



**Letter to the Ambassador of Portugal in Rome
(26 November 1888)**

Your Excellency,

I have carefully studied the different methods which could be adopted to carry out the wish of your government, but after deep reflection I have come to recognize that it would be impossible for me, in accordance with your request, to fix the conditions for establishing a mission on the South-West of Lake Nyassa, without previously having answered the following questions. Now at this moment you alone can provide the answers.

1 – Which is the precise place or post where our missionaries could be placed, and what is the name of this place according to the German maps (I speak of German maps because here in Rome I do not have Portuguese maps)?

2 – What approximately, in kilometres, would be the size of the territory of the mission, in length and breadth, entrusted to our missionaries?

3 – What number of missionaries would the Portuguese Government wish to see at the start of this post or mission? According to our custom they should at least be four.

4 – Where would we be able to establish a procurator's office near to the sea to receive and forward what would be necessary for the missionaries in the interior? Would it be possible for us to have a small procurator's office in Quelimane?

5 – Would the Portuguese Government give us the possibility of using its boats for transport on the Zambese and Chire [rivers]?

6 – Since your government wishes to see Portuguese missionaries mixed with French missionaries in this mission, would it help with the setting up of a junior seminary destined for the recruitment of trustworthy missionaries of Portuguese nationality?

7 – Finally, what sum does the Portuguese Government propose to put at the disposition of the missionaries for establishing themselves in the first place, and then for their annual upkeep, until such a time when they are able to find on the spot the means necessary for their existence?

I have already had the honour of discussing this subject with His Excellency, the Secretary of Propaganda Fide. I see that it will be easy to come to an agreement on questions of spiritual jurisdiction once we have come to an agreement in principle with regard to this matter with the Government of his most faithful Majesty. Therefore, I shall not speak further about this aspect here.

This, Your Excellency, is the sum of information which it would be necessary for me to obtain in order to submit it to the Council of our missionaries. I would therefore be very grateful if you could give me this information, as soon as possible, and in writing, if it is already at your disposal, as I think it is.

