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NAVY I PART  
U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

23 November 1928

Dear Father Selga:-

Referring to your radio message of 21 January, 1928, relative to possible cooperation on your part in connection with an eclipse expedition from the Naval Observatory, we have only this date succeeded in securing the necessary authority for despatching our expedition, principally on account of the difficulty of financing its operations.

Our expedition will comprise from three to five principals and seven or eight assistants, the latter to be enlisted men of the Navy who will aid in erecting the observation tower and in setting up apparatus. The principal scientist will be Professor Ross W. Morriott of Sproul Observatory, Swarthmore College, an experienced eclipse observer, and his chief assistant will be Associate Astronomer Paul Sollenberger of this institution. A final selection of the officer in charge of our expedition has not yet been made.

It would appear at present that the party will leave for Manila in time to arrive around the first of next March. I have written to Admiral Bristol, informing him of our present tentative plans and have sent a copy of the letter to the Commandant at Cavite. In my letter, I have mentioned your very kind expression of a desire to cooperate with us and have suggested that perhaps some information might be obtained from you, before our arrival, as to definite sites near Iloilo. We are desirous of securing a site near shore, if practicable, with a view to employing the facilities of one of the smaller naval vessels to assist in building the structure for our 65-foot camera, as well as in setting up other apparatus, and so on.

Inasmuch as you will scarcely be able to communicate with me by letter before our party leaves Washington, I am hoping that you may feel at liberty to supply the commandant at Cavite with any information you may think it advantageous for our eclipse expedition to have. Admiral McDougall was formerly Superintendent of this Observatory.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) C.S. FREEMAN  
Captain, U. S. N.  
Superintendent.

Father Miguel Selga, S.J.  
Director, Manila Observatory  
Manila, P. I.  
a true copy: