Excited by the power he had received from the nobility, the clergy, and the representatives of the city councils at the assembly at Valladolid and in the days following, Sancho began a southbound tour of Castile, leaving Valladolid in mid-May, while his chancellery, headed at his request by his brother Pedro, began an intense propaganda and public relations campaign.¹

According to some, that same month he obtained the support of don Gonzalo García Pérez (Gudiel), archbishop of Toledo and primate of Spain (1280–1298), on whom his father had bestowed many favors, having taken him along to Beaucaire, for example, and later naming him Chancellor of the Crown of Castile (1280–1284). But these allegations do not seem very likely, since by all accounts don Gonzalo remained faithful to Alfonso throughout the king’s life, and did not even participate in Sancho’s coronation, which was conducted in his bishopric but presided over by four bishops who supported the rebel.² Don Gonzalo, the “extraordinary Toledan,” was a prominent figure in the Spanish Church of the 13th century. He became cardinal-bishop of Albano, 1298–1299. In collaboration with a group of priests belonging to Toledo’s intellectual elite he would also become the chief architect of Sancho IV’s international and domestic policies, to the point that, according to the historian of the archbishops of Toledo,

¹ This activity has been studied by M.I. Ostolaza, “La cancillería del infante don Sancho durante la rebelión contra su padre Alfonso X el Sabio,” HID, 16 (1989), pp. 305–313.
Diego Castejón, Sancho “was ruled by him.” But perhaps where don Gonzalo’s influence was seen most was in promoting the extensive cultural change that occurred after Alfonso X’s death. Don Sancho would repay his services to the Crown by naming him, first, his chancellor in León, Castile, and Andalusia (1290), and in October of that same year, by appointing him to the highest position of the kingdom, chancellor general of all the kingdoms. He died in Rome in 1299 and was buried in a lavish Cosmatesque mausoleum in the basilica of St. John Lateran, and in 1301 his remains were transferred to his bishopric in Toledo.

Expressions of support for Sancho were dampened by less pleasant news from his uncle, don Pedro of Aragón, who, in a letter dated May 18, 1282, suggested that he reconcile himself with his father for the good of the kingdom. On the same date, Pedro wrote also to Alfonso, in a dilemma because both father and son had requested help from him, and the terms of the treaty of Campillo obliged him to aid them both. Don Pedro’s concerns were twofold: first, that not only Sancho but “all of the children”, together with Alfonso’s wife and many of his subjects, had rebelled against the father; second and perhaps much more, the likelihood that Alfonso would take drastic and irreversible measures against them all. The king of Aragón was at the time preparing to depart for Sicily, and he feared that during his absence, the Peninsula might turn into a powder keg, with civil war breaking out in Castile. Given this situation, the North African Moors could take advantage of the chaos to launch a new attack, called back by the discontent of the king of Granada. Therefore, he promised Alfonso that, before leaving the kingdom, he would send his eldest son, don Alfonso, to him and to don Sancho in order to negotiate reconciliation between the two. From the context, it can be deduced that, in a previous letter, Alfonso X had asked him for asylum in case things went badly and he was in danger. Don Pedro had replied saying that Alfonso could count on his hospitality, adding that he was ready to extend it to don Sancho as well. Don Pedro truly behaved like a family member and friend and,

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3 D. Castejón y Fonseca, Primacía de la Iglesia de Toledo, pp. 777–778.
4 Cf. J.M. Nieto Soria, Iglesia y poder real, p. 36.
5 For the texts of the correspondence see Ballesteros, Alfonso X, pp. 973–974.
6 Therefore, he repeatedly pleaded with Alfonso to use moderation in punishment, because he knew perfectly well that he could be implacable (ib.). Don Pedro evidently was thinking that an inflexible attitude on Alfonso’s part could lead his children to regicide, which would be detrimental to all.
7 In Ballesteros, p. 974.