

[Pedro Alvarez Cabral] with thirteen ships departed from Lisboa the 9th of March of last year, and ... he reached a land which he newly discovered ... In it he found the people nude as in the first innocence, gentle, and peaceable. ... [He] pursued his route by way of the Cape of Good Hope ... And thus he went his way to make port at the kingdom of [Kilwa in East Africa], which belongs to the Moors ... And he departed from there and went to another kingdom, Melinde, for which he also was carrying my letters and messages, because its king, who likewise is a Moor, had done good deeds to Dom Vasco, who first went there to discover it ... These kingdoms extend from the Red Sea in this direction, and in the interior they border on Gentiles, and these Gentiles border on the land of Prester John ... From there he departed for Calecut ... [It] is very populous, and there are in it many Moors who, until now, always traded there in spices, because it is thus like Bruges in Flanders, the principal trading place for the things of India, which come to it from outside; and in it there are only cassia fistula [cinnamon] and ginger ...

Source: Letter "Concerning the News of India" from Manuel I of Portugal to Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon, 1501