missionarii della Prefettura che li mandano per questo scopo! Succede lo stesso coi giovani che per istruirsi vengono dalla Prefettura Apostolica ai nostri stabilimenti di educazione, e, quello che è ben curioso e produce persino meraviglia, è che sia il Clero dirigente di Canton quello che sollecita l'ammissione di essi negli stabilimenti(1). Su questo argomento non ci dilunghiamo di più per non vederci obbligati a mettere in chiaro gli autori e promotori della pretesa opposizione dei Cristiani.

b)

Il timore delle apostasie non giustifica nè esplica il voltafaccia di Mgr. Prefetto Apostolico.

1° - Se questa causa fosse vera, avrebbe dovuto esister sempre fin dal principio della questione e fin da allora avrebbe impedito, o per lo meno ostacolato, qualsiasi iniziativa da parte del clero di Canton in pro del cambio di giurisdizione.

In verità Mgr. Merel conosceva bene l'indole dei Cinesi. Egli stesso dice(2) "Qui ne connait-

(1) - Nota del Super. dell'Orfanotrofio della IMMACOLATA CONCEZIONE. Doc. N° 19.

(2) - Lettera di Mgr. Merel 24 Nov. 1900.

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pas ces Chinois ne peut imaginer aux prix de quelle difficulté, de quels sacrifices on peut les maintenir dans la fidélité aux lois de l'Eglise."

Non è verosimile che così tardi si avvertisse lo sbaglio di esporre i Cinesi al pericolo di apostatare poichè Monsignore certamente li conosceva da tempo sufficiente e poi fu missionario fra di loro per molti anni ed è Prefetto Apostolico del Kouang-tom dal 1901 !

2° - Questo timore pertanto non è sincero.

Ed invero non si può ragionevolmente ammettere che Mgr. Merel durante tanto tempo dal Maggio fino al Novembre, in una lunga serie di documenti scritti di suo proprio pugno(1) e per bocca dei suoi Delegati, i quali durante questo tempo vennero "sei volte" da Canton a Macao allo scopo di negoziare per l'esecuzione dei Decreti Pontifici, si mantenesse fermo nel proposito di dare esecuzione ai Decreti, concludesse un accordo col suo collega di Macao, comunicasse questo accordo ufficialmente all'Europa, lasciasse che i due Governi di Parigi e di Lisbona si intendessero a riguardo di esso e dessero la questione per risolta nel senso indicato nello stesso accordo, e tutto ad un tratto, solamente perchè il secondo missionario di Macao mandato a Shew-ing venne ricevuto male in una Cristianità che nella sua totalità conta solamente "148 anime", compresi i vecchi, ragazzi e antiche famiglie affezionate di Portoghesi, cominciasse a trar-

(1) - Sono dodici lettere e note, i cui originali

possediamo, come tutti gli altri scritti prima e dopo.

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si indietro per la paura dell'apostasia! (1). E questo quattro anni dopo pubblicato il Decreto ottenuto ad istanza della Società delle Missioni Estere di Parigi, di cui è illustre membro quel degno Prelato! Ed il più curioso è che si finga questo timore puerile anche dopo che è stata dimostrata a Monsignore con argomenti irrefutabili la futilità di un simile pretesto(2).

I Cinesi in generale, e particolarmente i Cristiani, sono di buona indole, fermi e tenaci nelle loro credenze religiose. I Cristiani non apostatano se non in circostanze critiche, e quando si vedano abbandonati da ogni soccorso religioso. Ora la Diocesi di Macao possiede oggi elementi valorosi per accudire a tutte le Cristianità di Shew-ing e promuovere l'incremento. E per sostituire i "4 missionarii" che colà tiene la Prefettura Apostolica, Macao manderà subito colà un numero doppio, e dieci o dodici religiose ausiliarie della missione, ove sia necessario!

c)

Quanto alla "decadenza della Cristianità di Hainan" non può Mgr. Merel invocarla per giustificare i suoi timori di apostasia, e nemmeno ha autorità per farlo, in quanto che è accertato che i Francesi e per-

(1) - Il Rev. P. Giuseppe Gonzales Roliz S.J. Il primo che fu là mandato, Il P. Gomes S.J. subito in Canton incontrò insuccesso perchè chi poteva e doveva non lo lasciò andare fino a Shew-ing e dovette tornare a Macao senza aver posto là il piede!

(2) - Lettera del Vescovo di Macao al Sig. Prefetto Apostolico addì 10 Dec. 1906. Doc. No 20.

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sino la Società delle Missioni Estere, quantunque non avessero intenzione di far del male, ciò che non discutiamo, sono in ultima analisi gli autori di questa decadenza. Effettivamente Hainan che dal 1850 era sotto la giurisdizione della Prefettura Apostolica di Kouang-tom passò nel 1876 sotto la giurisdizione di Macao in virtù delle Lettere Apostoliche "Universis Orbis Ecclesiis" addì 15 Giugno 1874.

In questo tempo la Missione contava, secondo dati ufficiali, 838 Cristiani, parecchie cappelle e proprietà.

Nel 1884 quando scoppiò la guerra del Tonchino, le Cristianità non erano diminuite e si trovavano nello stato stesso in cui le avevano lasciate i missionarii della Prefettura Apostolica, quando se ne erano ritirati(1).

(Prima causa). - Ma scoppiò la guerra e Hainan, che politicamente faceva parte della provincia di Kouang-tom, si ebbe la sorte stessa di questa e della provincia di Kouan-si(2). Le Cristianità furono assalite, saccheggiate le case dei Cristiani e le cappelle, perseguitati i Cristiani, trucidati molti di essi ed i sacerdoti ebbero a subire la sorte stessa o a fuggirsene per scampare alla morte(3).

(1) - Vedasi la Relazione spedita dal P. Battista, Superiore della missione di Hainan al Vescovo di Macao. Mappe N° 1 e N° 2. Documenti N° 21 e 23. Nota finale di quest'ultimo.

(2) - Vedi: "Histoire Général des Missions Etrangères". Tom. 3°. Pag. 522. Doc. N° 24.

(3) - Vedi: "Histoire Général des Missions E-trangères". Tom. 3° Pag. 522.

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In Hainan, come in altre parti, i Cristiani erano ritenuti come conniventi nella guerra che gli Europei facevano alla China, ed i sacerdoti, benchè non fossero Francesi, erano ritenuti come tali, o, almeno, come amici e spie dei Francesi(1).

La maggior parte dei Cristiani se ne fuggivano ed evitavano i missionarii per non essere perseguitati come Cristiani o stranieri (ciò che era lo stesso) e non si presentavano più, in modo che, ritornata la pace nell'isola, solo pochi restavan fedeli.

Le Cristianità però non restarono abbandonate. Hainan ebbe sempre missionarii, anche nel colmo della persecuzione. Vi furono sempre mandati quelli di Macao, e si deve notare che vi fu simultaneamente più di un sacerdote, a volte tre, poi quattro, ed anche cinque missionarii Portoghesi e Cinesi, mentre sotto la giurisdizione della Prefettura Apostolica, dal 1850 fino al 1876 solo per due volte ed a brevi intervalli vi furono insieme due o tre sacerdoti(2).

Nel tempo della missione Portoghese si aprirono scuole e catecumenati, si edificarono asili, si restaurarono e costruirono cappelle. I villaggi apostati cominciarono ad entrare nella comunione cat-

(1) - Vedi: Lettera di M.T. Walters console Britannico in Hainan, diretta al P. Giuseppe Vincenzo Costa, superiore della missione, in cui lo consiglia a ritirarsi dalla missione, ritenendolo i genti-

li come Francese o, almeno, amico di essi. N° 25.

(2) - Vedi la "Relazione dei missionarii che hanno evangelizzato l'isola di Hainan dal 1630 fino al presente", e la "Relazione dei missionarii che furono in Hainan dal 1876 fino al presente anno 1907". Doc. N° 21 a 22.

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tolica. Gli asili furono affidati alle benemerite Canossiane che dapprima furono colà in numero di quattro ed ultimamente erano già in numero di nove, avendo in poco più di tre anni battezzato più di 200 bambini, per non parlare dei battesimi amministrati da esse fuori degli asili.

In Hoi-ow, si progettava di aprire un collegio per bambine ed una residenza missionaria, per il che erano state acquistate case adattate.

(Seconda causa). - Ma nel 1898, e cioè quasi dieci anni fa, si cominciò a trattare di un cambiamento della missione e del suo passaggio alla giurisdizione della Prefettura Apostolica, per iniziativa della Società delle Missioni Estere che ad ogni costo pretendeva Hainan(1).

Ora era molto naturale che dal momento in cui ciò risultava, lo zelo cominciasse a diminuire e l'azione dei missionarii cominciasse a trovarsi infiacchita, non ostante che fossero stati colà mandati alcuni validi soccorsi. Il timore della perdita della missione realmente infiacchiva gli animi di tutti, sia missionarii, sia indigeni. Le case di Hoi-ow non riuscivano ad avere la destinazione che loro spettava e fino dal 1903, anno della pubblicazione del Decreto Pontificio, restò interamente paralizzata l'opera dell'evangelizzazione dinanzi alla prospettiva della prossima consegna della missione alla giurisdizione del Prefetto Apostolico di Kouang-tom(2)

(1) - Vedi Documenti N° 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

(2) - Uno dei primi atti dell'attuale Vescovo

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Giammai Hainan possedè tanti e così buoni elementi di Cristianizzazione, come li aveva alla data di quel Decreto - cinque sacerdoti missionarii Portoghesi e Cinesi e 9 Religiose ausiliarie della missione Europea e Cinesi, appartenenti all'Istituto delle Figlie della Carità Canossiane, scuole ed asili fiorenti. Inoltre nel 1904 in occasione delle feste giubilari dell'Immacolata Concezione, vi si celebrarono feste prima d'allora mai vedute(1).

In quale stato di floridezza non si troverebbe oggi la missione di Hainan se la persecuzione dei Cristiani provocata dalla guerra Franco-Chinese ed il raffreddamento dello zelo risultante dai negoziati per lo scambio delle giurisdizioni, non fossero venuti a rilassare e paralizzare l'opera dell'e-vangelizzazione !?

Con qual sincerità poi vediamo Mgr. Merel parlare in Hainan per giustificare i suoi timori di apostasia e di detrimento degli interessi religiosi!? Anche nei territori della giurisdizione del Signor Prefetto Apostolico le Cristianità furono abbandonate in occasione della guerra del Tonchino(2).

di Macao al giungere alla sede della sua diocesi, portando seco il testo del decreto, fu di ordinare al superiore della Missione di Hainan, che da allora in poi i missionarii si limitassero a conservare ciò che vi era, visto che in breve la missione doveva passare ad altra giurisdizione. Nota del 2 Luglio 1903.

(1) - Vedi "Bollettino del Gov. Eccles. della Diocesi di Macao", II° anno Pag. 297 e seg.

(2) - Vedi "Stor. Gen. delle Missioni Estere".

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Ed alcune giacquero nell'abbandono e senza soccorso efficace per molto tempo. Inoltre è poco più di due anni, e cioè dal 1904, venti anni dopo la persecuzione, che la Cristianità, altra volta fiorente dell'isola di Shan-Sham, ove morì il grande Santo Saverio, tornò ad avere un missionario che con fatica è riuscito a far tutto risorgere dalla ruina cagionata dall'odio dei Gentili e dalla azione demolitrice del tempo! Eppure era colà che lo zelo attivo ed intelligente del Prefetto Apostolico Mgr. Guillemain aveva eretto grandiosi e bei monumenti d'arte in onore del glorioso Apostolo d'Oriente ed ai quali avevano concorso l'Imperatrice Eugenia e il Governo Francese. Ed in questo colpevole abbandono rimase per tanti anni quel venerando centro di pietà ove si dirigono frequenti le peregrinazioni dei fedeli dell'Estremo Oriente, e specialmente da Macao, Hong-Kong e Canton(1).

2.

Sproporzione fra Hainan e Shew-ing dal punto di vista delle proprietà e del numero dei Cristiani; Compensazioni; vendita di case in Hainan.

a)

Questa obbiezione era stata già confutata dal Vescovo di Macao nella sua nota del 7 Marzo del-

(1) - Vedi "Sanchoan, The Holy Land of The Far East". Opuscolo recentemente pubblicato in Hong-Kong da un Religioso della Compagnia di Gesù. Pag. 25.

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l'anno corrente, in risposta ad altra del Prelato di Canton del giorno 4. Ecco ciò che si disse allora, e che nulla ha perduto della sua forza perchè il Sig. Prefetto Apostolico nulla controreplicò, limitandosi a ripetere l'obbiezione. Disse il Vescovo di Macao: "Pour ce qui concerne la disproportion que les inventaires montrent exister entre Hainan et Shew-ing au double point de vue des propriétés et du nombre de chrétiens nous n'avons rien à y voir dès que le Saint Père, après un mûr examen des choses, rationibus hinc inde allatis mature perpensis, comme s'exprime le décret du 3 Février 1903 de la Propaganda, a ordonné l'échange de l'île d'Hainan contre le district de Shew-ing. En effet le decret est "absolu", il n'impose aucune condition, n'exige aucune compensation. La jurisdiction à échanger est une jurisdiction territoriale qui, de sa nature, attire à elle, avec les territoires, les chrétientés et les choses appartenant à celles-ci . Le decret ne fait aucune distinction de ces choses. Comment donc vouloir les séparer pour en faire l'objet d'une convention à part? "Ubi lex non distinguit, nemo potest distinguere.....

Le decret ajoute même "ad instar mutationis quae peracta fuit anno 1874 in quo per Bullam diei 15 Junii supra dicta insula Hainan Macaonensi Dioecesi adnexa fuit".

Ed invero l'isola di Hainan nel 1874 (o meglio nel 1876, anno in cui fu data esecuzione alle lettere apostoliche) passò alla giurisdizione di Macao, senza che per parte della Prefettura Apostolica

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di Kouang-tom si esigesse compensazione alcuna, non ostante i beni e le cappelle che la missione colà possedeva, e non ostante il numero dei Cristiani che, secondo documenti autentici, si elevava a 838(1).

E' da meravigliarsi che Mgr. Merel, il quale doveva conoscere bene Hainan, poichè già vi era stato, aveva ben presso di sè i suoi missionarii, che frequenti volte là si recano, alcuni dei quali si vantavano davanti al Vescovo di Macao di conoscere bene lo stato in cui si trova la missione in quell'isola, è da meravigliarsi, dico, che solo dopo concluso l'accordo col suo collega per l'esecuzione dei decreti che ordinano lo scambio delle giurisdizioni, giungesse ad avvertire disproporzioni e ad esigere compensi! (2).

Ben al contrario di quanto pretende Mgr. Merel, la compensazione ordinata dalla S. Sede è al Vescovo di Macao che deve essere data. Effettivamente: 1° Egli era obbligato dal Decreto a cedere l'isola di Hainan, che per diritto concordatario gli ap-

(1) - Vedi Lettere Apostoliche "Universis Orbis Ecclesiis" del 15 Giugno 1874: Atti del convegno celebrato in Canton fra Mgr. Guillemin, Prefetto Apostolico, ed il Decano Emanuele Lorenzo de Gouveja Delegato del Vescovo di Macao, e la Nota o Lettera di Mgr. Guillemin al Sup. della missione Portoghese in Hainan in data 19 Ottobre 1876. Relazione del P.G.G. Batt. Super. della Missione di Hainan addì 7 Dicembre 1890. Doc. N° 26, 27 e 23.

(2) - Si veda tutta la corrispondenza scambiata

fra i due Prelati. Abbiamo nelle mani gli originali di tutte le lettere e note di Mgr. Merel ed in nessuno di questi documenti sino alla conclusione dello accordo ed alla sua approvazione nella nota del 16 Ag. 1906 vi è il menomo accenno a sproporzioni e compensi.

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parteneva, e pertanto era lui che aveva diritto a ricevere un indennizzo. 2° Fu questo ciò che espressamente ordinò la S. Sede, come si vede dal rescritto del 16 Marzo 1904: "La S. Sede ha dichiarato che la giurisdizione del Vescovo di Macao, in compenso della cessione dell'isola di Hainan.... debba estendersi al Distretto di Chao-King"

b)

Quanto all'argomento della sua sproporzione fra Hainan ed il Distretto di Shew-ing, derivante dalla vendita che la missione di Hainan (sic) fece di due case che colà possedeva, già questa obbiezione di Mgr. Merel fu confutata dal Vescovo di Macao nella sua nota 31 Dicembre 1906, in risposta ad altra di Monsignore in data 17 dello stesso mese ed anno.

Mgr. Merel insiste nell'obbiezione, ponendo in non cale ogni ragione, rappresentata in contrario ad essa. E' cattivo sistema, quantunque comodo. Ecco fra l'altro quanto si disse allora al Sig. Prefetto Apostolico: "La mission de Hainan n'avait rien à voir à ces deux maisons. Elles appartenaient à l'administration de Macau au même titre que bien d'autres que nous avons à Hong-Kong et à Singapora. Le Père Pitta (Superiore della missione) vendant ces maisons agissait non en sa qualité de Missionnaire de Hainan, mais comme procureur de l'administracion de Macau.(1)

Comunicazione del Vescovo di Macao a Mgr. Prefetto Apostolico di Canton del 31 Dicembre 1906.

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Capiva Monsignore l'obbligo di dimostrare la falsità di quanto si adduceva per poter insistere nella obbiezione, ma non lo fece per trovare più comodo di affermare senza prove. Infatti quel Prelato non aveva nè poteva avere prova qualsiasi che le dette case appartenessero alla missione di Hainan.

Esse erano state acquistate con danari mandati da Macao, col fine di servire per un collegio di bambine e per residenza di missionarii: ma non furono mai a ciò destinate, nè l'amministrazione di Macao ne fece la consegna alla missione di Hainan, perchè qualche tempo dopo si cominciò a trattare del passaggio di Hainan alla giurisdizione di Canton; e da quando furono acquistate fino a quando furono vendute, furono sempre sotto l'amministrazione diocesana(1). In nome di questa amministrazione furono vendute alla fine di Giugno dell'anno 1906(2).

3.

Intenzione del Governo Portoghese e nota del Ministro di Portogallo a Parigi proponendo lo "statu quo" anteriore al Decreto del 1903.

Si è compresi da stupore quando Mgr. Merel

(1) - Vedi Inventario fatto dal Superiore della Missione, di Sem-tui-san ai 25 Aprile 1905. Doc.28.

(2) - Vedi Comunicazione del Superiore stesso
in data di Hoi-ow ai 16 Ottobre del 1906, accompagnata dalla formola o modulo di ricevuta che il compratore delle case esigeva pel denaro da passarglisi in Macao nei termini stessi. Doc. N° 29 e 30.

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che tenne mai in conto i giusti reclami del Governo Portoghese, che erano gli stessi del Vescovo di Macao, se non per opporvisi, venga ora, quando il tutto si era concertato per l'esecuzione dei Decreti Pontifici, ad opporsi ad essa con una proposta di quel Governo, della quale aveva già preso conoscenza anteriormente ai negoziati trattati ed ai compromessi già presi!

Dice infatti Mgr. Merel nel suo terzo ed ultimo considerando che il Governo Portoghese nel Gennaio del 1906 aveva dichiarato al Governo Francese che preferiva di tornare allo statu quo anteriore alla convenzione del 1901 (voleva dire il Decreto del 1903) nel caso che non si facesse lo scambio delle giurisdizioni nel modo che egli desiderava. Effettivamente fu così, e questo si spiega col vivo desiderio che aveva il Governo Portoghese che non si protraesse per maggior tempo il funestissimo stato d'indecisione in cui si stava, sembrandogli che questo fosse il mezzo più facile. Inoltre egli conosceva molto bene il desiderio che dall'altra parte si aveva di riavere Hainan.....

Il Governo Francese però non volle prendere alcuna decisione senza consultar prima il Prelato di Canton(1), a cui diede subito conoscenza della surriferita nota in modo che quando nell'aprile di quell'anno furono iniziati i negoziati, poterono i delegati del Prelato di Canton dichiarare, come infatti

(1) - V. Lettera dell'Ecc.mo Ministro di Porto-

gallo al Vescovo di Macao in data 26 Settembre 1906.

Doc. No 31.

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dichiararono, che per soddisfare alla richiesta del Governo Francese, da essa provocata, questi negoziati erano stati proposti e condotti ad effetto da parte della Prefettura Apostolica. Ora dal momento in cui cominciarono fino a quando terminarono i negoziati per l'accordo, nè Mgr. Merel in iscritto, nè i suoi delegati nelle sessioni tenute a questo oggetto, parlarono "mai" di tornare allo "statu quo"! Si trattò unicamente di questo: o di combinare un'altra delimitazione di giurisdizione differente da quella ordinata dai decreti pontifici: o, in caso che gli interessati non convenissero in questo, di risolversi per l'esecuzione dei decreti. Si fu intorno a questa seconda soluzione che si armonizzarono le volontà, e così si fece l'accordo che ebbe l'ulteriore approvazione di Mgr. Merel in data 16 Agosto del 1906, come abbiamo di già veduto.

Desiderando di soddisfare prontamente alla richiesta del Governo Francese il Prelato di Canton si affrettò a dargliene partecipazione per telegramma, aggiungendo che in una relazione avrebbe opportunamente il tutto spiegato. E così fece, rimanendo inteso il Governo Francese che l'accordo versava sulla esecuzione del Decreto della Propaganda in data 3 febbrajo 1903, spiegato dal rescritto del 16 Marzo 1904(1).

(1) - Vedi Lettera del Ministro di Portogallo in Parigi al Vescovo di Macao in data 26/9/1906.

Doc. 31.

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Il Governo di Parigi pose tutto ciò in conoscenza del Governo di Lisbona, rimanendo intesi ambedue i Governi e dando come risolta la questione dello scambio di giurisdizioni in armonia con le decisioni della S. Sede. Di questi fatti venne a conoscenza per via ufficiale il Vescovo di Macao molto prima della fine dell'anno prossimo passato e posteriormente ne ebbe la conferma(1).

A che viene fuori ora Mgr. Merel dopo tanto tempo, ai 20 Marzo 1907, con le intenzioni del Governo Portoghese espresse in una decisione del 24 Gennaio 1906, la quale si rese nulla e di niun effetto in conseguenza delle ulteriori risoluzioni? E non sarà ciò se non mostrare una volta di più che cerca solamente pretesti per sottrarsi al compimento della veneranda volontà del Sovrano Pontefice, manifestata più di una volta? E per un vano capriccio si va prolungando il triste stato in cui si trovano le missioni interessate, con grave danno delle anime e serio pregiudizio dell'opera dell'evangelizzazione della fede!!

Ci veniamo ora a ricordare che un giorno, poco dopo la nostra andata in Estremo Oriente, quando già si sapeva in Canton che in iscambio dell'isola di Hainan pretendevamo, oltre al distretto di Shew-ing, le tre Sotto-Prefetture di San-ing, San-ui e Shun-tac,

(1) - Vedi Lettera del Ministro degli Esteri al Ministro della Marina e Oltremare (11/10/1906) e lettera della Dir. Gen. di Oltremare al Vescovo di Ma-

University of Saint Joseph

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cao 12 Dec. 1906.

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uno dei Sacerdoti più influenti del Clero di Canton, incontrandosi con un missionario di Macao, gli disse: "Se il Vostro Vescovo si rendesse molto esigente, le cose andranno fino a Roma ed egli si porrà a repentaglio di rimaner senza niente".

Riguardando a tutte le peripezie a cui diede origine il rispettabile Prelato di Canton (e ne abbiamo qui accennato solo una piccola parte), si scorre che una mano occulta, di cui non è pubblicamente responsabile per tali errori, si impegna a muovere e dirigere gli avvenimenti, per giungere a quel supremo desideratum "di lasciar senza niente il Vescovo di Macao".

Senza niente, sì! E ciò perchè si ridono di un Concordato, benchè ben recente, in cui è impegnata l'augusta parola del Vicario di Gesù Cristo! Giacchè solo così si spiega che nè San-ing, nè San-ui, nè Shun-tac ancor questa volta entrassero a far parte della giurisdizione di Macao, per essersi sollevati ostacoli che impedirono alla S. Sede, il cui verdetto accettiamo, di allargare un poco la giurisdizione del Vescovo di Macao in un territorio "che gli spetta per diritto concordatario".

Senza niente, sì! Tutto quello che si pretende in questo astuto maneggio, si è di lasciar il Vescovo di Macao senza Shew-ing!

E così si procederà di vittoria in vittoria fino a che Hainan non siegua la stessa via, il che

non sarà difficile, perchè alla decadenza già procurata con misure astutamente poste in pratica dovrà

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seguire l'annientamento e la morte di quella povera missione, degna di sorte migliore, e quindi la perdita irrimediabile di essa per la giurisdizione di Macao!

Ed allora i nostri avversarii finiranno dove volevano principiare, cioè impossessandosi della isola agognata e col vantaggio di non dover sottostare alla giurisdizione di un Prelato straniero!

In quelle parole ci minacciarono col ricorso a Roma. A Roma venimmo e qui stiamo! Assetati di amore e di giustizia, giacchè siamo figli legittimi, e non spurii, di questa dolcissima Madre di tutte le Chiese, ci appelliamo alla sua autorità. E lo facciamo, animati da quella stessa fiducia, se non maggiore, con la quale il grande Paolo, prevalendosi del suo titolo di cittadino Romano, si appellava al Cesare pagano non sempre giusto, nè con viscere di padre verso i disgraziati suoi sudditi.

Roma, 13 Giugno 1907, festa di S. Antonio di Lisboa.

[STAMP: ARQUIVO HISTORICO ULTRAMARINO]

+ Giovanni, Vescovo di Macau

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S. Ex.^a o Ministro concorda.

20 de 4 de 1908

Morte

[Stamp: ARQUIVO HISTORICO ULTRAMARINO]

[Stamp: ULTRAMAR]

[Stamp: R.^a 28 ABRIL 1908]

[Stamp: 4^a Rep. N^o 225]

[Handwritten note in top right corner:]

Urgte

Off.mo e Ex.mo Senhor

[Handwritten note in right margin:]

Officio ao Ministerio

dos Estrangeiros em

8-5-1908

1.^a Rep.^a 2.^a secção

Deve enviar-se copia

d'este officio ao Sr.

Ministro dos negocios

estrangeiros a fim de

dar as ordens que tiver

por convenientes

sobre o assumpto.

em 30/4/908

2.^a

Tendo sido resolvida satisfactoriamente para o Real Padroado da Corôa a questão da permuta de jurisdições entre o Prefeito Apostolico de Cantão e o Bispo de Macau na ilha de Hainan e districto de Shao-king (ou Shaw-ing), como me foi notificado em officio da Direcção Geral do Ultramar de 31 do corrente mez d'abril; e convindo que com a maxima brevidade se dê execução ás decisões pontificias relativas á dita permuta para que se cumpra o que ultimamente foi ordenado pela Santa Sé a tal respeito, como já tive a honra de informar esse Ministerio; rogo a V. Exc.^a se digne solicitar a intervenção de Sua Exc.^a o Ministro dos Negocios Estrangeiros para que obtenha do Governo de Sua Majestade o Imperador da China o reconhecimento do novo estado de cousas e a protecção das auctoridades chinezas para as Missões do Real Padroado e respectivos missionarios no districto que vae ser

[Printed form with handwritten entries:]

1.^a REPARTIÇÃO

DA 2.^a

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

2.^a Secção

Macau N.º 42

28 de 4º de 1908

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incorporado na diocese de Macau.

Deus Guarde a V. Ex.^a

Lisboa 27 d'abril de 1908

Aff.mo e V.or

Ex.mo Snr.

Conselheiro Ministro e

Secretario d'Estado dos Negocios

da Marinha e Ultramar.

+ João Paulino d'Azevedo e Castro, Bispo de Macau

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[Printed header]

GOVERNO DA PROVINCIA DE MACAU
EXPEDIENTE GERAL

No. 97

Palacio do Governo de Macau,
19 de abril de 1907.

Objecto

Accusa recebido o telegramma de 27-3-07 auctorisando a passagem do sr Bispo e seu Secretario para o Reino.

[Handwritten text]

Illmo e Exmo Snr

[Stamp]

ULTRAMAR

<20 MAIO 1907>

1 Rep. No 300

Tenho a honra de accusar recebido o telegramma de V. Ex^a do teor seguinte: "Lisboa - 27 - 3 - 07 - Governador - Macau - auctoriso - abono - passagem - Bispo - e - Secretario - para - virem - Reino - via - Roma ponto..... (a) Ministro" e de dizer a V.Ex^a que após a recepção do referido telegramma foram dadas as precisas ordens á repartição superior de fazenda d'esta provincia para mandar abonar as citadas passagens devendo o Sr. Bispo e o seu Secretario partir para Lisboa, via Roma, na mala que largará de Hongkong no dia 8 de maio p.v.

Deus Guarde a V.Ex^a

Palacio do Governo em Macau, 19 de abril de 1907.

Illmo e Exmo Snr Ministro e Secretario d'Estado dos Negocios da Marinha e Ultramar.

Governador da provincia,
Pedro de Azevedo Coutinho

[Printed and handwritten footer, left side]

1.A REPARTIÇÃO

-> DA <-

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

2. Secção

N.º 69

22 de Maio de 1907

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Ill.mo Ex.mo Senhor

[Stamp: ULTRAMAR | 22 JUN 1907 | Rep. N° 397]

Tenho a honra de participar a V. E.ca que tendo partido de Macau no dia 7 e embarcado em Hong-Kong no dia 8 de maio ultimo desembarquei em Napoles no dia 3 do corrente e n'esse mesmo dia cheguei a Roma. Logo no dia seguinte visitei o Em.mo Cardeal Secretario d'Estado de S. Santidade, com quem me abri a respeito da questão que me obrigava a vir a Roma.

Em segunda visita que dias depois fiz a S. Eminencia, ficou assente que por mim lhe fosse apresentada uma memoria documentada, trabalho que já fiz e que por estes dias irei apresentar.

Espero que nos será feita justiça

Opportunamente irei informando a V. Ex. das occurrencias que merecerem ser levadas ao seu conhecimento.

Sua Santidade o Papa houve por bem admittir-me em audiencia, n'um dos dias d'esta semana, em que testemunhou o maior interesse por Portugal e especialmente pela diocese de Macau de cujo estado lhe fiz um breve relato que lhe deu muita satisfação.

Visitei tambem S. Ex.cia o Snr. Embaixador de Portugal junto do Vaticano e já fui

[Left Margin Text]

1.^a REPARTIÇÃO

DA 5.^a

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

2 Secção

N.º 82

26 de Junho de 1907.

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honrado com uma visita de Sua Ex.cia, que apesar
dos seus achaques se empenha com vivo interesse pelo
bom exito da nossa causa.

Deus Guarde a V. Ex.cia

Roma, Collegio Portuguez, 15 de Junho de 1907

Exmo Snr. Conselheiro

d'Estado Ministro dos Negocios da
Marinha do Ultramar.

+ João Paulino de Azevedo e Castro

Bispo de Macao

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Ministerio dos Negocios Estrangeiros

[Illegible handwritten note]

Direcção Geral dos Negocios Politicos e Diplomaticos

1ª Repartição

Processo 116.

1.ª REPARTIÇÃO

«S DA Sª»

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

Secção

N.º 19/6 de 1907

Lisboa 17 de Junho de 1907

[Stamp: ULTRAMAR]

[Stamp: 19 JUN 1907]

[Stamp: Rep. N.º 3002]

Ill.mo e Ex.mo Snr.

[Stamp: HISTORICO ULTRAMARINO ARQUIVO]

Foram ja expeditas instrucções ao Embaixador de Sua Magestade em Roma e ao Ministro de Portugal em Pariz para effectuarem, o primeiro junto da Santa Sé e o segundo junto do governo da Republica, as dilligencias necessarias afim de que o Prefeito Apostolico de Cantão deixe de levantar obstaculos á execução do accordo relativo á troca de jurisdicções na ilha de Hainan e no districto de Shao-King, conforme V. Ex.^a solicitava em seu officio de 25 de Maio ultimo.

Do documento que acompanhou esse officio não se conclue se está já ultimada a entrega, pelo Bispo de Macau, da jurisdicção em Hainan. Se ainda o não está, permitto-me ponderar a V. Ex.^a que haveria vantagem em indicar ao Prelado Portuguez a conveniencia de não faser-se a entrega da sua jurisdicção, emquanto

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não estiver garantida a entrega simultânea da jurisdição em Shao-King, pelo Prefeito de Cantão.

Deus guarde a V. Ex.cia

Ill.mo e Ex.mo Snr. Ministro e Secretario
d'estado dos Negocios da Marinha e Ultramar.

Zunino Martins

page_00071

p.a Dr Urb

Bispo de Ma

caia está em

Roma; convem

telegrafar-lhe sobre

o caso

page_00072

Embaixador de Portugal - Roma

Teco por digno de ser
conveniente não entregar jurisdição Marian
em estar garantida entrega simultanea juris-
dição Shantung pelo prefeito para bem aproveitar
20-6-907 - Min to marinha

page_00073

DIRECÇÃO GERAL

DO

ULTRAMAR

6.^a Repartição

Copia conforme

em

20-6-907

À 1.^a Repartição

Telegramma vindo de Macau

de Junho de 1907

Bispo seguirei Roma 8 Maio. (As.) Governador.

[Stamp: MINISTERIO DO ULTRAMAR - ARQUIVO]

E n.º 172—Outubro de 1906—3.000 ex.

1.^a REPARTIÇÃO

DA 5.^a

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

2 Secção

N.º 8

20 de Junho de 1907.

1917—IMPrensa NACIONAL—1906-1907

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Copia

N. 24864 = Ill.mo e Rev.mo Signore = Mi è grato di comunicare alle S. V. Ill.ma e Rev.ma che, in base alle note trattative scritte e verbali in rapporto allo scambio di territori fra codesta Diocesi ed il Vicariato Apostolico di Canton, rimane stabilito che quando V. S. sarà tornato a Macao, Mons. Vicario Apostolico di Canton o personalmente o per mezzo di un suo delegato si metterà d'intesa con la stessa S. V. perchè senza ulteriore ritardo venga annessa a codesta Diocesi la prefettura di Scido-king (Chao-king), ed al Vicariato stesso l'isola di Hui-nam. La S. C. di Propaganda Fide darà al Vicario sullodato analoghe istruzioni. = Colgo intanto l'occasione per dichiararmi con i sensi di ben sincera stima = di V. S. Ill.ma e Rev.ma = Servitore = Roma, 19 luglio 1907 = Mons Giovanni Paulino Castro e Azevedo = Vescovo di Macao.= (a) Il Card. Merry del Val. =

[Circular stamp: PROPAGANDA FIDE - ARCHIVIO STORICO]

Concorda com o original.

Macau, 20 de Julho de 1907.

P.e Antonio Maria de Moraes Sarmiento

Secretario de Sua Ex.a Rev.ma o Em. Bispo
de Macau.

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SECRETARIA D'ESTADO
dos Negocios
da Marinha e Ultramar

Direcção Geral do Ultramar

1.^a Repartição

2.^a Secção

[Stamp: DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR]

Camond

p 26-8-907

[Signature]

S. Ex.^a o ministro concorda.

V.^a 6 de 8º de 1907

[Marginalia, left side, written vertically in red ink:]

Offº ao

de Macan

de 10 Nembro

de 1907

[Marginalia, top right, written vertically:]

Officio ao

Ministro dos

Estrangeiros em

5-9-1907

No [unclear word crossed out] concordando, porem, com
o que se deveria ter esclarecido ao Prelado sobre [unclear word crossed out]
as casas e vendas de que eram essas casas; se eram
da Mitra, ou das Missões, como das adjuntas copias de um

foram compradas e vendidas
sem auctorisação do Prefeito do nosso Ministro em Paris
e da nota do Governo francez á
cerca da troca de jurisdições, entre
o bispo de Macaú e o Prefeito apos-
tolico de Cantão na ilha de Hainan
e no districto de Thao-King, consta
a declaração do Ministro dos nego-
cios estrangeiros da Republica
franceza de que a alludida
troca de jurisdições não foi ain-
da levada a effeito por não ter
o bispo de Macaú approved ao
pagamento combinado da differen-
ça de 41:073 patacas entre os va-
lores dos bens da missão portu-
gueza de Hainan e dos da missão
franceza de Thao-King.

Replica a alludida nota, que
aquella differença provém em par-
te, da venda que, estando já a
correr as negociações para a troca,
o bispo de Macaú fez de duas pro-
priedades em Hoi-how, com o pre-
texto de que não pertenciam á mis-
são por dependerem da residencia episcopal.

O Ministerio dos negocios
estrangeiros remettendo com o
incluso officio estes documentos,
pede, com brevidade, os esclareci-
mentos necessarios.

Riu

23-8-907

Morty

8-8-907

Em 23 d'agosto de 1907

o bispo de macaú em
to officio os esclareci-
mentos pedidos.

Transcreve trechos de
correspondencia trocada
com o Prefeito apostoli-
co de Cantão para
provar que nunca
se obrigou a indemnizar
a missão franceza
por quaesquer bens da
missão de Thao-King, e,
nem o poderia fazer
porque o decreto pon-
tificio de 1903 a não
estabeleceu, antes de-
terminou que a per-
muta de jurisdições
se fizesse ad instar
da mudança de
terminada em 1874
da missão de Deon
para a diocese
se declarava na
qual não houve compensação alguma.

A esta

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a' venda que fez, no decurso das negociações de duas casas em Hoai-How, diz que estas propriedades não pertenciam a' missão de Hainan. Haviam sido adquiridas com dinheiro enviado de Macau per bispos e Medeiros, estiveram sempre anexas á Administração diocesana e em nome d'essa Administração foram vendidas por 12:000 patacas. Deve pois, remetter se ao Ministerio dos Negocios estrangeiros uma copia do officio do Bispo a fim de pelo nosso Ministro em Paris ser informado o Governo francez de que não ha logar a indemnisação para se executar o accordo feito entre os dois prelados. Convem tambem enviar-se ao mesmo Ministerio uma copia da communicação feita ao Bispo de Macau, em 19 de julho ultimo, pelo Cardeal Secretario

d'Estado de Sua Santidade dando-lhe conhecimento de que a Santa Sé resolvera definitivamente a questão da permuta das jurisdições de onde não pode ser impugnada nem retardada a execução do decreto pontifício que a ordenou.

Em 23-8-907.

Z. Pinto

A esta Rep.ão offerece-se informar que o bispo de Macau nunca na sua correspondencia official sobre o assumpto fez qualquer referencia a tal indemnisação.

Ainda no ultimo officio, datado de Roma em 20 de julho ultimo, sem nada dizer a semelhante respeito, participou que a questão fôra definitivamente resolvida pela Santa Sé de modo a não poder ser impugnada, nem retardada, a execução do decreto relativo a' troca das jurisdições.

Tendo o bispo de Macau, no

citado officio de 20 de julho annuciado a sua chegada a Lisboa em principios do corrente mez, deve,

logo que chegue, ser ouvido sobre o assumpto da nota do governo francez a fim de dar os esclarecimentos que são pedidos pelo Ministerio dos negocios estrangeiros.

Em 6-8-907.

Lu Pinto

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Ministerio

dos

Negocios Estrangeiros

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Direcção Geral

dos Negocios Politicos

e Diplomaticos

1ª Repartição

Processo 116

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N.º 11

1.ª REPARTIÇÃO

DA 1.ª

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

2 Secção

N.º 336

6 de 8 de 1907

Lisboa 26 de Julho de 1907

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ULTRAMAR

Illmo. Exmo. Snr.

1ª Rep. N.º 3424

[Circular stamp]

ARQUIVO HISTORICO ULTRAMARINO

Com relação ao officio do Snr. Conselheiro Ayres de Ornellas de 25 de Maio ultimo, acerca da troca de jurisdições entre o Bispo de Macau e o Prefeito Apostolico de Cantão, na ilha de Hainan e no districto de Shao King, tenho a honra de remetter a V. Exa. as inclusas copias de um officio do Ministro de Sua Majestade em paris, e de uma nota que o Governo francez lhe dirigiu em resposta ás instancias praticadas por recommendação d'esta Secretaria.

Como V. Exa. se dignará vêr , o Governo da Republica allega que a troca de jurisdições não foi ainda levada a cabo, por não ter o Bispo de Macau annuido ao pagamento combinado da differença entre os valores dos bens da missão portugueza de Hainan e dos da missão franceza de Shao King.

Sobre este ponto rogo a V. Exa. se sirva enviar-me com a possivel brevidade os esclarecimentos necessarios.

DEUS

page_00078

Deus guarde a V.Exa.

Illmo.Exmo.Snr.Ministro e Secretario d'Estado dos negocios da Guerra

e interino dos da marinha e do Ultramar

[Signature]

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Ministerio

dos

Negocios Estrangeiros

Direcção Geral

dos Negocios Politicos

e Diplomaticos

1ª. Repartição

Legação de Portugal em França

Documento junto ao officio N°

Copia - Extracto - off Monsieur de

Copie Souza-Roza, Ministre de Portugal.

Paris, le 13 Juillet 1907 - Monsieur le

Ministre.

L'évêque de Macao, après s'être soumis aux ordres de Rome relativement à l'échange du district de Hainan contre le district de Tchao-Hing (non compris les 3 sous-préfectures de Shun-tack, de San-ning et de San-hi qui n'en font pas partie) avait admis le principe d'une indemnité destinée à parfaire la différence pouvant exister entre la valeur des biens appartenant à la mission française de Tchao-Hing et ceux de la mission portugaise de Hainan; le chiffre de cette indemnité devait résulter d'un inventaire qui fut établi sur place par les délégués des deux évêques et signé de leurs noms, cet inven-

taire a fait ressortir une différence de
41,093 piastres entre la valeur des biens

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du district portugais et ceux du district français. Ce chiffre considérable résulte en partie de la vente faite aux cours même de la négociation par Mgr d'Azevedo des deux propriétés de la mission portugaise à Hoir hodo, centre du district, en alléguant que ces maisons dépendaient de la mense épiscopale et ne rentraient pas dans les biens généraux de la mission. La discussion de ce point serait sans objet si l'indemnité légitime prévue, était payée par l'évêque de Macao à l'évêque de Canton. - Dans les conditions actuelles, la question se présente de la manière suivante: les deux évêques sont tenus par la décision de Rome et l'échange des districts sera réalisé aussitôt que Mgr d'Azevedo aura remis à Mgr Clérel les 41,073 piastres représentant la différence de valeur entre les biens du district de Tchao King et ceux du district de Hoaman. - Agréez les assurances - etc-

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-a) S. Pichon. — Está conforme.

-Paris, em 20 de Julho de 1907.—

a) Bartholomeu Ferreira. —

Está conforme. Repartição dos

Negocios Politicos em 26 de Ju=

lho de 1907.

José Duarte Ramalho Ortigão

O Secretario da Legação

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Ministerio

dos

Negocios Estrangeiros

Direcção Geral

dos Negocios Politicos

e Diplomaticos

1ª Repartição

Legação de Portugal em France - N.º 44-Pa-
ris em 19 de Julho de 1907 - Ill.mo e Ex.mo Snr. = Em
observancia ás instrucções que me foram dadas por
V. Ex.^a em despacho de 15 de Junho solicitei d'este
Ministro dos Negocios Estrangeiros a sua inter-
venção, com o fim de evitar que pelas missões
francezas fosse posto embaraço á execução do
accordo relativo á troca das jurisdicções eccle-
siasticas do Districto de Tchao-King-fou e da
ilha de Haïnan. - Havendo eu exposto ao Snr.
Pichon todas as circumstancias referidas nos
documentos que me foram enviados por V. Ex.^a,
prometteu-me o Ministro inteirar-se do caso
e dar-me uma resposta depois de ter ouvido o
Prefeito Apostolico de Cantão que chegára
ha pouco a Europa e que fôra a Roma,
de onde voltaria em poucos dias. - O Minis-
tro enviou-me ultimamente a nota que te-
nho a honra de transmittir a V. Ex.^a por co-
pia, na qual o Snr. Pichon declara que o im-
pedimento á realisação do accordo consiste
em se recusar o Bispo de Macau ao paga-
mento da indemnisação que resulta dos

inventarios feitos pelos delegados dos dois

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bispos sobre o valor das propriedades das suas respectivas missões. Estes inventarios das as propriedades da missão franceza um valor superior de 41073 patacas ao valor das propriedades da missão Portuguesa. Uma vez que esta quantia seja paga nenhum obstaculo haverá á completa realisação do accordo. Depois de ter recebido esta nota dirigi-me ainda ao Snr. Pichon para saber se effectivamente o Bispo de Macau tomára o compromisso de pagar a indemnisação referida, ao que o Ministro respondeu que assim fôra intendido com o Prefeito Apostolico de Cantão, e que nem outra coisa motivara os inventarios que haviam sido feitos e assignados pelos delegados dos dois bispos. Nestas condições não me parece possivel conseguir que o Governo francez se decida a intervir n'esta questão de qualquer maneira - Deus Guarde a V. Ex^a - Ill.mo e Ex.mo Snr. Conselheiro Mariano Monteiro, Ministro e Secretario d'Estado dos Negocios Estrangeiros. - (a) Conde de Sabuga Roza. Está conforme = Repartição dos Ne-

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gócios Politicos em 26 de Julho de
1904

José Duarte Pedroso Junior

O Secretario de Segredo

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[Stamp: ULTRAMAR | 21 AGOSTO 1907 | Rep. N° 378]

Tenho a honra de accusar a recepção do officio de V. Ex.cia de 10 do corrente acompanhado das copias d'um officio do Ministro de Sua Magestade em Paris e d'uma nota que o Governo francez lhe dirigiu ácerca da troca de jurisdições a effectuar entre o bispo de Macau e o prefeito Apostolico de Cantão em que se estabelece como condição para a execução do decreto pontificio que ordenou a permuta de jurisdições em Hainan e Shew-ing entre aquelles dois prelados, uma indemnisação de \$ 41:073 patacas por parte do bispo de Macau ao Prelado de Cantão. As rasões em que a nota fundamente essa exigencia são duas: 1ª Ter o bispo de Macau admittido o principio d'uma indemnisação destinada a perfazer a differença que podesse existir entre o valor dos bens pertencentes á missão franceza de Tchao-King e os da missão portugueza de Hainan; devendo a cifra d'essa indemnisação resultar d'inventarios feitos pelos delegados dos dois prelados, os quaes accusam uma differença de \$ 41:073 patacas entre os bens do districto portu-

[Marginalia, left side]:

[Stamp: 1.^a REPARTIÇÃO]

[Stamp: DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR]

[Handwritten]: 2 Secção

[Handwritten]: macau

[Handwritten]: 4 de Agosto de 1907

[Handwritten]: 123

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guez e os do districto francez.

2º: a venda que o bispo de Macau fez, no decurso das negociações, de duas propriedades da missão portugueza de Hoi-how, a qual concorreu para aquella grande differença.

Para satisfazer ao que V. Ex.cia de mim solicita, tenho a honra de contrapor as duas affirmações da Nota o seguinte:

1º Não é verdade que eu tivesse admittido o principio d'uma indemnisação pela differença de valores resultante dos inventarios.

Com effeito as negociações entabouladas entre mim e o prelado de Cantão para a execução do Decreto Pontificio duraram quasi um anno, desde 9 d'abril de 1905 até 20 de março de 1907. Ora, até á celebração do accordo para a execução do Decreto nunca se fallou em indemnisação alguma, como se pode ver em toda a correspondencia trocada entre mim e Monsenhor Merel.

Os termos d'esse accordo constam do officio do Prelado de Cantão de 15 de agosto de 1905 que adeante reproduzirei apoz uma breve explica-

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ção para melhor intelligencia.

Eis a explicação.

Na reunião dos delegados de Cantão com o bispo de Macau celebrada na residencia d'este em 9 d'aquelle mez, o bispo de Macau desejando chegar a um accordo com o prelado de Cantão, compromettia-se a ceder a este prelado alguns sub-districtos no extremo norte do districto de Shiu-hing, comtanto que, alem do restante d'este districto, recebesse em troca as subprefeituras de Yeung-kong, San-ui e San-ing ao Sul do mesmo districto. No caso d'esta solução não agradar a Monsenhor Merel, queria o bispo de Macau que se procedesse á execução do decreto pontificio de 3 de fevereiro de 1903 explicado por uma declaração da Santa Sé de 16 de março de 1904.

Eis o que o prelado de Cantão em seu officio de 16 d'agosto diz, dando por feito o accordo com o seu collega, depois de precisar os termos d'esse accordo: "Pour faire suite aux conversations que Votre Grace a biens voulu avoir avec les P.P.

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Fleureau et Gauthier relativement à l'échange de la juridiction ecclésiastique de Hainan, j'ai l'honneur d'annoncer à Votre Excellence que des deux solutions proposées, j'accepte celle qui est la plus conforme aux vues du Souverain Pontife. Votre Grandeur cédera à la mission de Kouang-tong l'île de Hainan et en compensation prendra la seule préfecture de Chaou-king sans les sous-préfectures de Shun-tac, San-ui, San-ning, conformément au décret (N.o 4345) daté du 16 mars 1904 qui établit le vœu de celui de la S. C. de la Propagande daté du 3 février 1903.

Reste à fixer le jour où se feront cet échange et la remise des chrétientés et de chapelles. Je me permettrai d'envoyer les P.P. Fleureau et Gauthier s'entendre avec Votre Excellence à ce sujet et régler définitivement cette question. »

Nem uma palavra sobre indemnizações a dar á Prefeitura Apostolica. Pelo contrario, segundo o digno prelado, está é que tem de dar uma compensação ao bispo de Macau, e a

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isso se compromette.

O accordo para a execução do decreto pontificio estava pois feito. Só faltava fixar o dia para que esta se effectuasse - Resta a fixar de fôro, diz Monse-nhor Merel, que desde logo e para esse fim amun-cia que mandará a Macau os seus delegados. Estes vieram effectivamente acompanha-dos d'uma carta do seu prelado datada de 3 de setembro na qual nem uma palavra se diz a respeito d'indemnisações.

Na sessão por esta ocasião celebrada as-sentou-se no seguinte: 1º. executar-se o decreto pon-tificio no dia 15 d'outubro proximo; 2º. serem previamente visitados os districtos por delega-dos das duas jurisdições para á vista d'in-ventarios tomarem conhecimento do que hou-vesse pertencente ás respectivas Missões.

Sugeriram os delegados do prelado de Cantão que se desse por parte de Macau uma indemnisação á Prefeitura Apostolica; mas essa restricta ao que alguns dos seus Missio-

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narios tinham desembolsado em obras realizadas em proveito das missões. Que se tratava d'outra conformação, porque a unica admissivel esta va sindicada na declaração da Santa Sé de 16 de março de 1904 de cuja execução se tratava, e devia ser dada pela Prefeitura Apostolica á Diocese de Macau.

Ainda assim o bispo de Macau não quiz annuir á proposta como se verá da resposta por elle dada ao prelado de Cantão, com a qual esse prelado se conformou sem nada replicar. Vejamos o officio que provocou essa resposta. Em 8 de setembro de 1905, Monsenhor Merel, Prefeito Apostolico de Cantão, escrevia ao bispo de Macau:

"Je souscris volontiers á la décision de Votre Grandeur qui fixe au 16 octobre prochain le jour ou nous échangerons les juridictions de Hainan et de Seibing pour nous conformer au décret du Saint Siege en date du 16 mars 1904. Selon votre avis, un Pere de votre diocèse

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visitera les diverses chrétientés à échanger afin de dresser un état de ces diverses chrétientés et de juger des compensations qu'il conviendra d'accorder. Dans ce but je me permets d'envoyer auprès de Votre Grandeur le P. Gauthier en vous priant de l'accréditer près des missionnaires de Hainan pour faire avec eux cette visite."

Por aqui se vê que o prelado de Cantão aceitou as duas resoluções tomadas d'accordo pelos seus delegados e o bispo de Macau, - ácerca da dia para a execução do decreto pontificio e das visitas a fazer aos districtos. Errava porem em dizer que, segundo a opinião do bispo de Macau essas visitas terião um duplo fim "dresser un état de ces diverses chrétientés e de juger des compensations qu'il conviendrait d'accorder."

Em meu officio de 2 d'outubro de 1906, em resposta ao precedente, eu fiz ver a inexactidão d'esta parte e restabeleci a verdade nos seguintes termos que bem deixam ver o fim para que eu propozera os inventarios, e que

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repellia a ideia d'uma indemnisação qualquer. "A Hainan tout pera montre au débéquede Votre Grandeur en présence d'un inventaire que le Père Pitta a fait de toutes choses. Je prie Votre Grandeur d'ordonner qu'il se fasse de même à Shew-ing."

Não se pretendia outra cousa senão proporcionar aos missionarios um meio de conhecerem os bens moveis e immoveis das missões de que iam tomar posse. Tal era o fim dos inventarios.

"Comme j'ai fait remarquer aux PP. Flureau e Gauthier, je ne peux me compromettre d'avance à faire aucune indemnisation à vos missionnaires pas même en raison des frais qu'ils ont fait au profit des missions qu'ils ont administrées. Il me semble que tout cela doit être à charge à ces messieurs ou à la jurisdiction qu'ils représentent. J'ai toujours pensé de même à l'égard de Hainan, malgré les grandes sommes d'argent envoyées de Macao et celles qu'ils ont

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tirées de leurs propres ressources pour la réalisation des constructions qu'ils ont entreprises et menées à bout.

J'ai ordonné au P. Pitta (Supérieur des Missao em Hainan) de faire un compte minutieux de tous ces frais et de l'ajouter à l'inventaire dans l'intention seulement de faire connaître ce que la mission de Macao et ses missionnaires ont dépensé dans les asiles, maisons et chapelles de Hainan, au profit des chrétientés; mais sans le propos d'exiger une indemnisation de qui que ce soit. Ce fut dans un pareil but que j'ai demandé aux Rév. P.P. Fleureau et Gauthier de faire ajouter des notes aux articles de l'inventaire de la mission de Shao-King là où on trouvera juste, pour faire connaître tout ce qui a été fait aux frais de la mission de Canton et de ses dignes et zélés missionnaires. Je pense que ce sera la meilleur façon de nous ménager des doutes et des contestations qui ne peuvent que revenir au détriment de la grande

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affaire qui nous occupe.”

Não se podia ser mais claro e categorico em determinar o fim que se tinha em vista com os inventarios, o sentido dos algarismos que n’elle figurariam, e em devial-os do fim que Monsenhor Merel lhes queria attribuir, e que, se prevalecesse, teria as mais funestas consequencias para a realisação do nosso accordo? Surgiriam questões interminaveis a que se quiz desde logo pôr uma barreira.

Monsenhor Merel conformou-se com esta resposta porque em seu officio de 11 d’outubro referindo-se a ella nada replicou, e pelo contrario diz que o seu delegado em Hainan faria os inventarios em harmonia com as instrucções por mim dadas ao P. Pitta, e nem mais uma palavra disse d’indemnisações.

Eis o teor do dito officio em que se faz expressa preferencia ao meu citado officio de 8 d’Outubro e ás instrucções que eu n’elle dizia déra ao P. Pitta:

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le Rev. Pere Pitta qui aura toute faculté de rentrer à Macau et d'y ramener les soeurs (as religiosas missionarias ao serviço de Hainan)".

N'este officio o Prelado de Cantão não só concorda com as instrucções dadas pelo bispo de Macau para a confecção dos inventarios conforme este as explicara e precisara no officio a que aquella responde, mas ainda traçava o plano que devia seguir-se até á definitiva troca de jurisdicções e abandono das missões pelo respectivo pessoal missionario. Tudo, segundo elle, se levaria a effeito sem que para qualquer das partes houvesse a obrigação de dar á outra uma indemnisação qualquer por differença de valores encontrados nos inventarios.

Nas subsequentes negociações celebradas entre mim e o Prelado de Cantão quer directamente quer por intermedio de nossos missionarios não ha uma só palavra nem um acto em que eu reconhecesse ao Prelado de Can

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tão direito a quaesquer indemnisações da minha parte para compensar as desigualdades encontradas no confronto dos inventarios das duas missões. O simples facto de propor e annuir a que se fizessem os inventarios com a designação de valores não implica para nenhuma das partes a obrigação nem o direito a indemnisações, uma vez que não se fez expressa e previa declaração mutuamente acceita de que seriam feitos para esse determinado fim e desde que o Decreto pontificio acceito por ambos os prelados ordenava a permuta de jurisdições com a exclusão do encargo d'indemnisações taes d'um para com o outro.

Vem muito a proposito, para completar a minha resposta a esta parte da nota, reproduzir aqui uma passagem da Memoria que apresentei em Roma na Secretaria d'Estado do Vaticano, com data de 13 de Junho do anno corrente, na qual refuto uma objecção, repetidas vezes feita pelo Prelado de Cantão. É como segue:

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"Esta objecção (da desigualdade de valores e do numero de christãos) tinha já sido refutada pelo bispo de Macau em seu officio de 7 de março do anno corrente em resposta a outro do Prelado de Cantão de dia 4. Eis aqui o que então se disse e que não perdeu nada da sua força, porque o Snr. Prefeito Apostolico nada replicou, limitando-se a reproduzir a objecção.

Disse o bispo de Macau: "Pour ce qui concerne la disproportion que les inventaires montrent exister entre Hainan et Shew-ing au double point de vue des propriétés et du nombre de Chrétiens, nous n'avons rien a y voir dès que le Souverain Pontife, après un mûr examen des choses, rationibus hinc inde allatis mature perpensis, comme s'exprime le décret du 3 février 1903 de la Propagande, a ordonné l'échange de l'île de Hainan contre le district de Shew-ing. En effet le Décret est "absolu", il n'impose aucune condition, n'exige aucune compensation. La jurisdiction

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à échanger est une jurisdiction territoriale qui de sa nature, attire à elle, avec les territoires, les chrétiens et les choses appartenant à celles-ci.

Le Décret ne fait aucune distinction de ces choses.

Comment donc vouloir les séparer pour en faire l'objet d'une convention à part? Ubi lex non distinguit nemo potest distinguere.

Le Décret ajoute même "ad instar multationis quae peracta fuit anno 1874 in quo per Bullam diei 15 junii supradicta insula Hainan Macaonensi dioecesi adnexa fuit."

Ora a Bulla não impoz compensação alguma; e a ilha de Hainan no anno de 1874 (ou melhor em 1876, anno em que foi executada a Bulla) passou para a jurisdição de Macau sem que da parte da Prefeitura Apostolica de Kouang-ton se exigisse compensação alguma por parte de Macau, não obstante os bens e as capellas que a missão franceza acolá possuía, e o numero de christãos que, segundo documentos authenticos, se elevava a 838.

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A acta do Convenio celebrado em Cantão no dia 23 de março de 1876 para a execução da Bulla não accusa nenhuma indemnisação e o Prelado de Cantão, Monsenhor Guillemín, em officio de 19 de outubro de 1876 ao Superior da missão Portuguesa de Hainan declara que não tem compensações a exigir.

Bem ao contrario do que pretende Monsenhor Merel, a compensação a fazer é ao bispo de Macau que deve ser dada. Effectivamente: 1.º Elle era obrigado a ceder a ilha de Hainan, que por direito concordatario lhe pertencia, para satisfazer a uma proposta do Governo francez feita com o intuito de servir os interesses da Sociedade das Missões Estrangeiras de Paris; era elle quem tinha direito a receber uma compensação; 2.º Foi isso o que expressamente ordenou a Santa Sé, como se vê da declaração de 16 de março de 1904: "La Santa Sede ha dichiarato che la giurisdizione del Vescovo di Macao, in compenso della cessione dell'isola de Hainan-----debba estender-si al distretto di Chao-king".

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Monsenhor Merel teve conhecimento d'esta decisão da Santa Sé, pois a reproduziu em seu officio de 25 de Julho de 1905 e com ella se conformou, declarando-me, a proposito da mesma, que era humilde e absolutamente submisso ás ordens da Santa Sé, em seu officio de 15 d'agosto, que eu já aqui reproduzi, dá como feito o accordo comigo para a execução das determinações da Santa Sé constantes do Decreto de 3 de fevereiro de 1903 explicado por essa declaração, e foi ainda a esta decisão que elle se referiu quando telegraphicamente e depois em relatorio communicava ao Governo da Republica o accordo celebrado com o bispo de Macau, que segundo elle dizia versava sobre a execução do Decreto da Propaganda de 3 de fevereiro de 1903 explicado pelo rescripto de 16 de Março de 1904, e nada mais.

Pela minha parte eu não podia tomar o compromisso de dar uma tal indemnisação á Prefeitura Apostolica porque isso levar-nos-hia para fora do ambito traçado pelas decisões pontificias acceitas pelos dois governos de Lisboa e de Paris. E eu

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não o faria sem o consentimento e aprovação dos poderes superiores.

Monsenhor Merel sabia-o perfeitamente, porque mais d'uma vez eu lhe disse e fiz constar que de tudo quanto não fosse a estricção da execução das decisões de Roma eu nada faria sem o assentimento e aprovação do Governo e da Santa Sé. Esta declaração encontra-se particularmente no meu officio de 8 de maio de 1905, feita logo no começo das negociações que entre nós foram entabuladas.

Por isso desde que se accordou na execução do decreto pontificio de 3 de fevereiro de 1903 explicado pela declaração de 16 de março de 1904, não se tratou de mais nada se não de pôr em execução as decisões romanas; outro qualquer pensamento foi ipso facto posto de parte.

Eu tenho em meu poder documentos, a maior parte d'elles escriptos e assignados por Monsenhor Merel que provam á evidencia tudo quanto hei até aqui affirmado, e posso desassombradamente desafiar a quem quer que seja a que produza

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com um só documento por mim escripto ou assignado em que eu me obrigasse a indemnizar a Prefeitura Apostolica pelas differenças de valores que os inventarios accusam.

2º Quanto á venda feita pelo bispo de Macau no decurso das negociações, de duas propriedades em Hoi-how, já esta objecção tinha sido por mim refutada em meu officio de 31 de dezembro de 1906 dirigido a Monsenhor Merel em resposta a outro do dito Prelado de 17 do mesmo mez e anno e minha Memoria que em Roma apresentei com data de 13 de Junho do anno corrente, devidamente documentada, na Secretaria d'Estado do Vaticano. Insiste-se na allegação mas sem produzir uma unica rasão capaz de destruir o que contrariamente a ella foi dito e provado. Eis o que entre outras cousas eu tinha dito a Monsenhor Merel:

<< La mission d'Hainan n'avait rien à voir à ces deux maisons. Elle appartenait à l'administra

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tion diocesaine de Macao au même titre que bien d'autres que nous avons á Hong-Kong et á Singapura. Le père Pitta (superior da Missao) pendant ces maisons agissait non en sa qualité de missionnaire de Hainan, mais comme procureur de l'administration de Macao."»

Essas casas tinham sido adquiridas com com dinheiro mandado de Macao, pelo bispo da Diocese D. Antonio de Medeiros, como já antes muitas outras tinham sido adquiridas em Hong-Kong e Singapura, sem que até hoje ninguém se lembrasse de as revindicar para as missões locais. Como as d'essas outras cidades as casas de Hainan estiveram sempre á renda por conta da administração diocesana e nunca tiveram outra aplicação. Sabe-o toda a gente em Hainan.

No inventario dos bens de Hainan, feito em abril de 1905 pelo Superior da Missão e que eu juntei como documento á Memoria que apresentei em Roma), essas casas figuram como pertencendo á administração diocesana de Macau. Na curia episcopal o rendimento

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d'esses predios era escripturado como pertencendo áquella administração. Em nome d'esta administração foram vendidas em junho de 1906 sendo o recibo da somma de \$12:000 patacas, importancia da venda, passado e assignado em Macau pelo bispo como presidente d'essa administração. A minuta ou modelo d'esse recibo foi mandado de Foinem a instancia do comprador, que exigia aquelle documento para segurança sua e não se contentava com o que lhe queria passar o Superior da Missão. Esse modelo foi tambem por mim junto como documento á Memoria que com data de 13 de junho do anno corrente apresentei em Roma, na Secretaria d'Estado do Vaticano.

Convem aqui notar uma circumstancia muito significativa. Ao passo que a administração diocesana de Macau vendia as duas casas que possuia em Foi-how, porque eram suas, não pensou sequer em vender os edificios de dois asylos construidos pelos missionarios portugueses ainda ha muito pouco tempo, mesmo já depois de

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terem começado as negociações para a permuta de jurisdições, um em Kiang-Chow, capital da ilha, outro em Seom-tui-san. E não o fez apesar de haverem sido mandados de Macau importantes subsidios pecuniarios para esse fim, porque em grande parte com grande parte essas obras se fizeram com o auxilio de subsidios recolhidos pelos missionarios nas respectivas localidades, e em terreno da missao local.

Nenhuma d'estas minhas affirmações soffre contestação, porque todas se baseiam em documentos publicos que os interessados podem consultar, se lhes aprouver, e podem ser corroboradas pelo testemunho d'alguns sacerdotes que relevantes serviços prestaram á diocese de Macau. São esses o M.to Rev.do Conego Francisco Pedro Gonsalves antigo Vigario Geral do Bispado de Macau residente em Lisboa, e os antigos missionarios e Superiores da Missão de Hainan P.e José Vicente Costa, residente em Lisboa, Conego José Manuel Diegas, residente em Bragança e P.e Anacleto Cotrim Garcez, parocho

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em tal de Cavallos.

Em vista do exposto fica mais que prova do que o bispo de Macao nao tem obrigação de fazer indemnisação alguma ao Prelado de Canton nem pelas differenças de valores dos inventarios nem pela venda de casas que nao pertenciam á Missão de Hainan, devendo por conseguinte o decreto pontificio que ordena a permuta de jurisdições em Hainan e Sherving, ser executado pelos dois prelados, não só porque a isso se obrigaram com a annuencia dos dois governos, mas porque assim decidiu a Santa Sé recentemente em rescripto de 19 de julho de 1907.

Deus Guarde a V. Exc.

Lisboa, 19 d'agosto de 1907

Ill.mo e Ex.mo Snr. Conselheiro

Director Geral do Ministerio do Ultramar

João Paulino d'Azevedo e Castro

Bispo de Macao

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Ministerio

dos

Negocios Estrangeiros

Direcção Geral

dos Negocios Politicos

e Diplomaticos

1ª Repartição

Lisboa 10 d'abril de 1908

[STAMP: ULTRAMAR CX 13 ABRIL 1908]

Ill.mo e Ex.mo Snr:

[Handwritten: da Rep. N.º 1876]

Com referencia ao assumpto do officio d'esse Ministerio datado de 5 de setembro do anno findo, cabe-me a honra de passar ás mãos de V. Ex.^a a inclusa copia da Nota dirigida pelo Ministro dos Negocios Estrangeiros de França ao nosso representante em Paris, relativamente á troca das jurisdicções ecclesiasticas de Hainan e Shão-King.

Deus guarde a V. Ex.^a

Ill.mo e Ex.mo Snr. Ministro e Secretario

d'Estado dos Negocios de Marinha e Ultramar.

[STAMP: HISTORICO ULTRAMARINO ARQUIVO]

[Signature: Sinnel de]

[Signature: Menezes Taveira de Carvalho]

[Marginalia in red ink:]

Offº ao Bispo de Macau

em 21-4-1908

[Handwritten note below signature:]

1.ª Repartição 2ª Secção

Convem que seja enviada uma

cópia de cópia da nota inclusa

ao revd.º Bispo de Macau para

seu conhecimento.

15-4-908.

[Signature: L. Bastos]

[Footer:]

1.ª REPARTIÇÃO

DA S.ª

DIRECÇÃO GERAL DO ULTRAMAR

2.ª Secção

[Handwritten: Acuso] N.º [Handwritten: 129]

[Handwritten: 14] de [Handwritten: 4] de 190 8

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Ministerio

dos

Negocios Estrangeiros

*

Direcção Geral

dos Negocios Politicos

e Diplomaticos

1ª Repartição

Copia

Legação de Portugal em França - Documento
junto ao officio nº 18 A - Ministère des
Affaires Etrangères -- à Ex. le Comte de Souza
Roza, etc. etc. etc. - Paris le 18 Mars 1908. - M. le
Comte, -- Par votre office du 24 Décembre dernier,
vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'entretenir à
nouveau de la question de l'échange entre les
évêques de Macau et de Canton de la juridiction
apostolique d'Hainan contre celle du district de Tchao
king. Pour satisfaire au désir que vous avez exprimé,
mon département a fait savoir à Mgr. Merel
qu'il ait à se conformer pure et simplement
aux décrets rendus par le Saint-Siège relativement
à l'échange des districts précités, et après, etc. etc.
(assignado) -- S. Pichon -- Está conforme -- Legação
de Sua Magestade em Paris aos 20 de Março de 1908
(a) Francisco Quintella de Sampaio --
Está conforme - Repartição dos Negocios Politicos
em 10 d'Abril de 1908

University of Saint Joseph

Bibliotheca Diocesis Macaonensis

José Quartelho Moro Junior

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Sciuta

C. 11-4-8

Copia

Carillon Eminence

[stamp: ARQUIVO HISTORICO ULTRAMARINO]

pa D'Urb: junta ao

prorem,

Me voici encore absent de mon
diocèse où je comptais me trouver de retour depuis
longtemps.

Malheureusement l'affaire de Jai-
man et Therving traine en longueur et me re-
tient en Europe par suite des difficultés que d'in-
justes prétentions du Prélat de Canton ne cessent
de susciter.

En effet, Monseigneur Merel, qui
était venu à Rome pour y traiter personnellement
de la même affaire, voyant échouer tous ses efforts
devant la décision suprême qui l'obligeait de
se conformer au décret de la Propagande du 3
février 1903 expliqué par la déclaration du 15 mai
1904, a quitté cette ville dans la première moitié du
mois de juillet dernier pour se rendre à Paris où,
grâce au bon accueil que lui a accordé le gou-
vernement de son pays, il a trouvé moyen de
retarder l'exécution des ordres de Rome!

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Bibliotheca Diocesis Macaonensis

Vraiment, dans une note diplomatique
adressée au représentant de Portugal en France

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le Ministre des Affaires étrangères répétait la même exigence de Monseigneur Mérel déjà répétée par moi auprès de Votre Eminence, touchant une certaine indemnité que, d'après lui, je suis obligé de payer pour compenser la différence de valeurs des biens appartenant aux chrétientés des deux districts en question.

Aux affirmations de la note du ministre français, j'ai apposé ma réponse en date du 19 août dernier, démontrant que le Prélat de Canton n'a le droit d'exiger de moi aucune indemnité, car ni la nature de l'affaire, ni les décisions de Rome, ni une convention entre les deux Prélats ne peuvent être invoquées par lui pour justifier une telle exigence.

Bien au contraire:

a) L'affaire en question est, selon la lettre du Décret, une "delimitatio confinium".
Réellement elle n'est qu'un échange de juridiction entre l'évêque de Macau et le Préfet apostolique de Canton, sur certains ter-

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pitoires, les chrétientés qui y habitent, et les biens mobiles et immobiliers appartenant à celles ci.

Il n'y a que la seule juridiction qui change; tout le reste - territoires, chrétientés et propriétés - persiste, de chaque côté, là où il était et dans le même état où il se trouvait auparavant.

La délimitation *confinium* n'y produit pas d'autre changement substantiel, l'acte suprême qui l'ordonne n'autorisant pas d'autre effet.

De leur côté, l'évêque et le préfet apostolique manquent d'autorité pour en faire autrement, indépendamment de l'autorité du Saint Siège.

En effet, pour ce qui concerne les biens ecclésiastiques en particulier, il y a dans le Droit de l'Eglise et spécialement dans le Droit en vigueur dans les contrées de missions des dispositions d'après lesquelles ni les Evêques ni les Vicaires Apostoliques ne peuvent disposer de ces biens sans la permission du Saint Siège (*De rebus eccl. alienandis vel non*

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III, 4 Sextrav. Comm., Const. Apostolicae Sedis, n. 3; S. C. de la Propagande 28 juillet 1721, 27 août 1832, 18 octobre 1883).

Toutes ces dispositions contrariaient évidemment la compensation en question, l'évêque et le Préfet Apostolique n'étant pas autorisés à disposer des biens de l'Eglise et de la Mission.

b) Le Décret du 3 février 1903 qui ordonne la délimitation de territoires entre le diocèse de Macau et la Préfecture Apostolique de Canton, dispose qu'elle se fasse "ad instar mutationis quae peracta fuit anno 1874, in quo per Bullam diei 15 junii.... Insula Hainan Macaovensi dioecesi adnexa fuit." Mais alors, l'annexion s'effectua et Hainan passa sous la juridiction de l'évêque de Macau sans aucune compensation pour la Préfecture de Canton. Le Préfet Apostolique à cette époque, lui-même a déclaré qu'il n'y avait aucune indemnité à exiger des biens appartenant à la Mission. Quant à la déclaration du 16 mars 1904, elle ne

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dit rien en opposition à la doctrine du susdit Décret.

c) En fait de conventions entre l'Evêque de Macao et le Vicaire Apostolique, voici ce qu'il y a: 1°. D'abord, il fut convenu que le Décret du 3 Février 1903 expliqué par la Déclaration du 15 mars 1904 serait exécuté, le 15 octobre 1905 étant fixé pour cela; 2°. Il fut encore convenu de faire les inventaires des chrétientés, afin que chacun pût mieux connaître en quel état se trouvaient celles qui lui adviendraient par suite de l'échange en voie d'exécution. Mais lorsqu'il fut question d'une indemnité pour compenser la différence de valeurs des biens résultant des inventaires, l'évêque de Macao fit aussitôt aux délégués du Prélat de Canton la formelle et expresse déclaration qu'il ne se compromettrait à donner aucune compensation et qu'il n'en exigerait aucune en raison de telle différence. Et dès la première fois que le Préfet Apostolique en parla par écrit à l'évêque

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de Macao, celui-ci lui a répondu de la même façon et dans le même sens, en donnant des explications que le Prélat de Canton accepta sans répliques montrant plutôt se conformer à l'avis de l'évêque de Macao; et tout cela (circonstance digne de remarque) bien avant que les missionnaires délégués pour faire les inventaires se rendissent dans les districts où ils devaient accomplir leur tâche. Et pour bien témoigner son entière conformité à l'avis de son collègue, Monseigneur Merel écrivait que les inventaires se feraient selon les "instructions de celui-ci - selon vos instructions", me disait-il. Le texte des lettres écrites de part et d'autre existe, et pourra être reproduit pour témoigner la vérité, s'il en est besoin.

Malheureusement ce Prélat semble avoir oublié ses promesses et tout ce qui a été solennellement convenu entre lui et moi; et dans son aveuglement il va jusqu'à l'extrémité de négocier l'intervention du gouvernement français, pour qui la question était déjà définitivement ré-

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solue, pour en faire l'instrument de ses injustes prétentions actives du gouvernement portugais à fin d'empêcher ou de diffculter l'exécution des ordres du Saint Siège.

Les inventaires! voilà le seul fondement sur lequel le gouvernement français s'appuie pour exiger le paiement de l'indemnité. Mais, chose étonnante, les inventaires, comme il est facile à constater, ne signifient rien, ni pour ni contre une telle prétention. Toute l'évidence désirable dans ces documents pour prouver une telle obligation, s'ils en avaient, leur viendrait de la convention préalable célébrée entre l'évêque de Macao et le Préfet Apostolique. Or, les termes de la convention, je l'ai déjà dit, sont tout-à-fait contraires à l'indemnité; et ni Monseigneur Merel, ni ses délégués, ni le gouvernement français ne pourront jamais prouver qu'ils lui soient favorables.

Le gouvernement de Paris se fait encore

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l'organe du Prélat de Canton pour insister sur une accusation déjà plusieurs fois réfutée.

La vente de deux maisons que les évêques de Macao avaient fait bâtir sur des terrains qu'ils avaient achetés à leurs frais et qui n'appartenaient nullement à la mission locale de Hainan, continue à être exploitée dans le but de créer à l'évêque de Macao une situation défavorable et peu digne, et de difficulté la solution de l'affaire !

Ayant déjà réfuté cette accusation, je m'abstiens d'y insister, d'autant plus que c'est plutôt à Monseigneur Merel le devoir de prouver que l'évêque de Macao n'avait pas le droit de faire une telle vente de propriétés qui n'appartenaient pas à la mission locale de Hainan.

Tant que le Préfet Apostolique ne saura le prouver, il lui sera tout-à-fait inutile d'insister sur une si injuste accusation.

Translation

This translation to UK English is made using the Gemini 1.5 Pro AI model and a quick revision of a human historian.

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1st Department

Macau

File concerning the agreement concluded between the Bishop of Macau and the Apostolic Prefect of Canton regarding the exchange of jurisdictions over the island of Hainan and the district of Shao-King (or Shew-ing).

Year 1907

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SECRETARY OF STATE for the Navy and Overseas Territories

General Directorate of Overseas Territories 1st Division 2nd Section No.

[Marginalia, left, in red ink] Letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on 25-5-1907.

[Top right corner, handwritten] (Copy to accompany the letter to His Excellency)

His Excellency the Minister agrees. 16 May 1907 Horty

The Bishop of Macau, reporting on the recent opposition by the Apostolic Prefect of Canton to the implementation of the agreement on the exchange of jurisdictions on Hainan Island and in the district of Shao-king, requested in a letter of 8 February last that, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, steps be taken so that, both with the Government of Paris and with the Holy See, no doubts are raised that might cause obstacles to the prompt execution of the pontifical decree of 16 March 1904. Shortly afterwards he received a telegram from the prelate requesting permission to come to the UK, via Rome, in order to deal directly with the matter before the Holy See. In the enclosed letter of 2 April last, he expresses gratitude for having been granted that permission and reiterates the request for the aforementioned steps, made in the previous letter of 8 February. The fact that the prelate decided to go to Rome to deal with the matter meant that this Division did not report on the request; but, in view of his insistence, it is of the opinion that a copy of the letter of 8 February should be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting the dispatch of the necessary instructions to our

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Representative in Paris and to the Ambassador to the Holy See to seek removal of any difficulties that still arise on the matter.

Dated 14-5-1907. Z-Couto

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DIOCESAN GOVERNMENT OF MACAU

No. 27

[STAMP: DIOCESE OF MACAU]

[STAMP: OVERSEAS 18 MARCH 1907 Ref. No. 179]

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letters of 11 October and 17 December last, informing me of the communications received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from His Excellency the Portuguese Minister in Paris, concerning the agreement reached between myself and the Apostolic Prefect of Canton regarding the exchange of jurisdictions over the island of Hainan and the district of Shao-King (or Shiu-ing). Indeed, between myself and the delegates of that Prelate, after several lengthy conferences for which they purposely came several times to Macau, it was decided to proceed with the implementation of the Propaganda Decree of 3 February 1903, in the form applied by the Pontifical Decree of 16 March 1904. I intended, as I explained in several letters to His Majesty's Government, that in exchange for Hainan coming under the jurisdiction of Macau, in addition to the district of Shao-King, some sub-prefectures south of the latter, and I maintained this claim even after the explanations given by the Holy See regarding the Decree of 3 February, because the Prelate of Canton seemed willing to enter into an agreement with me on a different boundary. But in the end I desisted, because that Prelate would not concede what I claimed, and in exchange for what he was willing to concede, he demanded that I cede to him, in addition to the island of Hainan, the best part of the district that the Decrees of the Holy See

1st DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF OVERSEAS 2nd Section
Macau No. 39 11 March 1907

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I'm off to Macau!

Convinced that we could not reach an agreement, we took, in the final conference held on 4 September last, that resolution: – the island of Hainan would immediately pass to the jurisdiction of the Apostolic Prefect of Canton and the district of Shao-King (Shew-ing) would come under the effective jurisdiction of the Bishop of Macau. Furthermore, mid-October was set for a new meeting in which the reciprocal handover of the exchanged territories would take place and the relevant deed would be drawn up and signed, with the French missionaries subsequently abandoning the district of Shew-ing and the personnel of the Portuguese mission leaving the island of Hainan. This was the agreement that the Prelate of Canton stated in a telegram to Paris had been reached between myself and him, and which he later reiterated in a report. This is also the agreement to which our worthy representative to the Government of the French Republic refers in the communications made to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I must tell Your Excellency that I withdrew my claim to obtain greater compensation for the cession of the island of Hainan for several reasons: 1. The Pontifical Decree of 16 March 1904, explaining that of 3 February in a restrictive sense for me, did not permit me to claim other territories besides the district of Shew-ing; 2. In the course of the negotiations

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initiated by myself and the Prelate of Canton to reach an agreement on a new delimitation, I became convinced, as I have already said, of the impossibility of, by this means, reclaiming possession of any territories of our Patronage currently under the jurisdiction of the Paris Foreign Missions Society: 3rd. today I am convinced that the Shao-King district is more suitable for the Royal Patronage than the island of Hainan for several reasons: a) it is much closer to Macau, only a day's journey away, and upriver; b) it is much more populous, c) it has a much greater number of Christians, and many of them descendants of old families called to Christianity by our missionaries, and d) it possesses more and better churches and residences for missionaries.

Although more than three months have passed since the date set for the final handover of the exchanged territories, this has not yet taken place. This delay is due to the agreement between myself and the Prelate of Canton that missionaries from both jurisdictions would first visit the mission sites to give and receive information through inventories of what was in the different places.

This was done in Hainan where our missionaries acted most courteously towards the envoy of the Apostolic Prefect, the latter receiving a copy of the inventory signed by himself and the Superior of the Portuguese Mission

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which has accompanied him everywhere. In Shao-king it has not been easy to do the same because of a certain opposition on the part of some Christians, of little importance in reality, but to which the French missionaries, for their own ends, intend to give great weight. I do not want to assert that they are the promoters of this opposition, it is however evident that they are complicit in it, as I have already stated to Monsignor the Apostolic Prefect. The clergy of Canton did not receive well the Decree of 3 February 1903, and now that it comes to its execution, they seek by all means to prevent it or at least hinder it. It will suffice to tell Your Excellency that since the publication of that decree and because of it one of the priests of Canton has already been twice to Europe! Twice after it was resolved between myself and the delegates of the Prefecture, what is stated above, I sent missionaries from Macau to Canton bound for Shao-king, so that the clause of our agreement might be fulfilled there. The first time the missionary did not get past Canton, being dismissed on the pretext that the visit should begin via Hainan! The second time the missionary went as far as Shao-king, and to Yulit in the district, but withdrew immediately without taking notice of anything, because he was insulted by a group of women in the presence of and near the house of the local missionary,

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ECCLESIASTICAL GOVERNMENT OF THE DIOCESE OF MACAU

No.

without him making the slightest effort to put an end to such insults! I protested energetically to the Apostolic Prefect against this course of action, all the more undignified given that Monsignor had promised me to have the Portuguese missionary accompanied by a missionary priest, his delegate, who would ensure he was respected, and he did not fulfil what he had promised, for instead of an authorised priest, he sent a seminarian! Finally, on the 28th of January, I sent there the Superior of the Hainan Mission, Fr. Manuel José Pitta, whom I specifically summoned to entrust him with this mission. He has written to me from various locations informing me of how he has been received, promising to be back in Macau at the beginning of March. I must tell Your Excellency that the ill-will of the French missionaries among us is becoming increasingly evident, and I say French, because on the part of the Chinese missionary, the only one in the district, a very good and very worthy missionary, our missionary has been very well received, and in his parish, ours has suffered no affliction. So that Your Excellency may be convinced that I am not exaggerating by complaining in these terms about the French missionaries of Canton, it will suffice to note the following facts:

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1. The two European missionaries in the district, so as not to have to assist our missionary on the visit he was going to make there, withdrew to Shanghai and from there to Japan, abandoning the Christian communities, according to their Prelate, in response to my protest, having assured me that our missionary would be given full support so that the new visit would be crowned with success.
2. One of these missionaries, incidentally a very good priest, is personally interested in preventing the exchange, because he has been working for many years in the district capital and has spent his own money there on the construction of good churches. Now, I had known for a long time, from a good source, that for this reason, the clergy of Canton were very reluctant to cede that part of the district. I even noticed during the negotiations we held the greatest determination that that part of the district should not leave the jurisdiction of the Right Reverend Apostolic Prefect of Canton. Indeed, it was precisely in his Christian communities subject to this missionary that the opposition from the Christians emerged.
3. The Right Reverend Apostolic Prefect, instead of having our missionary accompanied this last time by a priest who would fulfil what he had promised me, sent with him Fr. Fourquet, that is, that missionary who since mid- 1903, has already been to Europe twice to see if he could get the Decree of 3rd of

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February of that year! Your good willingness to help our missionary, which was already to be presumed, was shown by Fr. Fourquet immediately in Canton before leaving for Sheu-ing, telling our missionary that perhaps the person in charge of the keys to the church and missionary residence might refuse to present them. This is what happened, with that priest, representative of the Prelate of Canton in a Christian community that his missionary had abandoned, pretending to be unaware that in such circumstances his duty was to seek out the local Mandarin, to make himself respected and obeyed, and not allow the Portuguese missionary to be deceived and insulted once more! As soon as Fr. Pitta returns to Macau, the final act of the reciprocal handover of the exchanged territories should take place, as was agreed between myself and the Monsignor Apostolic Prefect of Canton. It is possible that this Prelate will come with new pretexts to delay this ill-fated matter even longer. There is, however, no serious reason why he should be accommodated. The fear of the apostasy of the Christians which they claim to take advantage of, is unfounded, as I have already shown them, not to say feigned. Because the Christians in the whole district number little more than 2,000 and are distributed among many Christian communities, in two of which

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There has been little opposition, and that in the way I have already mentioned. I hope that the Government of the Royal Patron, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will take the necessary steps so that, both with the Government of Paris and with the Holy See, no doubts arise that might cause obstacles to the prompt execution of the Decrees. I will inform His Majesty's Government in due course of any occurrences that merit consideration.

God Save Your Excellency. Bishop's Palace in Macau, 8 January 1907

Illustrious and Excellent Sir Director General of the Ministry of Overseas Territories.

+ João Paulino d'Azevedo e Castro Bishop of Macau.

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ECCLESIASTICAL GOVERNMENT OF THE DIOCESE OF MACAU No. 70

[Stamped text in a box] OVERSEAS [Doodle] -6 MAY 1907 [Doodle] Ref. No. 291

[Handwritten text in red ink, crossed out] The copy did not arrive at the entrance
[Illegible word]

[Handwritten text in red ink in the left margin] Did not arrive at the entrance for the 1st department the copy to which this office refers 17-5-907.

[Handwritten text in black ink] Most Illustrious and Excellent Sir,

In my office of 8 February last to the Excellent General Directorate of Overseas, I promised to inform the Government of any occurrence worthy of mention regarding the question of Hainan and Shao-king. This is what I now do, quite badly impressed by the unexpected procedure of he who was provided as the Prelate of Canton. Father Pitta has finally completed his visit to the district of Shao-king where he stayed for a month, visiting almost all the Christian communities of any importance. Everything went well for him, being well received everywhere, except in two Christian communities, where, as I already mentioned in my aforementioned office, he suffered some opposition in which only some women were involved. To assess the worth of such opposition, it suffices to say that the two Christian communities only count, according to authentic documents provided by the Apostolic Prefecture, one 148 Christians, and the other 185, men, women, old people, children, young people and new Christians (these latter are attached to the Portuguese Mission)! And Father Pitta returned to Macau without

[Printed text in the bottom left corner] 1st DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF OVERSEAS 2nd Section No. 60 H. of May 1907

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that the Prelate of Canton should tell me, as I had requested, where and when it would be suitable for us to meet for the final decision. Urged by me in my letter of the 8th of this month in which I invited him to meet with me in Hong Kong on one of the days close to Easter, he replied to me 15 days later, in a letter which I attach a copy of, declaring to me, contrary to the commitment made to me, that he did not proceed with the revocation of the pontifical decrees for the reasons he alleges, (which are nothing more than vain pretexts already by me in advance refuted entirely) without consulting again the Holy See!!! On the day immediately following that on which I received this letter, I telegraphed the Overseas Ministry, informing them of this occurrence and requesting leave to go to the mainland, passing through the city of Rome and taking with me my secretary. Fortunately on the 28th I received the desired reply to my telegram with the requested leave. I am very grateful to Your Excellency for having deigned to grant my request, as I believe that as long as I do not personally deal with this matter

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which has given me so much to do, it will always be delayed, with serious detriment to us and our missions. Opportunely, in a report that I intend to make, I will explain all its details. Meanwhile, I reiterate what I requested in my aforementioned letter, namely: that the representatives of Portugal in Paris and at the Holy See be warned in good time so that they may try to avoid new complications and embarrassments that might be raised to the execution of the Pontifical Decrees. I must leave for Europe soon; all the delay is due to there being no space on the first mail ships that are to depart from Hong Kong for that destination.

God Save Your Excellency. Bishop's Palace in Macau, 2nd April 1907.

Most Illustrious and Excellent Mr. Minister of State for the Navy and Overseas Territories.

+ João Paulino d'Azevedo e Castro Bishop of Macau.

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Lisbon, 2 October 1906

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Directorate General of Political and Diplomatic Affairs

1st Department

[STAMP: OVERSEAS 8 OCT 1906 Ref. No. 5261]

[STAMP: MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS]

[SIGNATURES]

Further to Your Excellency's letter of 12 July last, by virtue of which I instructed our representative in Paris to press for the resolution of the matter concerning the exchange of jurisdictions between the bishops of Canton and Macao, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the French Government has just informed the Count of Langa-Rasa that those prelates have reached an agreement on the matter. At the date of issue of the note, the Government of the Republic was awaiting the report of the Bishop of Canton, nevertheless considering the exchange of jurisdictions as definitively settled, and the respective acts of possession as being implemented.

God

[Marginalia, left side, rotated 90 degrees counter-clockwise:] Letter to the Bishop of Macao on 11-10-1906

[Marginalia, left side, under the previous note:] File 72 1st Dept. 2nd Section It is appropriate to send our copy of this letter to the Bishop of Macao for his information. 9-10-906 MHenriques

[Footer, bottom left:] 1st DEPARTMENT -> OF <- DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF OVERSEAS 2nd Section [Signature: Nery] No. 10 J of 10 of 1906

page_00016

May God protect Your Excellency.

Your most affectionate and faithful servant, Minister and Secretary of State for the Navy
and Overseas Territories.

Luiz de Carvalho

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[Marginalia, left, vertical, handwritten in red ink:] Copy to the Bishop of Macao on 12-12-1906

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

General Directorate of Political and Diplomatic Affairs 1st Department

[Stamped in green ink:] OVERSEAS [Handwritten within the stamp:] L. 1 DEC 1906

[Handwritten in red ink:] J. Dep. No. 6218

[Handwritten in black ink:] Lisbon, 29 November 1906

[Handwritten in red ink:] Approved

[Handwritten in black ink:] No. 3

[Handwritten in black ink, partially illegible signature and text:] Your Excellency, Should the Minister agree 12 December 190[illegible] [Signature:] Monty

With reference to Your Excellency's letter of 12 July and in addition to my File 72. letter of 2 October last, I have the 1st Dept 2nd section honour of informing Your Excellency, according and this Dept it appears that our representative in Paris should be informed, to be communicated to the Bishop of Macao that the matter of exchanging the jurisdiction the fact contained in the present letter, of Hainan for that of the Shao- and tell him that, should he deem it King district has just been resolved in the terms appropriate, he should of the decree of the Propaganda Fide of 3 February request further steps from the French Gov. 1903 and the pontifical decree of 16 for the benefit of the March 1904, as a result of the ne- interests of the Royal gotiations undertaken between the Bishopric of Patronage he should indicate to be taken, the cor- responding in- Macao and the Apostolic Prefecture of Canton. structions comple- mentary to our representative in Paris. On 6-12-906 Mousigne Your Excellency would you please convey to me, if you deem it necessary, any supplementary instructions that on this matter should be sent to the Count de Souza Roza.

Yours faithfully,

[Footer, left:] 1st DEPARTMENT [Arrow pointing right] OF [Arrow pointing left] GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF OVERSEAS AFFAIRS 2nd Section Ref. No. 378 3 December 1906.

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May God protect Your Excellency

Most Illustrious and Excellent Sir, Minister and Secretary of State for the Navy and Overseas Territories

Luiz da Cunha e Azevedo

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[Handwritten annotation at the top right] District Bishop was authorised see dispatch of 27/7/907 He was authorised to come to Lisbon, via Rome, because he had to seek to deal with business there, but he was not given a commission for this, as stated in this opinion.

[Printed header] MINISTRY OF Navy and Overseas Affairs --- GENERAL INSPECTORATE OF Overseas Finance --- 2nd Section No. 152

[Handwritten annotation in the left margin] General Directorate of Overseas Affairs. 1st Division 2nd Section Refer to Nepas official note that the bishop of Macau was not tasked with going to Rome to deal with the question of the exchange of jurisdiction, but he decided him- self to go there, and only requested per- mission from the government. On 23-5-907 Z. Antº

[Main text] Information

Regarding the enclosed telegram from the Governor of Macau, dated the 1st of this month, which came with the information from the 1st Division of the General Directorate of Overseas Affairs, and concerns the travel expense allowance requested by the Bishop of that diocese; this General Inspectorate of Finance has the honour to state that since the same Prelate is going to Rome with his secretary on official business, and for this reason they were ordered to be granted passage at the State's expense, this Inspectorate believes that he is entitled to the appropriate travel allowance that is granted by law in similar circumstances among the advances made to public officials. The Governor of Macau, in a telegram dated the 4th of this month, asked if he could grant the Prelate expenses for this journey, and His Excellency the Minister, in a telegraphic reply of the same date, authorised his travel allowance to Rome.

General Inspectorate of Overseas Finance on 21 May 1907.

The Inspector General, [Signature] José Norasso de Abreu

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[Coat of Arms] MACAU PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT GENERAL OFFICE No. 18

Government Palace, Macau, 3 May 1907. Subject Confidential

[Stamp: MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES ARCHIVE]

[Stamp: OVERSEAS TERRITORIES E. 4 JUN 1907 1st Rep. No. 151]

Your Excellency,

I have the honour of confirming my telegram of the 1st of this month, worded as follows:
— "Overseas-Lisbon = "Bishop-requests-payment-travel- "expenses-Rome-claiming-
"winter-conditions-State-Request- "reply-utmost-urgency-(a) Go- "vernor." — and of
informing Your Excellency that the same telegram was prompted by the official letter
from His Reverence the Bishop of Macau, which I enclose for Your Excellency.

God Save Your Excellency. Government Palace, Macau, 3 May 1907. To His Excellency
the Minister and Secretary of State for the Navy and Overseas Territories. The Provincial
Governor, Pedro de Azevedo Coutinho

[Stamp: 1st DEPARTMENT OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF OVERSEAS
TERRITORIES 2nd Section No. 16 3 May 1907]

page_00021

GOVERNMENT GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE PROVINCE OF MACAU ---
oOo---

Copy.

Ecclesiastical Government of the Diocese of Macau. - No. 112. - Your Excellency. Having been authorised by His Excellency the Minister for Overseas Territories to go to the Kingdom, via Rome, where I shall have to stay for some time on service of interest to the Royal Patronage of the Crown, I request Your Excellency to kindly arrange for the Province's treasury, in addition to the passages already authorised by His Excellency the Minister for myself and my Secretary, to grant me some subsidy to help with the extraordinary expenses that I shall necessarily be obliged to incur on this journey and in the pursuit of the purpose for which it is intended. - God Save Your Excellency. - Bishop's Palace in Macau, 1 May 1907. - Your Excellency the Governor of the Province of Macau. - (a) + João Paulino d'Azevedo e Castro, Bishop of Macau. - Verified. Government General Secretariat in Macau, 2 May 1907.

The General Secretary, ayrhes

[Seal: GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF MACAU - GENERAL SECRETARIAT]

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Ministry of Naval and Overseas Affairs --- General Inspectorate of Overseas Finance ---
2nd Section

[STAMP] OVERSEAS [Handwritten] 22 MAY 1907 Ref. No. [Handwritten] 2512
[/STAMP]

[STAMP] OVERSEAS [Handwritten] 22 MAY 1907 Ref. No. [/STAMP]

This General Inspectorate has the honour of returning to the Directorate General of Overseas Affairs, with its report No. 152 of today's date, the enclosed telegram from the Governor of the Province of Macau, dated the 1st of this month, which was received with a report from the 1st Division of that Directorate General and which concerns the travel allowance to Rome requested by the Bishop of that diocese.

General Inspectorate of Overseas Finance, 21st May 1907.

[STAMP] GENERAL INSPECTORATE OF OVERSEAS FINANCE [/STAMP]

The Inspector General,

[Signature] José' Navarro de Andrade

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[Top left corner, printed] GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES
— 6th Department —

[Top left corner, handwritten] Copy as per on 1-5-1907 Scolio

[Top centre, handwritten] 2nd Section 16-5-1907 [Signature] to 1st Department

[Top right corner, stamped] GENERAL INSPECTORATE OF FINANCE OVERSEAS
TERRITORIES [handwritten] 20 MAY 1907 [stamped] Finance No. 2293

[Top right corner, handwritten] to Ministry Inspectorate 7-V-1907 [Signature]

[Centre, handwritten] Telegram from Macau on 1 May 1907

Bishop requests allowance subsidy expenses trip Rome alleges this is in the State's
interest; request reply with utmost urgency. (Signed) Governor

[Stamped seal in the centre] ARCHIVE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF OVERSEAS
TERRITORIES

[Handwritten text below the seal] 1st Dept. 2nd Section In accordance with the order of
27 March last, written on the attached telegram from the bishop, he was granted leave to
come to the mainland, via Rome, with the main purpose of dealing with the Holy See, the
matter of the exchange of jurisdiction on the island of Tai- wan, to which the Apostolic
Prefect of Canton raised difficulties. A telegram was sent on the aforementioned date to
the Governor of Macau to pay the prelate's passage and that of his secretary. As can be
seen from this telegram the bishop also intends to have his travel expenses subsidised.
This Department is not aware of any legal provision that permits the payment of such a
subsidy. The General Inspectorate of Finance for Overseas Territories must be consulted.
On 1-5-1907. [Signature]

[Bottom left corner, printed and handwritten] And no. 172—October 1906—3,000 copies

1st FINANCE DEPARTMENT FOR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES [Red line]
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES 2nd Section [Red line]
1917—NATIONAL PRESS—1906-1907 of [handwritten] May 190[handwritten]7

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GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF OVERSEAS - 6th Department

True copy on 23-3-1907 Motta

[Marginalia, left side, rotated 90 degrees counter-clockwise] And no. 172 — October 1906 — 35:000 — and it was on 27-3-1907-

To the 1st Department I agree P. 27.3.07 M de Ornellas.

[Stamp] GENERAL INSPECTION OF FINANCE OVERSEAS [Handwritten] O-LO MAY 1907 Sec. No. 2203

Telegram from Macau on 23 March 1907

Prelate Canton refuses execution of pontifical decree exchange jurisdiction, request permission go Rome, via Numa, take secretary, deal with business. (Signed) Bishop Macau.

[Stamp] MINISTRY OF NAVY AND OVERSEAS GENERAL DIRECTORATE

To the Department of the 2nd section

In the attached dispatch of 8 February received in this Department on 18 of the current month, the Bishop of Macau explained the terms in which with the Apostolic Prefect of Canton he concluded the agreement for the exchange of jurisdiction of the island of Hainan for that of the district of Shan-king, of which His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs gave notice in a dispatch of 29 November 1906. Delaying, however, the realisation of the agreement due to difficulties raised by the French priests of Shan-king, the Bishop requested action from the Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, so that no doubts would arise, both with the Government of Paris and with the Holy See, regarding the execution of the pontifical decree of 1904, relating to the aforementioned exchange of jurisdictions.

1st DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF OVERSEAS 2nd Section
No. 3 26 March 1907

In view of this telegram it appears to the Department that it is appropriate that the Bishop be authorised, as he requests, to go deal

[Printed text at bottom left] 1317—NATIONAL PRINTING OFFICE—LISBON—1907

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on the matter in Rome, awaiting your further communications to then request from the Foreign Office what it, perhaps, still deems necessary.

If Your Excellency so agrees, you should telegraph the prelate, granting him leave, and the Governor of Macao, ordering the payment of passages to the same prelate and his secretary to come to the UK via Rome.

On 23-3-1902. MHenriques

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1st Dear Sir,

p 25-7-07 ms

[Stamp: ULTRAMAR | 25 JUL 1907 | 1 Rep. N.o 449]

[Circular stamp: MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS | ARCHIVE]

I have the honour to forward to Your Excellency a copy of the communication made to me on the 19th of this month by His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State of His Holiness, that the matter of the exchange of the island of Hainan and the District of Sheun- ing between the Apostolic Prefecture of Canton and the Bishopric of Macau has been definitively resolved, as was just, so that the execution of the decree that ordered it cannot be challenged or delayed. Happily I found both on the part of His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State and on the part of His Eminence the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda the best willingness to ensure that justice was done to us! I also have the honour to send to Your Excellency a copy of the memorandum with which I supported my claim before the Holy See. Having achieved the purpose of my visit to Rome, I must shortly depart for Portugal, where I expect to arrive in early

[Stamp: 3RD DEPARTMENT | GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF OVERSEAS | 2nd Section | No. 106] [Handwritten in red ink:] 26 July 1907

[page_00027](#)

d'Agosta

God Save Your Excellency Rome, Portuguese College, Via Banco Santo Spirito, 30th July 1797.

Most Illustrious and Excellent Sir, Councillor of State, Minister of the Navy and Overseas Territories, Lisbon.

João Paulino de Azevedo e Basto Bishop of Macau

[Stamp: OVERSEAS HISTORICAL ARCHIVE]

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MEMORANDUM

regarding the exchange of jurisdictions in Hainan and the District of Shao-hing (or Shiwing), between the Apostolic Prefect of Canton and the Bishop of Macao

[STAMP: OVERSEAS HISTORICAL ARCHIVE]

This matter has three phases: 1° - Preparation of the Decree of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide which ordered the exchange of jurisdiction. It began in 1898 and continued until 1903, the year of the Decree's publication. 2° - Decree of the Sacred Congregation of 3rd February 1903: its notification; dispute concerning the second article; interpretation thereof. From that date until 15th December 1905. 3° - Negotiations between the Apostolic Prefect of Canton and the Bishop of Macao for the execution of the Decree. From 9th April 1906 until 20th March 1907.

I.

By the Concordat of 21st February 1857 stipulated between the Roman Pontiff and the King of Portugal, the Patronage of the Portuguese Crown in the Far East, formerly very extensive, remained reduced in China, to the Province of Guangdong, except for the island of Hong Kong(1); and the Concordat of 23rd June -----

(1) - See Topographical Map of Guangdong Province. Doc. I.

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1886 confirmed this provision of the previous Concordat regarding the Patronage in China and the Diocese of Macao (Art. XI). Therefore, according to Concordat Law, not yet repealed, the entire Province of Guangdong, with the exception of the island of Hong Kong, belongs to the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Macao. Notwithstanding this, the "effective" jurisdiction of the Bishop of Macao in China, which for a long time was limited to the small territory of Portuguese rule, only encompasses, besides this territory, the District of Zhongshan and the adjacent islands, including that of Hainan, which by virtue of the apostolic letters "Universis Orbis Ecclesiis" of 15 June 1874, passed to the jurisdiction of Macao. Even today, most of that vast province, established as an Apostolic Prefecture since 1850, continues under the jurisdiction of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, which entrusted it to the Paris Foreign Missions Society.

Lately, this Society, not satisfied with the vast territories entrusted to the zeal of its 70 missionaries, and in which there are more than thirty-six million souls to evangelise, began again to covet the island of Hainan to exercise its spiritual influence there, and to this end addressed

----- (1) - See the "Treaties stipulated between H.M. the Most Faithful and the Holy See", Page 3 et seq., especially article 6 and annex A and page 20 et seq. and esp. art. II. Doc. 2.

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stopped all its activities, either by trying to introduce its own missionaries under the pretext of coming to the aid of the Portuguese Missionaries and with the promise of serving under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Macao, something which was not granted to them(1), or by arranging for the French Government to initiate negotiations with the Portuguese Government to conclude an agreement aimed at obtaining from the Holy See the transfer of that island back to the jurisdiction of the Apostolic Prefect of Canton(2). This agreement was effectively concluded and the Holy Father, favourably receiving the request of the two Governments concerned, issued a Decree which satisfied the ardent desire of the Congregation of Foreign Missions, ordering at the same time compensation for the Diocese of Macao.

II. On 3 February 1903 the Pontifical Decree was published by the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide containing the following three Articles: "Decree.
. 1° - That henceforth the island of Hainan be placed under the jurisdiction of the Apostolic Prefect of Guangzhou; _ _ _ _ _
_ _

(1) - Documents 4, 5, 6, 7. (2) - Memorandum from the French Legation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Lisbon. Doc. No. 8.

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2nd - That the Bishop of Macau's jurisdiction be extended to the Ciao-King District, which borders the Hean-Scian district.

3rd - That such boundary changes should be carried out provisionally only, similar to the change made in 1874, in which by the Bull of 15th June the aforementioned island of Hainan was annexed to the Diocese of Macau.

His Holiness, having carefully considered the reasons presented on both sides, has deigned to ratify and confirm the aforementioned boundary change and has ordered the present Decree to be drawn up."

The text of this Decree was communicated by His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State to the current Bishop of Macau on 17th February of the same year and was received by him in Lisbon while he was there passing through on his way to his Diocese, after his episcopal consecration in Angra.

Only after his arrival in Macau in June of that year and after the initial duties which naturally arose from the administration of the Diocese he was entering, was the Bishop able to properly understand the subject of the cited Decree, and having understood it, he immediately endeavoured to initiate negotiations with the other interested party, the Apostolic Prefect of Canton, so that they might both proceed with its implementation by mutual agreement.

On the part of this Prelate, however, there arose from the outset

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From that time difficulties relating to the interpretation of the second article of the Decree arose, believing that, according to this, the Bishop of Macao should receive, in compensation for the island of Hainan, only the District of Shao-King, seeing as only this is designated therein.

For his part, the Bishop of Macao claimed that the District of Shao-King and the three Sub-Prefectures of San-ing, San-ui and Shuntac, situated between the two Districts, should fall under his jurisdiction, 1st because the second article says: "Districtum Shao-King qui Heang-Scian Districtui adjacet", and the perfect and complete contiguity of the two Districts does not exist, except through those three Sub-Prefectures. 2nd because this was precisely what his predecessor, the Bishop of Macao, D. Giuseppe Emmanuele de Carvalho, requested in exchange for Hainan, namely "some Districts and particularly that of Shao-King, bordering the West River, close and contiguous to the District of Heung-Shan".

The controversy came to the attention of the Holy See, which in its high and enlightened judgement, after careful and serious examination of all the elements that formed, at the time, the basis for the compilation of the aforementioned Decree, saw fit to declare: "That the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Macao, in compensation for the cession of the island of Hainan to the Apostolic Prefecture of Kuam-tom, should extend to the District of Chao-King,

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but not to the three Sub-Prefectures of San-Ning, San- Oui and Shien-Tak."

The Holy See further declared "that should the Portuguese and French Governments agree upon a boundary delimitation different from that established, it will not fail to examine the Governments' conclusions, reserving, of course, the right to take those decisions that it deems most appropriate for the good and the health of souls".

This declaration, dated 16 March 1904, was communicated to the two Prelates of Canton and Macao.

The latter, considering that the second part of the declaration allowed him to entertain the hope of obtaining for his diocese, in exchange for the island of Hainan, in addition to the district of Shao-King, the three aforementioned Sub-Prefectures, made further new attempts together with the relevant offices, but without the desired result. Although, at the beginning of 1906, in response to a documented complaint, accompanied by a detailed account of the facts, which he recently addressed to the Apostolic Nunciature to bring such facts to the attention of the Holy See(1), he received the following dispatch: "That having the Emin. Cardinal Secretary of State taken note of all that was set out, the Holy See saw no reason ----- (1) - It must exist in the Secretariat of State where it was sent by the Apostolic Nuncio in Lis- bon.

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sufficient to return to the matter, and modify what had already been decided".

Rome has spoken, the case is closed.

III.

It was necessary and urgent to implement the Decrees, because the work of Evangelisation was being seriously prejudiced by such delays.

The negotiations for the implementation of the Decree of 3 February 1903, interpreted by that of 16 March 1904, were initiated by the Apostolic Prefect of Canton, who wrote to the Bishop of Macao for this purpose on 9 April 1906. From this date onwards, in order to deal with this matter, he delegated Priests of his jurisdiction, who went to Macao six times, armed with sufficient powers, and wrote a long series of communications and letters, in which he suggested and proposed his ideas, clarified, approved and confirmed the decisions taken by mutual agreement, which can therefore rightly be considered as authentic acts of the sessions held between the delegates of Canton and the Bishop of Macao, insofar as it drew upon what was discussed there.

From the outset, the Apostolic Prefect was of the opinion that the Decree of 3 February 1903 should be implemented, unless another delimitation of jurisdictions was agreed upon, to be submitted to the approval of the Holy See(1).

----- (1) - See Doc. No. 9, of 3 May 1906.

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Several meetings were held, in which various proposals were made by both sides. Initially, the Delegates seemed willing to cede to the Bishop of Macao whatever he requested to the south and west of the District, in exchange for a portion to the north. He requested the three Sub-Prefectures of San-Nig, San-Ui, and Shun-Tac, and ceded two Sub-Districts north of the Tropic of Cancer. Later, he relinquished the Sub-Prefecture of Shun-Tac because the Delegates tenaciously maintained that it was not convenient for them to cede it, and instead requested that of Yeung-Kong, and to the north ceded, in addition to the two already mentioned, one more Sub-District and a strip of land connecting the three north of the Tropic. The Delegates, for their part, ceded all this, but demanded all that remained north of the Si-Kiang River, or at least what extends from that side to a little west of the District capital, this remaining with all the territory on that side of the river and to the east incorporated into the Apostolic Prefecture. The point they most strongly urged was the District capital, which was the ancient capital of the two Kouangs, before its replacement with Canton.

In the meeting of 10 August, the Bishop of Macao remained firm in his proposal and, in the event that it was not accepted, requested the execution of the Pontifical Decree, namely: the Apostolic Prefecture would receive the island of Hainan, and the Diocese of Macao the District of Shau-King.

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On 16 August, the Apostolic Prefect, writing to the Bishop of Macao, stated that he rejected the first of the two proposals and opted for the only one that conformed to the Decrees of Rome, and that therefore he, the Apostolic Prefect, would receive the island of Hainan, and the Bishop of Macao the District of Shew-ing only, without the Sub-Prefectures of Shun-Tac, San-ui and San-ing(1).

The agreement for the implementation of the Pontifical Decrees was thus stipulated. It only remained to fix the day on which the exchange and handover of the Christian communities and Chapels should take place, as stated by the Apostolic Prefect of Canton, who from then on promised to send his Delegates again, which he did several days later. Indeed, on 17 August the Delegates met with the Bishop of Macao and in this meeting it was agreed that the handover of jurisdictions would take place on 15 October, and it was established that, before this date, the island of Hainan and the District of Shew-ing should be visited respectively by a missionary from their own jurisdiction and one from the other for the purpose of making a visual inspection with the inventories of the movable and immovable property of the different missions; decisions which Bishop Merel fully approved, also designating the individuals who would act as his Delegates in all these ----

(1) - Letter from Bishop Merel dated 16 August 1906. The essential points are in the preceding text.

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actions, indicating the order in which these would occur, up to the point of withdrawing the missionary personnel currently employed there(1).

Here are the Monsignor's words in his Note of 16 August: "Following the conversations that Your Lordship kindly had with Fathers Fleu- reau and Gauthier regarding the exchange of the eccle- siastical jurisdiction of Hainan, I have the honour of informing Your Excellency that of the two solutions proposed I accept the one that is most in line with the views of the Sovereign Pontiff. Your Lordship will cede to the mission of Kouang-tong the Island of Hainan and in compensation take the Prefecture of Ciau-King alone without the Sub- Prefectures of Shun-tac, San-woui and San-ing, in accor- dance with the Decree (No. 4345) dated 16 March 1904, which establishes the meaning of that of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda dated 3 February 1903. "It remains to fix the day" on which this ex- change and the handover of the Christian communities and chapels will take place. I shall take the liberty of sending Fathers Fleu- reau and Gauthier to come to an agreement with Your Excellency on this matter and settle this question definitively". In his letter of 8 September, the Prefect Apostolic said to the Bishop of Macao: ----- (1) - Letters of 8 September and 11 Oc- tober 1906. (The essential information is further on in the text).

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"I willingly subscribe" to Your Lordship's decision which sets the 15th of October next as the day on which we will exchange the jurisdictions of Hainan and Shiu-ing to comply with the Decree of the Holy See dated 16th March 1904.

As you suggest, a Priest of Your Diocese will visit the various Christian communities to be exchanged in concert with a Priest of our Mission in order to draw up a report on these various Christian communities.....

.....To this end, I am taking the liberty of sending Father Gauthier to Your Lordship, requesting that you accredit him to the missionaries of Hainan to make this visit with them."

On the eleventh of October, Monsignor writes again to the same:

"After having settled (Father Gauthier) according to your instructions the inventories with the Reverend Father Pit- ta (missionary from Macao in Hainan) he will travel to the districts of Shao-king to continue your inventories in concert with the Reverend Father Gomes (missionary from Macao designated for the visit to Shew-ing). Once these inventories are completed, Father Gauthier will present himself before Your Lordship, who will be so good as to settle with him the final arrangements relating to the exchange of the ecclesiastical jurisdictions.

Our missionaries will leave the Districts of Sau-kin when they are aware of these arrangements and will be able to travel to Hainan to replace Reverend Father Pit- ta who will have full authority to return to Macau and to bring back the Sisters (the Canossian Sisters of Macao

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"...who are serving in Hainan)."

We deliberately transcribe here the very text of the letters of the Most Reverend Apostolic Prefect to demonstrate the accuracy of all our as- sertions, and that we are telling only the truth, nothing more, nothing less.

As soon as the agreement mentioned above was made between the two Bishops, the Most Reverend Apostolic Prefect of Canton hastened to inform the Government of Paris of this fact, initially by telegram, which clearly shows how urgent it was for him to see this matter concluded, then with a detailed report.

For its part, the Government of the Republic immediately communicated it to the Portuguese Minister in Paris, and he in turn brought it to the attention of his own government, with the two Governments understanding and satisfied with the resolution of this matter, and with the question of Hainan Shao-king as definitively resolved in accordance with the Decrees of the Holy See(1).

Here is what the Minister of Foreign Affairs communicated to the Minister of the Colonies regarding this matter on 2 October: ----- (1) - Notes from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Minister of the Colonies and from the Director General of the latter to the Bishop of Macao, the first dated 2 October 1906, and the second dated 12 December 1906. (The essential part is in the above text).

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Regarding Your Excellency's note dated 12 July last, by virtue of which I instructed our representative in Paris to insist on the resolution of the matter relating to the exchange of jurisdictions between the Bishops of Canton and Macao, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the French Government has now notified Count De Souza Rosa that it has almost concluded an agreement with the Bishops on the matter. At the date of dispatch of the note the French Government was awaiting the report of the Bishop of Canton, "considering the exchange of jurisdictions as definitively settled", and the related transfers of possession as underway.

In the note of 12 December the Directorate General of the Colonies communicated to the Bishop of Macao the following: "By means of a note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 29 November last, His Excellency the Minister of the Navy and the Colonies was informed that the question of the exchange of jurisdiction of Hainan with that of the District of Shao-king "had been resolved", as our Representative in Paris informed us" in the terms of the Decree of Propaganda 3 February 1903 and the Papal Decree 16 March 1904 as a result of the negotiations instituted between the Diocese of Macao and the Apostolic Prefecture of Canton".....

Meanwhile, the agreed visits to the island of Hainan and the District of Sew-ing were proceeding, with the missionaries delegated for this purpose taking note

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of the missions and their state from the point of view of movable and immovable property and the number of Christians.

In Hainan everything proceeded well, thanks to the tact and goodwill with which the Superior of the mission agreed to receive the delegate of Mgr. Prefect Apostolic of Canton, to accompany him throughout and to give him firsthand knowledge of everything and of the inventory previously made with the greatest clarity and good method.

We would like to say the same regarding Sew-ing, where, for the visits to take place and be completed, it was necessary to send successively from Macao three missionaries, the visits of the first two having been unsuccessful as a result of obstacles, sometimes raised, sometimes consented to by those who had a duty to smooth out all the difficulties. Everything leads one to believe that there was a plan hatched and well-conceived to make the visits of the Macao missionaries to that District come to nothing, in order to make it seem that it was impossible, or at least not convenient and prejudicial to the work of evangelisation for this district to pass under the jurisdiction of Macao!

The need to be brief obliges us not to expand on this point, on which we would have much to say, proving everything with documents of unquestionable value. However, it would cost us much to have to show ourselves severe, even in our own defence, when

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that charity may suffer from this.

Having successfully completed the visit of the last missionary sent from Macao to the District of Shew- ing, we hoped that the Right Reverend Apostolic Prefect, who had more than once complained about the damaging delay occurring in the definitive resolution of this matter, would have hastened to agree to the invitation we extended to him on 7 March of this year for a meeting, in which we would have had the final say on the matter, since, as we knew, he was bound by the peremptory replies of the Holy See, by the instigations of the French Government(1), by his honour, which was involved in an agreement stipulated with him and communicated by himself to the Governments and accepted and ratified by them.

Vain hope! To our invitation, Monsignor replies that he considers it his duty to consult the Holy See again and to await, before proceeding to the exchange of jurisdictions, the decision that would be issued!!

(1) - Indeed, the Delegates of Canton, from the very first meetings, said they were authorised to declare that it was the will of the French Government, in order to please the Government of Portugal, that its Prelate should reach an agreement as soon as possible with the Bishop of Macao concerning the question of Hainan and Shew-ing; and the French Minister in Peking, Mr Bapst, passing through Macao, visiting the Bishop of the diocese, confirmed this even further, namely that the Right Reverend of Canton was ready to agree to the Bishop's demands. This visit by the Minister coincided with the arrival of the Delegates of Canton in Macao for the first time, followed by many other visits interspersed with insistent correspondence. There were rumours that the French Government was inclined to seize the assets of the missions and especially Canton Cathedral; this explains such extraordinary activity.

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Mgr. Merel attempts to justify his response with three considerations, which we have previously refuted in our correspondence with that Prelate and which we shall now discuss.

The considerations upon which Mgr. Merel bases his argument are three: 1st - "OPPOSITION" of the Christians of Shew-ing to being transferred from that District to the jurisdiction of Macao and fear that the Christian communities "will become apostates", as happened in Hainan. 2nd - DISPROPORTION between Hainan and Shew-ing, from the double perspective of properties and the number of Christians, necessitating greater compensation, especially since the disproportion was increased by the "sale of the two houses" in Hoi-ow, capital of the island, belonging to the Hainan mission. 3rd - INTENTION of the Portuguese Government, expressed by its Representative in Paris, to return to the status quo ante prior to the decree of 1903(1)

1st Opposition of the Christians, fear of apostasies, decline of the Hainan Mission.

a) The number of Christians scattered throughout the ----- (1) - Note from the Apostolic Prefect of Canton dated 20 March 1907. Doc. No. 10.

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Shew-ing district's small and scattered Christian population(1), according to authentic documents provided by the District's missionaries, does not exceed 2609(2); the 1905-06 statistical overview of the entire apostolic prefecture attributes an even smaller number of Christians, only 2361(3).

From this, one can see how much weight can be given to the opposition of such a small number of Christians, and in such unfavourable conditions for concerted resistance!

In fact, the opposition Monsignor mentions was mainly comprised of women and boys incited by them, as unanimously reported by the two Portuguese missionaries who were the object of such opposition: Fr. Roliz and Fr. Pitta. And it only manifested in two places: in the capital of Shew-ing and in a Christian community a good distance to the North, both under the same missionary, Father Clauset; a circumstance not to be overlooked. In the other Christian communities, the Portuguese missionary who visited them was well received by the Christians, as attested by the Prefecture Apostolic's own missionaries(4).

Now, in the capital, there are barely 148 Christians.

(1) - See Topographical Map of Kouang-tom Province and the inventories of the Shew-ing missions Doc. I. II. 12. 13.

(2) - See Inventories of the Shew-ing missions Ibid.

(3) - See "Administr. miss. Kwan tong 1905-06" Doc. 14.

(4) - Letters from Frs. G.B. Lii. G.B. Wong and Gaston Boucheron. Doc. 15, 16, 17.

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Christians and the other Christians number little more than this(1), and how reduced their number would be if one subtracted those who could not or did not want to appear in such demonstrations, and especially the elderly, children and the long-standing Christians, who, according to the saying of a missionary of the Apostolic Prefecture, absolutely want to receive the Portuguese Fathers(2)!

Indeed there are in these Christian communities many long-established families converted to Christianity by the former missionaries of Macao(3), and who therefore are naturally fond of the Portuguese Fathers. The same missionaries of the Prefecture recognise and confess this affection of the long-standing Christians towards the missionaries of Macao(4).

This fact is testified to by the Christians and even the Gentiles of the various places of Chi-na, where the Fathers of Macao currently reside, and especially the circumstance attested by the missionary of St. Lazarus of the city of Macao, who says it is customary that during the course of the year many Christians come from the Apostolic Prefecture and from the district of Shew-ing to Macao to attend our festivals, to confess and receive communion here as many of them do for the Easter duty(5).

(1) - See the inventories of the Missions of Shew-ing and that of Fr. Clauset. Doc. II.

(2) - See Letter of Fr. G.B. Wong written from the College of the Sacred Heart in Canton on 17/3/1906. Doc. 15.

(3) - See Inventory of Fr. Gervais. Doc. No 12. Note.

(4) - Letters of Frs. G.B. Lii, G.B. Wong and Gaston Boucheron. Doc. No 15, 16, 17.

(5) - Letter of Fr. Athanasius Tang. Doc. No 18.

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No less eloquent is the fact that Christians come to Macao from the Apostolic Prefecture in search of young women from our mission of St. Lazarus or pupils from our schools and orphanages to marry them and start families, and, what is truly worthy of note, often it is the missionaries of the Prefecture themselves who send them for this purpose! The same happens with the young men who, to educate themselves, come from the Apostolic Prefecture to our educational establishments, and, what is truly curious and even astonishing, is that it is the Clergy directing Canton that requests their admission to the establishments(1). On this matter we will not elaborate further so as not to be obliged to reveal the authors and promoters of the alleged opposition of the Christians.

b)

The fear of apostasies neither justifies nor explains the about-turn of the Apostolic Prefect. 1° - If this cause were true, it would have existed from the very beginning of the matter and from then would have prevented, or at least hindered, any initiative on the part of the clergy of Canton in favour of the change of jurisdiction. In truth Bishop Merel knew well the character of the Chinese. He himself says(2) "Qui ne connait- -----
----- (1) - Note of the Superintendent of the Orphanage of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. Doc. No. 19.

(2) - Letter from Bishop Merel 24 Nov. 1900.

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these Chinese cannot imagine the difficulty, the sacrifices involved in keeping them faithful to the laws of the Church."

It is not plausible that the mistake of exposing the Chinese to the danger of apostasy was noticed so late, as Monsignor certainly knew them for a sufficient time and was then a missionary among them for many years and has been Apostolic Prefect of Kouang-tom since 1901!

2° - This fear, therefore, is not sincere. And indeed, one cannot reasonably admit that Mgr. Merel, for so long from May to November, in a long series of documents written in his own hand(1) and through his Delegates, who during this time came "six times" from Canton to Macao to negotiate the execution of the Pontifical Decrees, remained firm in his intention to execute the Decrees, concluded an agreement with his colleague in Macao, officially communicated this agreement to Europe, allowed the two Governments of Paris and Lisbon to agree on it and consider the matter resolved in the way indicated in the agreement itself, and suddenly, only because the second missionary from Macao sent to Shew-ing was badly received in a Christian community that in its entirety counts only "148 souls", including the elderly, children, and old Portuguese families, began to -----
----- (1) - These are twelve letters and notes, the originals of which we possess, like all the other writings before and after.

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He recoils for fear of apostasy! (1). And this four years after the publication of the Decree obtained at the request of the Society of Foreign Missions of Paris, of which that worthy Prelate is an illustrious member! And the most curious thing is that this childish fear is feigned even after it has been demonstrated to Monsignor with irrefutable arguments the futility of such a pretext (2). The Chinese in general, and particularly the Christians, are of good nature, firm and tenacious in their religious beliefs. Christians do not apostatise except in critical circumstances, and when they see themselves abandoned by all religious support. Now the Diocese of Macao today possesses valuable resources to attend to all the Christian communities of Shew-ing and promote their growth. And to replace the "4 missionaries" that the Apostolic Prefecture keeps there, Macao will immediately send double that number, and ten or twelve religious auxiliaries to the mission, if necessary!

c) As for the "decline of Christianity in Hainan", Mgr. Merel cannot invoke it to justify his fears of apostasy, and neither does he have the authority to do so, given that it is established that the French and per- ----- (1) - Rev. Fr. Joseph Gonzales Roliz SJ. The first who was sent there, Fr. Gomes SJ, immediately in Canton met with failure because those who could and should have let him go to Shew-ing did not, and he had to re- turn to Macao without having set foot there!

(2) - Letter from the Bishop of Macao to the Apostolic Prefect, 10th December 1906. Doc. No. 20.

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but the Foreign Missions Society, although they had no intention of doing harm, which we do not dispute, are ultimately the authors of this decline. Effectively, Hainan, which from 1850 was under the jurisdiction of the Apostolic Prefecture of Kouang-tom, passed in 1876 under the jurisdiction of Macao by virtue of the Apostolic Letters "Uni- versis Orbis Ecclesiis" dated 15 June 1874.

At this time the Mission numbered, according to official data, 838 Christians, several chapels and properties.

In 1884 when the Tonkin War broke out, the Christian communities had not diminished and were in the same state in which the missionaries of the Apostolic Prefecture had left them, when they withdrew(1).

(First cause). - But war broke out and Hainan, which politically was part of the province of Kouang-tom, suffered the same fate as this and the province of Kouan-si(2). The Christian communities were attacked, the houses of the Christians and the chapels looted, the Christians persecuted, many of them murdered and the priests suffered the same fate or fled to escape death(3). ----- (1) - See the Report sent by Fr. Battista, Superior of the Hainan mission to the Bishop of Macao. Maps N° 1 and N° 2. Documents N° 21 and 23. Final note of the latter.

(2) - See: "General History of Foreign Missions". Vol. 3. Page 522. Doc. N° 24.

(3) - See: "General History of Foreign Missions". Vol. 3 Page 522.

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In Hainan, as in other parts, the Christians were considered complicit in the war that the Europeans were waging against China, and the priests, although not French, were considered as such, or, at least, as friends and spies of the French(1).

Most of the Christians fled and avoided the missionaries so as not to be persecuted as Christians or foreigners (which was the same thing) and they no longer presented themselves, so that, when peace returned to the island, only a few remained faithful.

The Christian communities, however, were not abandoned. Hainan always had missionaries, even at the height of the persecution. Those from Macao were always sent there, and it should be noted that there was simultaneously more than one priest, sometimes three, then four, and even five Portuguese and Chinese missionaries, whereas under the jurisdiction of the Apostolic Prefecture, from 1850 until 1876 only twice and for short intervals were there two or three priests together(2).

During the time of the Portuguese mission, schools and catechumenates were opened, asylums were built, chapels were restored and built. The apostate villages began to enter into communion ----- (1) - See: Letter from M.T. Walters, British Consul in Hainan, addressed to Fr. Giuseppe Vincenzo Costa, superior of the mission, in which he advises him to withdraw from the mission, the locals considering him French or, at least, a friend of theirs. No. 25.

(2) - See the "Report of the missionaries who have evangelised the island of Hainan from 1630 until the present", and the "Report of the missionaries who were in Hainan from 1876 until the present year 1907". Doc. No. 21 and 22.

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Tolica. The orphanages were entrusted to the meritorious Canossian Sisters, who at first numbered four there and latterly were already nine in number, having in a little over three years baptised more than 200 children, not to mention the baptisms administered by them outside the orphanages. In Hoi-ow, plans were being made to open a school for girls and a missionary residence, for which suitable houses had been purchased.

(Second cause). - But in 1898, that is, almost ten years ago, discussions began regarding a change to the mission and its transfer to the jurisdiction of the Apostolic Prefecture, at the initiative of the Society of Foreign Missions, which insisted on Hainan at all costs(1).

Now it was quite natural that from the moment this became clear, zeal began to diminish and the work of the missionaries began to weaken, despite the fact that some valuable assistance had been sent there. The fear of losing the mission truly weakened the spirits of all, both missionaries and natives. The houses in Hoi-ow did not fulfil their intended purpose and from 1903, the year of the publication of the Papal Decree, the work of evangelisation was entirely paralysed in the face of the prospect of the imminent handover of the mission to the jurisdiction of the Apostolic Prefect of Kouang-tom(2). ---

----- (1) - See Documents No. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. (2) - One of the first acts of the current Bishop -24-

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Never had Hainan possessed so many and such good elements of Christianisation, as it had at the date of that Decree - five Portuguese and Chinese missionary priests and nine European and Chinese religious auxiliaries of the mission, belonging to the Institute of the Canossian Daughters of Charity, flourishing schools and nurseries. Moreover, in 1904, on the occasion of the jubilee celebrations of the Immaculate Conception, celebrations never before seen were held there(1). In what a flourishing state would the mission of Hainan find itself today if the persecution of Christians provoked by the Franco-Chinese war and the cooling of zeal resulting from the negotiations for the exchange of jurisdictions had not come to relax and paralyse the work of evangelisation!? With what sincerity then do we see Bishop Merel speak in Hainan to justify his fears of apostasy and detriment to religious interests!? Even in the territories under the jurisdiction of the Prefect Apostolic, the Christian communities were abandoned during the Tonkin War(2). ----- of Macao, upon reaching his diocesan see, bringing with him the text of the decree, was to order the superior of the Hainan Mission, that from then onwards the missionaries should limit themselves to preserving what was there, seeing that the mission was soon to pass to another jurisdiction. Note of 2 July 1903.

(1) - See "Bulletin of the Eccles. Gov. of the Diocese of Macao", 2nd year Page 297 et seq.

(2) - See "Gen. Hist. of Foreign Missions". Vol. 5. Page 522.

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And some lay abandoned and without effective aid for a long time. Moreover, it is little more than two years, that is, since 1904, twenty years after the persecution, that Christianity, once flourishing on the island of Shan-Sham, where the great Saint Xavier died, once again has a missionary who with difficulty has managed to resurrect everything from the ruin caused by the hatred of the Gentiles and the destructive action of time! And yet it was there that the active and intelligent zeal of the Apostolic Prefect Mgr. Guillemin had erected grand and beautiful monuments of art in honour of the glorious Apostle of the Orient and to which the Empress Eugénie and the French Government had contributed. And in this culpable abandonment remained for so many years that venerable centre of piety where frequent pilgrimages of the faithful of the Far East are directed, and especially from Macao, Hong Kong and Canton(1).

2. Disparity between Hainan and Shew-ing from the point of view of properties and the number of Christians; Compensations; sale of houses in Hainan.

a) This objection had already been refuted by the Bishop of Macao in his note of 7 March ----- (1) - See "Sanchoan, The Holy Land of The Far East". Booklet recently published in Hong Kong by a Religious of the Society of Jesus. Page 25.

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This year, in response to another letter from the Prelate of Canton dated the 4th. Here is what was said then, and which has lost none of its force because the Mr. Apostolic Prefect made no counter-reply, limiting himself to repeating the objection. The Bishop of Macao said: "Concerning the disproportion that the inventories show to exist between Hainan and Shew-ing in terms of both properties and the number of Christians, we have nothing to do with it since the Holy Father, after a careful examination of the facts, rationibus hinc inde allatis mature perpensis, as the decree of 3 February 1903 of Propaganda expresses it, ordered the exchange of the island of Hainan for the district of Shew-ing. Indeed, the decree is "absolute"; it imposes no condition, requires no compensation. The jurisdiction to be exchanged is a territorial jurisdiction which, by its nature, draws to it, with the territories, the Christians and the things belonging to them. The decree makes no distinction between these things. How then can one wish to separate them to make them the subject of a separate agreement? "Ubi lex non distinguit, nemo potest distinguere..... The decree even adds "ad instar mutationis quae peracta fuit anno 1874 in quo per Bullam diei 15 Junii supra dicta insula Hainan Macaonensi Dioecesi adnexa fuit". And indeed the island of Hainan in 1874 (or rather in 1876, the year in which the apostolic letters were executed) passed to the jurisdiction of Macao, without the Apostolic Prefecture

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If Kouang-tom were to demand any compensation, despite the property and chapels that the mission possessed there, and notwithstanding the number of Christians which, according to authentic documents, amounted to 838(1).

It is surprising that Mgr. Merel, who ought to have known Hainan well, since he had already been there, had his missionaries close at hand, who frequently travel there, some of whom boasted to the Bishop of Macao of knowing well the state of the mission on that island, it is surprising, I say, that only after concluding the agreement with his colleague for the execution of the decrees that order the exchange of jurisdictions, he came to perceive disparities and demand compensation! (2).

Quite the contrary to what Mgr. Merel claims, the compensation ordered by the Holy See is to the Bishop of Macao that it should be given. Indeed: 1. He was obliged by the Decree to cede the island of Hainan, which by concordat rightfully belonged -----
----- (1) - See Apostolic Letters "Universis Orbis Ecclesiis" of 15 June 1874: Proceedings of the meeting held in Canton between Mgr. Guillemin, Apostolic Prefect, and Dean Emanuele Lorenzo de Gouveja, Delegate of the Bishop of Macao, and the Note or Letter from Mgr. Guillemin to the Superior of the Portuguese mission in Hainan dated 19 October 1876. Report of Fr. G.G. Batt., Superior of the Hainan Mission, 7 December 1890. Doc. Nos. 26, 27 and 23.

(2) - See all the correspondence exchanged between the two Prelates. We have in our possession the originals of all the letters and notes of Mgr. Merel and in none of these documents until the conclusion of the agreement and its approval in the note of 16 Aug. 1906 is there the slightest mention of disparities and compensation.

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maintained, and therefore it was he who was entitled to receive compensation. 2nd This was what was expressly ordered by the Holy See, as can be seen from the rescript of 16 March 1904: "The Holy See has declared that the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Macao, in compensation for the cession of the island of Hainan.... should extend to the District of Chao-King".....

b)

As for the argument concerning its disproportion between Hainan and the District of Shew-ing, deriving from the sale that the mission of Hainan (sic) made of two houses that it owned there, this objection of Mgr. Merel was already refuted by the Bishop of Macao in his note of 31 December 1906, in response to another from Monsignor dated 17th of the same month and year.

Mgr. Merel persists in the objection, ignoring all reason presented against it. It's a bad system, however convenient. Among other things, this is what was said at the time to the Prefect Apostolic: "The Hainan mission had nothing to do with these two houses. They belonged to the Macao administration in the same way as many others that we have in Hong Kong and Singapore. Father Pitta (Superior of the mission) in selling these houses was acting not in his capacity as Missionary of Hainan, but as procurator of the Macao administration.(1)

Communication from the Bishop of Macao to the Prefect Apostolic of Canton, 31 December 1906.

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Monsignor understood the obligation to demonstrate the falsity of what was alleged in order to insist on the objection, but he did not do so, finding it more convenient to assert without proof. In fact, that Prelate had neither nor could have any proof whatsoever that the said houses belonged to the Hainan mission.

They had been purchased with funds sent from Macao, with the aim of serving as a girls' school and a residence for missionaries: but they were never used for this purpose, nor did the Macao administration transfer them to the Hainan mission, because some time later negotiations began for the transfer of Hainan to the jurisdiction of Canton; and from when they were purchased until they were sold, they were always under diocesan administration(1). In the name of this administration they were sold at the end of June 1906(2).

3.

Intention of the Portuguese Government and note from the Portuguese Minister in Paris proposing the "status quo" prior to the Decree of 1903.

One is astonished when Mgr. Merel

(1) - See Inventory made by the Superior of the Sem-tui-san Mission, on 25 April 1905. Doc. 28.

(2) - See Communication from the same Superior dated Hoi-ow, 16 October 1906, accompanied by the form or receipt template that the purchaser of the houses required for the money to be transferred to him in Macao on the same terms. Doc. Nos. 29 and 30.

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which ever took into account the just claims of the Portuguese Government, which were the same as those of the Bishop of Macao, except to oppose them, now comes, when everything had been agreed for the execution of the Papal Decrees, to oppose it with a proposal from that Government, of which it had already taken note prior to the negotiated treaties and the compromises already made!

Indeed, Mgr. Merel says in his third and final consideration that the Portuguese Government in January 1906 had declared to the French Government that it preferred to return to the status quo prior to the 1901 convention (meaning the Decree of 1903) in the event that the exchange of jurisdictions was not carried out in the way it desired. Effectively this was so, and this is explained by the keen desire that the Portuguese Government had that the most unfortunate state of indecision in which it found itself not be prolonged any further, seeming to it that this was the easiest way. Moreover, it knew very well the desire on the other side to recover Hainan.....

The French Government, however, did not want to take any decision without first consulting the Prelate of Canton(1), to whom it immediately made known the above-mentioned note so that when in April of that year negotiations were initiated, the delegates of the Prelate of Canton could declare, as indeed

(1) - See Letter from His Excellency the Minister of Portugal to the Bishop of Macao dated 26 September 1906. Doc. No 31.

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They declared that, in order to satisfy the request of the French Government, prompted by the latter, these negotiations had been proposed and carried out by the Apostolic Prefecture. Now from the moment in which the negotiations for the agreement began until they ended, neither Mgr. Merel in writing, nor his delegates in the sessions held for this purpose, "ever" spoke of returning to the "status quo"! It was solely a question of this: either to arrange a different delimitation of jurisdiction from that ordained by the pontifical decrees: or, in the event that the interested parties did not agree on this, to resolve upon the execution of the decrees. It was around this second solution that the wills harmonised, and thus the agreement was made which had the further approval of Mgr. Merel on 16 August 1906, as we have already seen.

Desiring to promptly satisfy the request of the French Government, the Prelate of Canton hastened to inform them by telegram, adding that in a report he would opportunely explain everything. And so he did, the French Government understanding that the agreement concerned the execution of the Decree of the Propaganda dated 3 February 1903, explained by the rescript of 16 March 1904(1).

(1) - See Letter from the Portuguese Minister in Paris to the Bishop of Macao dated 26/9/1906. Doc. 31.

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The Paris Government informed the Lisbon Government of all this, with both Governments agreeing and considering the matter of the exchange of jurisdictions resolved in accordance with the Holy See's decisions. The Bishop of Macao was officially informed of these facts well before the end of last year and subsequently received confirmation(1).

Why does Mgr. Merel now emerge after so long, on 20th March 1907, with the intentions of the Portuguese Government expressed in a decision of 24th January 1906, which was rendered null and void as a result of the subsequent resolutions? Does this not simply demonstrate once again that he is merely looking for pretexts to avoid fulfilling the venerable will of the Sovereign Pontiff, expressed more than once? And is this futile whim prolonging the sad state of the missions concerned, to the serious detriment of souls and the work of evangelisation?!

We now recall that one day, shortly after our arrival in the Far East, when it was already known in Canton that in exchange for Hainan Island we were claiming, in addition to the Shew-ing district, the three Sub-Prefectures of San-ing, San-ui and Shun-tac, -----

(1) - See Letter from the Foreign Minister to the Minister of the Navy and Overseas Territories (11/10/1906) and letter from the Director General of Overseas Territories to the Bishop of Macao, 12th December 1906.

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One of the most influential Priests of the Canton Clergy, upon meeting a missionary from Macao, told him: "If your Bishop becomes too demanding, matters will go all the way to Rome and he will risk being left with nothing."

Regarding all the troubles caused by the respectable Prelate of Canton (and we have only mentioned a small part of them here), it can be seen that a hidden hand, not publicly accountable for such errors, is working to move and direct events, to achieve that supreme desideratum "of leaving the Bishop of Macao with nothing".

With nothing, yes! And this because they laugh at a Concordat, although quite recent, in which is engaged the august word of the Vicar of Jesus Christ! Since only in this way can it be explained that neither San-ing, nor San- ui, nor Shun-tac this time were included in the jurisdiction of Macao, due to obstacles raised that prevented the Holy See, whose verdict we accept, from slightly expanding the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Macao in a territory "that belongs to him by concordat law".

With nothing, yes! All that is intended in this cunning manoeuvre is to leave the Bishop of Macao without Shew-ing!

And so they will proceed from victory to victory until Hainan follows the same path, which will not be difficult, because the decline already brought about by cunningly implemented measures will

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following the annihilation and death of that poor mission, worthy of a better fate, and therefore the irremediable loss of it for the jurisdiction of Macao! And then our adversaries will end up where they wanted to begin, that is, taking possession of the island so longed for and with the advantage of not having to submit to the jurisdiction of a foreign Prelate! In those words they threatened us with recourse to Rome. To Rome we came and here we are! Thirsting for love and justice, since we are legitimate children, and not bastards, of this sweetest Mother of all the Churches, we appeal to her authority. And we do so, animated by that same confidence, if not greater, with which the great Paul, availing himself of his title of Roman citizen, appealed to the pagan Caesar not always just, nor with a father's heart towards his unfortunate subjects.

Rome, 13 June 1907, Feast of St. Anthony of Lisbon.

[STAMP: ARQUIVO HISTORICO ULTRAMARINO]

+ John, Bishop of Macau

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His Excellency the Minister agrees. 20 April 1908

Death

[Stamp: OVERSEAS HISTORICAL ARCHIVE]

[Stamp: OVERSEAS] [Stamp: Royal 28 APRIL 1908] [Stamp: 4th Rep. No. 225]

[Handwritten note in top right corner:] Urgent Honourable and Most Excellent Sir

[Handwritten note in right margin:] Official communication to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 8 May 1908

1st Rep. 2nd section A copy of this official communication must be sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in order to give the necessary orders on the matter. 30 April 1908

2nd

The matter of the exchange of jurisdictions between the Apostolic Prefect of Canton and the Bishop of Macau on Hainan Island and the district of Shao-king (or Shaw-ing) having been resolved satisfactorily for the Royal Patronage of the Crown, as I was notified in an official communication from the Directorate General of Overseas Territories dated the 31st of this month of April; and as it is appropriate that the pontifical decisions relating to the said exchange be implemented as quickly as possible so that what was recently ordered by the Holy See in this regard may be carried out, as I have already had the honour to inform your Ministry; I ask Your Excellency to be so kind as to request the intervention of His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs so that he may obtain from the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of China recognition of the new state of affairs and the protection of the Chinese authorities for the Missions of the Royal Patronage and their respective missionaries in the district that is to be

[Printed form with handwritten entries:] 1st DIVISION OF THE 2nd DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES 2nd Section Macau No. 42 28 April 1908

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incorporated in the Diocese of Macau.

May God preserve Your Excellency. Lisbon, 27th April 1908

Yours sincerely,

Your Excellency, Councillor, Minister and Secretary of State for Naval and Overseas Affairs.

+ João Paulino d'Azevedo e Castro, Bishop of Macau

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[Printed header] MACAU PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT GENERAL OFFICE

No. 97

Government Palace, Macau, 19 April 1907.

Subject

Receipt acknowledged of the telegram dated 27-3-07 authorising passage for the Bishop and his Secretary to the Kingdom.

[Handwritten text] Your Excellency,

[Stamp] OVERSEAS <20 MAY 1907> 1 Rep. No 300

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's telegram of the following content: "Lisbon - 27 - 3 - 07 - Governor - Macau - authorise - payment - passage - Bishop - and - Secretary - to - come - Kingdom - via - Rome stop..... (a) Minister" and to inform Your Excellency that following receipt of the aforementioned telegram, the necessary orders were given to the senior treasury department of this province to authorise payment for the cited passages, with the Bishop and his Secretary due to depart for Lisbon, via Rome, on the mail ship leaving Hong Kong on 8 May next.

God Save Your Excellency. Government Palace, Macau, 19 April 1907.

His Excellency the Minister and Secretary of State for Naval and Overseas Affairs.

Provincial Governor, Pedro de Azevedo Coutinho

[Printed and handwritten footer, left side] 1. DEPARTMENT -> OF <- GENERAL
DIRECTORATE FOR OVERSEAS AFFAIRS 2. Section No. 69 22 May 1907

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Your Excellency,

[Stamp: ULTRAMAR | 22 JUN 1907 | Rep. N° 397]

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that, having departed Macau on the 7th and embarked in Hong Kong on the 8th of May last, I disembarked in Naples on the 3rd of this month and arrived in Rome on the same day. The very next day I visited His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State of His Holiness, with whom I broached the matter that obliged me to come to Rome.

On a second visit, which I made to His Eminence a few days later, it was agreed that I should present him with a documented report, a task which I have already completed and which I will submit in the next few days.

I hope that justice will be done. I will duly inform Your Excellency of any developments that deserve to be brought to your attention.

His Holiness the Pope was good enough to grant me an audience, one day this week, in which he showed the greatest interest in Portugal and especially in the diocese of Macau, whose state I briefly described to him, to his great satisfaction. I also visited His Excellency the Portuguese Ambassador to the Vatican and have already

[Left Margin Text] 1st DEPARTMENT OF THE 5th DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES 2nd Section No. 82 26th June 1907.

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Honoured by a visit from Your Excellency, who despite your ailments strives with keen interest for the success of our cause.

God Save Your Excellency Rome, Portuguese College, 15th June 1907

Most Excellent Sir, Councillor of State, Minister of the Overseas Navy.

+ João Paulino de Azevedo e Castro Bishop of Macao

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Foreign Office [Illegible handwritten note] Directorate General of Political and Diplomatic Affairs 1st Department

File 116.

1st DEPARTMENT «S DA S^a» GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES Section No. 19/6 of 1907

Lisbon, 17 June 1907

[Stamp: OVERSEAS TERRITORIES] [Stamp: 19 JUN 1907] [Stamp: Rep. No. 3002]

Dear Sir, [Stamp: OVERSEAS HISTORICAL ARCHIVE]

Instructions have already been sent to His Majesty's Ambassador in Rome and the Portuguese Minister in Paris to carry out, the former with the Holy See and the latter with the government of the Republic, the necessary steps so that the Apostolic Prefect of Canton ceases to raise obstacles to the implementation of the agreement concerning the exchange of jurisdictions on the island of Hainan and in the district of Shao-King, as you requested in your letter of 25 May last.

The document accompanying that letter does not make it clear whether the handover of jurisdiction in Hainan by the Bishop of Macau has already been completed. If it has not yet been completed, allow me to suggest to you that there would be an advantage in indicating to the Portuguese Prelate the advisability of not handing over his jurisdiction, as long as

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unless the simultaneous handover of the jurisdiction in Shao-King by the Prefect of Canton is guaranteed.

May God protect Your Excellency.

Most Illustrious and Excellent Sir, Minister and Secretary of State for the Navy and Overseas Territories.

Zunino Martins

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p.a. Dr. Urb Bishop of Ma- caia is in Rome; advisable to telegraph him about the matter

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Portuguese Ambassador - Rome

I consider it worthy and appropriate not to surrender Marian jurisdiction unless the simultaneous surrender of Shantung jurisdiction by the prefect is guaranteed, to best leverage 20-6-1907 - Foreign Ministry to Navy

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GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

6th Department

Certified copy on 20-6-1907

To the 1st Department

Telegram received from Macau June 1907

Bishop will depart for Rome 8 May. (Signed) Governor.

[Stamp: MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES - ARCHIVE]

Form No. 172—October 1906—3,000 copies

1st DEPARTMENT OF THE 5th GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF OVERSEAS
TERRITORIES 2nd Section No. 8 20 June 1907.

1917—NATIONAL PRINTING OFFICE—1906-1907

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Copy

No. 24864 = To the Most Illustrious and Reverend Sir = I am pleased to communicate to Your Most Illustrious and Reverend Lordship that, based on the written and verbal negotiations regarding the exchange of territories between that Diocese and the Apostolic Vicariate of Canton, it has been established that when Your Lordship has returned to Macao, the Most Reverend Apostolic Vicar of Canton, either personally or through a delegate, will come to an agreement with Your Lordship so that, without further delay, the prefecture of Zhaoqing (Chao-king) may be annexed to that Diocese and Hainan (Hui-nam) Island to the Vicariate itself. The Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide will give similar instructions to the aforementioned Vicar. = I take this opportunity to declare myself, with sentiments of most sincere esteem = Your Most Illustrious and Reverend Lordship's = Servant = Rome, 19 July 1907 = Mons. Giovanni Paulino Castro e Azevedo = Bishop of Macao. = (a) Cardinal Merry del Val. =

[Circular stamp: PROPAGANDA FIDE - HISTORICAL ARCHIVE]

Agrees with the original. Macau, 20 July 1907. Fr. Antonio Maria de Moraes Sarmiento Secretary to His Excellency, the Right Reverend Bishop of Macao.

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MINISTRY OF STATE for the Navy and Overseas Territories

General Directorate of Overseas Territories 1st Department 2nd Section

[Stamp: GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES]

Camond p 26-8-907 [Signature] His Excellency the Minister agrees. Seen 6 August 1907

[Marginalia, left side, written vertically in red ink:] Office of Macan 10 November 1907

[Marginalia, top right, written vertically:] Office of the Foreign Minister on 5-9-1907

In agreement, however, with what should have been clarified to the Prelate regarding the houses and sales of those houses; whether they were of the Diocese, or of the Missions, as the attached copies of a were bought and sold without authorisation from the Prefect or our Minister in Paris and from the note of the French Government regarding the exchange of jurisdictions, between the Bishop of Macau and the Apostolic Prefect of Canton on Hainan Island and in the Thao-King district, appears the declaration of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic that the aforementioned exchange of jurisdictions has not yet been carried out because the Bishop of Macau has not approved the agreed payment of the difference of 41,073 patacas between the values of the assets of the Portuguese mission of Hainan and those of the French mission of Thao-King. The aforementioned note replies that that difference arises in part from the sale, which, with the negotiations for the exchange already underway, the Bishop of Macau made of two properties in Hoi-how, under the pretext that they did not belong to the mission because they depended on the episcopal residence. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, forwarding these documents with the enclosed letter, requests the necessary clarifications promptly.

Riu 23-8-907 Morty 8-8-907 On 23 August 1907 the Bishop of Macau in a letter the requested clarifications. He transcribes excerpts of correspondence exchanged with the Apostolic Prefect of Canton to prove that he was never obligated to compensate the French mission for any assets of the Thao-King mission, and, nor could he do so because the pontifical decree of 1903 did not establish it, rather it determined that the exchange of jurisdictions be carried out following the example of the change determined in 1874 of the mission of Deon to the diocese in which no compensation was declared.

To this Department

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The sale he made, during the negotiations of two houses in Hoi An, states that these properties did not belong to the Hainan mission. They had been acquired with money sent from Macau by Bishops and Medeiros, were always attached to the Diocesan Administration and in the name of that Administration were sold for 12,000 patacas. Therefore, a copy of the Bishop's letter must be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so that, through our Minister in Paris, the French Government can be informed that there is no place for compensation to carry out the agreement made between the two prelates.

It is also appropriate to send to the same Ministry a copy of the communication made to the Bishop of Macau, on 19 July last, by the Cardinal Secretary of State of His Holiness informing him that the Holy See had definitively resolved the question of the exchange of jurisdictions from which neither the challenging nor the delaying of the execution of the pontifical decree that ordered it can occur. 23 August 1907. Z. Pinto

This Department proposes to inform that the Bishop of Macau never in his official correspondence on the matter made any reference to such compensation. Even in the last letter, dated from Rome on 20 July last, without saying anything similar in this respect, he announced that the matter had been definitively resolved by the Holy See so that neither the challenging, nor the delaying, of the execution of the decree relating to the exchange of jurisdictions can occur.

Since the Bishop of Macau, in the aforementioned letter of 20 July, announced his arrival in Lisbon at the beginning of the current month, he must, as soon as he arrives, be heard on the subject of the French government's note in order to give the clarifications that are requested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 6 August 1907. Lu Pinto

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs ---*--- Directorate General of Political and Diplomatic Affairs 1st Department

File 116

[Handwritten slash] 2

[Handwritten annotation in the left margin] No. 11

1ST DEPARTMENT OF THE 1ST DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES 2nd Section No. 336 6th of August 1907

Lisbon 26th July 1907

[Stamped text in a box] OVERSEAS TERRITORIES To the Illustrious and Most Excellent Sir 1st Dept. No. 3424

[Circular stamp] OVERSEAS HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

With regard to the letter from Councillor Ayres de Ornellas dated 25th May last, concerning the exchange of jurisdictions between the Bishop of Macau and the Apostolic Prefect of Canton, on the island of Hainan and in the district of Shao King, I have the honour of forwarding to Your Excellency the enclosed copies of a letter from His Majesty's Minister in Paris, and of a note which the French Government addressed to him in response to the representations made on the recommendation of this Secretariat.

As Your Excellency will be good enough to see, the Government of the Republic alleges that the exchange of jurisdictions has not yet been carried out, because the Bishop of Macau has not agreed to the combined payment of the difference between the values of the assets of the Portuguese mission of Hainan and those of the French mission of Shao King.

On this point I request Your Excellency to kindly send me the necessary clarifications with all possible speed.

GOD

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May God protect Your Excellency.

Most Illustrious and Excellent Sir, Minister and Secretary of State for War
and acting Minister for the Navy and Overseas Territories

[Signature]

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Foreign Office

Directorate General of Political and Diplomatic Affairs 1st Division

Portuguese Legation in France Document attached to official dispatch No. Copy - Extract
- from Monsieur de Souza-Roza, Portuguese Minister. Paris, 13 July 1907 - Minister,

The Bishop of Macao, having complied with the orders from Rome concerning the exchange of the Hainan district for the Zhaoqing district (not including the three sub-prefectures of Shunde, Sanning and Sanhui which do not form part of it) had accepted the principle of compensation to cover any difference that might exist between the value of the property belonging to the French mission in Zhaoqing and that of the Portuguese mission in Hainan; the amount of this compensation was to be established through an inventory which was drawn up on site by the representatives of the two bishops and signed by them. This inventory has revealed a difference of 41,093 piastres between the value of the properties

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from the Portuguese district and those of the French district. This considerable figure results in part from the sale made during the negotiations themselves by Bishop d'Azevedo of the two properties of the Portuguese mission at Hoir hodo, the centre of the district, alleging that these houses belonged to the episcopal estate and were not included among the general assets of the mission. The discussion of this point would be moot if the legitimate compensation provided for were paid by the Bishop of Macao to the Bishop of Canton. - In the present circumstances, the matter presents itself as follows: the two bishops are bound by the decision of Rome and the exchange of districts will be carried out as soon as Bishop d'Azevedo has handed over to Bishop Clérel the 41,073 piastres representing the difference in value between the assets of the district of Tchao King and those of the district of Hoaman. - Yours sincerely - etc-

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-a) S. Pichon. — Agreed. -Paris, 20th July 1907.— a) Bartholomeu Ferreira. — Agreed. Political Affairs Department, 26th July 1907. José Duarte Ramalho Ortigão Secretary of the Legation

[STAMP: OVERSEAS HISTORICAL ARCHIVE]

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Foreign Office

Foreign Policy and Diplomatic Department 1st Division

Portuguese Legation in France - No. 44-Pa- ris, 19 July 1907 - Dear Sir = In accordance with the instructions given to me by Your Excellency in a dispatch of 15 June, I requested this Minister of Foreign Affairs to intervene, with the aim of preventing the French missions from hindering the implementation of the agreement concerning the exchange of ecclesiastical jurisdictions of the District of Zhaoqingfu and the island of Hainan. - Having explained to Mr. Pichon all the circumstances mentioned in the documents sent to me by Your Excellency, the Minister promised to look into the matter and give me a reply after hearing from the Apostolic Prefect of Canton, who had recently arrived in Europe and had gone to Rome, from where he would return in a few days. - The Minister recently sent me the note that I have the honour of forwarding to Your Excellency by copy, in which Mr. Pichon states that the impediment to the implementation of the agreement lies in the Bishop of Macau's refusal to pay the compensation resulting from the inventories made by the delegates of the two

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Bishops regarding the value of the properties of their respective missions. These inventories of the French mission's properties show a value exceeding 41073 patacas compared to the value of the Portuguese mission's properties. Once this sum is paid, no obstacle will remain to the complete realisation of the agreement. After receiving this note, I also addressed Mr. Pichon to ascertain whether the Bishop of Macau had indeed made the commitment to pay the aforementioned compensation, to which the Minister replied that this had been the understanding with the Apostolic Prefect of Canton, and that nothing else had motivated the inventories that had been made and signed by the delegates of the two bishops. Under these circumstances, it seems impossible to me to persuade the French Government to decide to intervene in this matter in any way. - God Save Your Excellency - Most Illustrious and Excellent Sir Counsellor Mariano Monteiro, Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. - (a) Count of Sabuga Roza. Conforms = Department of For-

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Political Affairs on 26th July 1904 José Duarte Pedroso Junior Secretary of Secrets

[Stamp: OVERSEAS HISTORICAL ARCHIVE]

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I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 10th instant, accompanied by copies of a letter from His Majesty's Minister in Paris and a note which the French Government addressed to him concerning the exchange of jurisdictions to be effected between the Bishop of Macau and the Apostolic Prefect of Canton. This sets out, as a condition for the execution of the pontifical decree which ordered the exchange of jurisdictions in Hainan and Shew-ing between those two prelates, compensation of \$41,073 patacas by the Bishop of Macau to the Prelate of Canton.

The reasons on which the note bases this demand are two: 1st That the Bishop of Macau admitted the principle of compensation intended to make up the difference that might exist between the value of the assets belonging to the French mission of Tchao-King and those of the Portuguese mission of Hainan; the figure for this compensation being the result of inventories made by the delegates of the two prelates, which show a difference of \$41,073 patacas between the assets of the Portuguese district of

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gues and those of the French district. 2nd: the sale that the Bishop of Macau made, during the negotiations, of two properties of the Portuguese mission of Hoi-how, which contributed to that large difference.

To satisfy what Your Excellency requests of me, I have the honour of countering the two assertions of the Note as follows:

1st It is not true that I had admitted the principle of compensation for the difference in values resulting from the inventories.

Indeed, the negotiations undertaken between myself and the Prelate of Canton for the execution of the Pontifical Decree lasted almost a year, from 9 April 1905 to 20 March 1907. Now, until the conclusion of the agreement for the execution of the Decree there was never any mention of compensation, as can be seen in all the correspondence exchanged between myself and Monsignor Merel.

The terms of that agreement are contained in the letter from the Prelate of Canton dated 15 August 1905, which I will reproduce later after a brief explanation.

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Explanation for better understanding. Here is the explanation. In the meeting of the Canton delegates with the Bishop of Macau held at the latter's residence on the 9th of that month, the Bishop of Macau, wishing to reach an agreement with the Prelate of Canton, committed to ceding to this Prelate some sub- districts in the far north of the Shiu- hing district, provided that, in addition to the rest of this district, he received in exchange the sub-prefectures of Yeung-kong, San-ui and San-ing to the south of the same district. In the event that this solution did not please Monsignor Merel, the Bishop of Macau wanted the pontifical decree of 3 February 1903 to be implemented, explained by a declaration from the Holy See of 16 March 1904. This is what the Prelate of Canton says in his letter of 16 August, taking the agreement as concluded with his colleague, after specifying the terms of that agreement: "Pour faire suite aux conversations que Votre Grace a biens voulu avoir avec les P.P.

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Fleureau and Gauthier, regarding the exchange of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Hainan, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that of the two proposed solutions, I accept the one most in line with the views of the Sovereign Pontiff. Your Grace will cede the island of Hainan to the mission of Guangdong and in compensation will take the sole prefecture of Zhaoqing without the sub-prefectures of Shunde, Xinhui, and Taishan, in accordance with the decree (No. 4345) dated 16 March 1904, which establishes the wish of that of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith dated 3 February 1903.

It remains to fix the day on which this exchange and the handover of the Christian communities and chapels will take place. I will take the liberty of sending Fathers Fleureau and Gauthier to confer with Your Excellency on this matter and settle this question definitively.” Not a word about compensation to be given to the Apostolic Prefecture. On the contrary, according to the worthy prelate, it is the latter that has to give compensation to the Bishop of Macau, and...

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This was agreed.

The agreement for the execution of the papal decree was therefore made. It only remained to set the date for its implementation - "It remains to officially determine," says Bishop Merel, who immediately and to this end announces that he will send his delegates to Macau.

These did indeed arrive, accompanied by a letter from their prelate dated 3rd September, in which not a word is said regarding compensation.

In the meeting held on this occasion, the following was agreed: 1st. the papal decree will be executed on the 15th of October next; 2nd. the districts will be previously visited by delegates of the two jurisdictions to ascertain, with the aid of inventories, what belonged to the respective Missions.

The delegates of the prelate of Canton suggested that Macau should provide compensation to the Apostolic Prefecture; but this was restricted to what some of its Mission

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narios had disbursed for works carried out for the benefit of the missions. That this was another arrangement, because the only permissible one was indicated in the declaration of the Holy See of 16 March 1904, the execution of which was being discussed, and should be given by the Apostolic Prefecture to the Diocese of Macau. Even so, the Bishop of Macau did not wish to agree to the proposal, as will be seen from the reply given by him to the prelate of Canton, with which that prelate complied without replying. Let us see the letter that provoked this reply. On 8 September 1905, Monsignor Merel, Apostolic Prefect of Canton, wrote to the Bishop of Macau: "I willingly subscribe to Your Lordship's decision which sets 16 October next as the day on which we will exchange the jurisdictions of Hainan and Seibing to comply with the decree of the Holy See dated 16 March 1904. According to your advice, a Father of your diocese

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visit the various Christian communities to exchange information in order to draw up a report on these various communities and to judge the compensation that it will be appropriate to grant. To this end I am taking the liberty of sending to Your Lordship Fr. Gauthier, asking you to accredit him to the missionaries of Hainan to make this visit with them."

Here we see that the prelate of Canton accepted the two resolutions taken jointly by his delegates and the bishop of Macau, - concerning the day for the execution of the pontifical decree and the visits to be made to the districts. He was mistaken however in saying that, according to the opinion of the bishop of Macau, these visits would have a double purpose: "to draw up a report on these various Christian communities and to judge the compensation that it would be appropriate to grant."

In my letter of 2 October 1906, in reply to the preceding one, I pointed out the inaccuracy of this part and re-established the truth in the following terms, which clearly show the purpose for which I had proposed the inventories, and which

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rejected the idea of any compensation. "Everything at Hainan seems to indicate Your Highness's debt, considering the inventory that Father Pitta made of everything. I pray Your Highness to order that the same be done at Shew-ing."

The only intention was to provide the missionaries with a means of knowing the movable and immovable property of the missions they were about to take possession of. Such was the purpose of the inventories.

"As I pointed out to Fathers Flureau and Gauthier, I cannot commit in advance to making any compensation to your missionaries, not even for the expenses they incurred for the benefit of the missions they administered. It seems to me that all this must be the responsibility of these gentlemen or the jurisdiction they represent. I have always thought the same with regard to Hainan, despite the large sums of money sent from Macao and those they have

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drawn from their own resources for the completion of the buildings they have undertaken and brought to fruition.

I instructed Fr. Pitta (Superior of the Mission in Hainan) to make a detailed account of all these costs and to add it to the inventory solely for the purpose of making known what the Macao mission and its mission- aries have spent on the asylums, houses and chapels of Hainan, for the benefit of the Christian communities; but without any intention of demanding compensation from anyone. It was with a similar aim that I asked Rev. Frs. Fleureau and Gauthier to add notes to the items in the inventory of the Shao-King mission where appropriate, to make known all that has been done at the expense of the Canton mission and its worthy and zealous missionaries. I think this will be the best way to avoid any doubts and disputes which can only be detrimental to the greater

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the matter at hand.” Could one be any clearer or more categorical in determining the intended purpose of the inventories, the meaning of the figures that would appear in them, and in diverting them from the purpose Monsignor Merel wanted to ascribe to them, which, if it prevailed, would have the most dire consequences for the realisation of our agreement? Endless questions would arise, which we wanted to immediately put a stop to. Monsignor Merel acquiesced to this response because in his letter of 11th October referring to it, he made no reply, and on the contrary said that his delegate in Hainan would carry out the inventories in accordance with the instructions I had given to Father Pitta, and didn't say another word about compensation. Here are the contents of the said letter in which express preference is given to my aforementioned letter of 8th October and the instructions I said therein I had given to Father Pitta:

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Rev. Father Pitta who will have full authority to return to Macau and to bring back the sisters (the religious missionary sisters in the service of Hainan)." In this communication, the Prelate of Canton not only agrees with the instructions given by the Bishop of Macau for the preparation of the inventories in accordance with how the latter had explained and specified them in the communication to which the former is responding, but also outlines the plan that should be followed until the final exchange of jurisdictions and abandonment of the missions by the respective missionary personnel. Everything, according to him, would be carried out without either party having the obligation to give to the other any compensation for differences in values found in the inventories. In the subsequent negotiations held between myself and the Prelate of Canton, whether directly or through our missionaries, there is not a single word nor an act in which I acknowledged the Prelate of Can

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so entitled to any compensation from my side to compensate for the inequalities encountered in the comparison of the inventories of the two missions. The simple fact of proposing and agreeing that the inventories should be made with the designation of values does not imply for either party the obligation nor the right to compensation, since there was no express and prior mutually accepted declaration that they would be made for that specific purpose and since the Pontifical Decree accepted by both prelates ordered the exchange of jurisdictions with the exclusion of the burden of such compensations from one to the other.

It is very much to the point, to complete my response to this part of the note, to reproduce here a passage from the Memorandum that I presented in Rome at the Vatican Secretariat of State, dated 13 June of the current year, in which I refute an objection, repeatedly made by the Prelate of Canton. It is as follows:

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"This objection (of the inequality of values and the number of Christians) had already been refuted by the Bishop of Macau in his letter of 7th March of the current year in response to another from the Prelate of Canton dated the 4th. Here is what was said then and which has not lost any of its force, because the Mr. Apostolic Prefect made no reply, limiting himself to reproducing the objection. The Bishop of Macau said: "Concerning the disproportion that the inventories show to exist between Hainan and Shew-ing from the double perspective of properties and the number of Christians, we have nothing to do with it since the Sovereign Pontiff, after a mature examination of things, with reasons from both sides having been maturely considered, as the decree of 3rd February 1903 of the Propaganda expresses it, has ordained the exchange of the island of Hainan for the district of Shew-ing. Indeed the Decree is "absolute", it imposes no condition, requires no compensation. The jurisdiction

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To be exchanged is a territorial jurisdiction which, by its nature, attracts to it, along with the territories, the Christian communities and the things belonging to them. The Decree makes no distinction between these things. How then can they be separated to make them the subject of a separate agreement? *Ubi lex non distinguit nemo potest distinguere*. The Decree even adds "*ad instar multationis quae peracta fuit anno 1874 in quo per Bullam diei 15 junii supradicta insula Hainan Macaonensi dioecesi adnexa fuit.*" Now, the Papal Bull did not impose any compensation; and the island of Hainan in the year 1874 (or rather in 1876, the year in which the Papal Bull was executed) passed to the jurisdiction of Macau without any compensation being demanded from the Apostolic Prefecture of Canton by Macau, notwithstanding the properties and the chapels which the French mission possessed there, and the number of Christians which, according to authentic documents, amounted to 838.

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The record of the Convention signed in Canton on 23 March 1876 for the execution of the Bull does not mention any compensation and the Prelate of Canton, Monsignor Guillemin, in a letter dated 19 October 1876 to the Superior of the Portuguese mission of Hainan, states that he has no compensation to demand.

Quite the contrary to what Monsignor Merel claims, the compensation is due to the Bishop of Macau. Indeed: 1. He was obliged to cede the island of Hainan, which by concordat belonged to him, to satisfy a proposal of the French Government made with the aim of serving the interests of the Society of Foreign Missions of Paris; it was he who had the right to receive compensation; 2. This is what the Holy See expressly ordered, as can be seen from the declaration of 16 March 1904: "The Holy See has declared that the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Macau, in compensation for the cession of the island of Hainan-----should extend to the district of Chao-king".

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Monsignor Merel was aware of this decision of the Holy See, as he reproduced it in his letter of 25th July 1905 and complied with it, declaring to me, regarding the same, that he was humbly and absolutely submissive to the orders of the Holy See. In his letter of 15th August, which I have already reproduced here, he presents as concluded the agreement with me for the execution of the determinations of the Holy See contained in the Decree of 3rd February 1903, explained by that declaration, and it was still to this decision that he referred when, telegraphically and then in a report, he communicated to the Government of the Republic the agreement reached with the Bishop of Macau, which, according to him, concerned the execution of the Decree of the Propaganda of 3rd February 1903, explained by the rescript of 16th March 1904, and nothing more. For my part, I could not make the commitment to give such compensation to the Apostolic Prefecture, because this would take us outside the scope outlined by the pontifical decisions accepted by the two governments of Lisbon and Paris. And I

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I would not do it without the consent and approval of the higher powers. Monsignor Merel knew this perfectly well, because more than once I told him and made it clear that with regard to anything that was not the strict execution of the decisions of Rome I would do nothing without the assent and approval of the Government and the Holy See. This statement is found particularly in my letter of 8 May 1905, written right at the beginning of the negotiations that between us were entered into. Therefore, since it was agreed upon in the execution of the pontifical decree of 3 February 1903, explained by the declaration of 16 March 1904, there was no discussion of anything other than putting into effect the Roman decisions; any other thought was ipso facto set aside. I have in my possession documents, the majority of them written and signed by Monsignor Merel that clearly prove everything that I have so far stated, and I can confidently challenge anyone to produce

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with a single document written or signed by me in which I obliged myself to compensate the Apostolic Prefecture for the differences in values that the inventories show.

2nd As for the sale made by the bishop of Macau during the negotiations, of two properties in Hoi-how, this objection had already been refuted by me in my letter of 31 December 1906 addressed to Monsignor Merel in response to another from the said Prelate dated 17th of the same month and year and my Memorandum which I presented in Rome dated 13 June of the current year, duly documented, at the Vatican Secretariat of State. The allegation is insisted upon but without producing a single reason capable of destroying what, contrary to it, was said and proven. This is what, among other things, I had said to Monsignor Merel: "The Hainan mission had nothing to do with these two houses. They belonged to the administra

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diocesan administration of Macao in the same way as many others that we have in Hong Kong and Singapore. Father Pitta (superior of the Mission) while in charge of these houses acted not in his capacity as a missionary of Hainan, but as procurator of the Macao administration." These houses had been acquired with money sent from Macao, by the bishop of the Diocese, D. António de Medeiros, just as many others had previously been acquired in Hong Kong and Singapore, without anyone, until now, thinking of claiming them for the local missions. Like those in these other cities, the houses in Hainan were always rented out on behalf of the diocesan administration and never had any other use. Everyone in Hainan knows this. In the inventory of Hainan's assets, drawn up in April 1905 by the Superior of the Mission (which I included as a document in the Report I presented in Rome), these houses appear as belonging to the diocesan administration of Macao. In the episcopal curia the income

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Of these buildings, ownership was registered to that administration. In the name of this administration they were sold in June 1906, with the receipt for the sum of \$12,000 patacas, the sale amount, issued and signed in Macau by the bishop as president of that administration. The copy or template of that receipt was sent from Fui-nem at the request of the buyer, who required that document for their security and wasn't satisfied with what the Superior of the Mission wanted to give them. That template was also attached by me as a document to the Report which, dated 13 June of the current year, I presented in Rome, at the Vatican Secretariat of State.

It is worth noting a significant circumstance here. While the diocesan administration of Macau sold the two houses that it owned in Fui-how, because they were its own, it didn't even consider selling the buildings of two asylums built by the Portuguese missionaries very recently, even after

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Having begun negotiations for the exchange of jurisdictions, one in Kiang-Chow, capital of the island, the other in Seom-tui-san. And it did not do so despite substantial monetary subsidies having been sent from Macau for this purpose, because these works were largely carried out with the help of subsidies collected by the missionaries in their respective locations, and on local mission land.

None of these assertions of mine can be disputed, because they are all based on public documents which interested parties can consult, if they so wish, and can be corroborated by the testimony of some priests who rendered significant services to the diocese of Macau. These are the Very Reverend Canon Francisco Pedro Gonsalves, former Vicar General of the Bishopric of Macau, resident in Lisbon, and the former missionaries and Superiors of the Hainan Mission: Father José Vicente Costa, resident in Lisbon, Canon José Manuel Diegas, resident in Bragança, and Father Anacleto Cotrim Garcez, parish priest

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on the subject of Cavallos. In view of the foregoing, it is more than proven that the Bishop of Macao is under no obligation to make any compensation to the Prelate of Canton, neither for the differences in the values of the inventories nor for the sale of houses that did not belong to the Hainan Mission. Consequently, the pontifical decree that orders the exchange of jurisdictions in Hainan and Sherving must be executed by the two prelates, not only because they obligated themselves to it with the agreement of the two governments, but because the Holy See recently decided so in a rescript of 19 July 1907. God Save Your Excellency. Lisbon, 19 August 1907

Most Illustrious and Excellent Councillor Director General of the Overseas Ministry

João Paulino d'Azevedo e Castro Bishop of Macao

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Directorate General of Political and Diplomatic Affairs

1st Department

Lisbon 10 April 1908

[STAMP: ULTRAMAR CX 13 APRIL 1908]

Your Excellency,

[Handwritten: from Rep. No. 1876]

With reference to the subject of your Ministry's letter dated 5 September of last year, I have the honour to forward to Your Excellency the enclosed copy of the Note sent by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs to our representative in Paris, concerning the exchange of the ecclesiastical jurisdictions of Hainan and Shao-King.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency the Minister and Secretary of State for Naval and Overseas Affairs.

[STAMP: HISTORICO ULTRAMARINO ARQUIVO]

[Signature: Sinnel de] [Signature: Menezes Taveira de Carvalho]

[Marginalia in red ink:] Letter to the Bishop of Macau on 21-4-1908

[Handwritten note below signature:] 1st Department 2nd Section A copy of the enclosed note should be sent to the Reverend Bishop of Macau for his information. 15-4-908.

[Signature: L. Bastos]

[Footer:] 1st DEPARTMENT OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES 2nd Section [Handwritten: Acknowledged] No. [Handwritten: 129] [Handwritten: 14] of [Handwritten: 4] of 1908

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Directorate General of Political and Diplomatic Affairs 1st Department

Copy

Portuguese Legation in France - Document enclosed with dispatch no. 18 A - Ministry of Foreign Affairs -- to His Excellency Count Souza Roza, etc. etc. etc. - Paris, 18 March 1908. - My Lord Count, -- In your dispatch of 24 December last, you did me the honour of raising again with me the question of the exchange between the bishops of Macao and Canton of the apostolic jurisdiction of Hainan for that of the district of Zhaoqing. To satisfy the desire you expressed, my department has informed Bishop Merel that he should comply fully with the decrees issued by the Holy See regarding the exchange of the aforementioned districts, and afterwards, etc. etc. (signed) -- S. Pichon -- Certified correct -- Legation of His Majesty in Paris, 20 March 1908 (signed) Francisco Quintella de Sampaio -- Certified correct - Department of Political Affairs, 10 April 1908 José Quartelho Moro Junior

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Known C. 11-4-8 Copy Carillon Eminence

[stamp: OVERSEAS HISTORICAL ARCHIVE]

for D'Urb: add to the previous,

Here I am still absent from my diocese where I had expected to be back long ago.

Unfortunately the Jaiman and Therving affair drags on and keeps me in Europe due to the difficulties that the unjust claims of the Prelate of Canton continue to create.

Indeed, Monsignor Merel, who had come to Rome to deal personally with the same matter, seeing all his efforts fail in the face of the supreme decision which obliged him to comply with the decree of Propaganda of 3 February 1903 explained by the declaration of 15 May 1904, left that city in the first half of last July to go to Paris where, thanks to the welcome he received from the government of his country, he found a way to delay the execution of Rome's orders!

Truly, in a diplomatic note addressed to the Portuguese representative in France

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The Minister of Foreign Affairs reiterated the same demand of Monseigneur Mérel, already repeated by me to Your Eminence, concerning a certain payment which, according to him, I am obliged to pay to compensate for the difference in value of the properties belonging to the Christian communities of the two districts in question.

To the assertions in the French minister's note, I appended my response dated 19 August last, demonstrating that the Prelate of Canton has no right to demand from me any payment, as neither the nature of the matter, nor the decisions of Rome, nor an agreement between the two Prelates can be invoked by him to justify such a demand.

Quite the contrary: a) The matter in question is, according to the wording of the Decree, a "delimitatio confinium". In reality it is only an exchange of jurisdiction between the bishop of Macau and the Apostolic Prefect of Canton, over certain ter-

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territories, the Christian communities which live there, and the movable and immovable property belonging to them. Only the jurisdiction changes; everything else - territories, Christian communities and properties - remains, on each side, where it was and in the same state as it was before. The boundary delimitation produces no other substantial change, the supreme act which orders it not authorising any other effect. For their part, the bishop and the apostolic prefect lack the authority to act otherwise, independently of the authority of the Holy See. Indeed, concerning ecclesiastical property in particular, there are provisions within Church Law, and especially within the Law in force in mission territories, according to which neither Bishops nor Apostolic Vicars can dispose of these assets without the permission of the Holy See (*De rebus eccl. alienandis vel non*

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III, 4 Sextrav. Comm., Const. Apostolicae Sedis, n. 3; S. C. de la Propagande 28 July 1721, 27 August 1832, 18 October 1883). All these provisions clearly contradict the compensation in question, the bishop and the Apostolic Prefect not being authorised to dispose of the property of the Church and the Mission.

b) The Decree of 3 February 1903, which orders the delimitation of territories between the diocese of Macau and the Apostolic Prefecture of Canton, stipulates that it be done "ad instar mutationis quae peracta fuit anno 1874, in quo per Bullam diei 15 junii.... Insula Hainan Macaovensi dioecesi adnexa fuit." But then, the annexation took place and Hainan came under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Macau without any compensation for the Prefecture of Canton. The Apostolic Prefect at that time, himself stated that there was no compensation to be demanded from the assets belonging to the Mission. As for the declaration of 16 March 1904, it does not

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says nothing in opposition to the doctrine of the aforementioned Decree.

c) Regarding agreements between the Bishop of Macao and the Vicar Apostolic, the following is the case: 1°. Firstly, it was agreed that the Decree of 3 February 1903 explained by the Declaration of 15 March 1904 would be implemented on 15 October 1905; 2°. It was also agreed to make inventories of the Christian properties, so that each could better understand the condition of those which would fall to them as a result of the exchange being implemented. But when the question of compensation to offset the difference in values of the properties resulting from the inventories arose, the Bishop of Macao immediately made a formal and explicit declaration to the delegates of the Prelate of Canton that he would not commit to giving any compensation and that he would not demand any on account of such difference. And from the first time that the Apostolic Prefect mentioned it in writing to the Bishop

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from Macao, the latter replied in the same manner and to the same effect, giving explanations that the Prelate of Canton accepted without objection, rather showing himself to comply with the opinion of the Bishop of Macao; and all this (a noteworthy circumstance) well before the missionaries delegated to make the inventories went to the districts where they were to carry out their task. And to clearly demonstrate his complete agreement with the opinion of his colleague, Bishop Merel wrote that the inventories would be made according to the "instructions of the latter - according to your instructions", he told me. The text of the letters written on both sides exists, and can be reproduced to testify to the truth, if need be. Unfortunately this Prelate seems to have forgotten his promises and everything that was solemnly agreed between him and me; and in his blindness he goes to the extreme of negotiating the intervention of the French government, for whom the matter was already definitively re-

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resolve, to make it the instrument of the unjust active pretensions of the Portuguese government to prevent or hinder the execution of the orders of the Holy See.

The inventories! That is the sole basis upon which the French government relies to demand payment of the indemnity. But, astonishingly, the inventories, as is easy to ascertain, signify nothing, neither for nor against such a claim. Any desirable evidence in these documents to prove such an obligation, if any existed, would come from the prior agreement made between the Bishop of Macao and the Apostolic Prefect. Now, the terms of the agreement, I have already said, are entirely contrary to the indemnity; and neither Monsignor Merel, nor his delegates, nor the French government will ever be able to prove that they are favourable to it.

The Paris government also makes

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The Prelate of Canton's publication insists on an accusation already refuted several times. The sale of two houses that the bish- ops of Macao had built on land they had bought at their own expense and which did not belong to the local Hainan mission continues to be exploited to create an unfavourable and undignified situation for the bishop of Macao, and to hinder the resolu- tion of the matter!

Having already refuted this accusation, I refrain from dwelling on it, especially as it is rather Bishop Merel's duty to prove that the bishop of Macao did not have the right to make such a sale of properties that did not belong to the local Hainan mission.

As long as the Apostolic Prefect is unable to prove it, it will be completely pointless for him to insist on such an unjust accusation.