Most Excellent Señor:

On February eight and May six of this year from the towns of Dolores and Nuevo Santander, Colonel Don Joseph de Escandón sent Your Excellency certified copies of his reports on the condition of the twenty new towns in the Colony of the Seno Mexicano. And according to the memorandums at the end of the consultas Your Excellency reported this to His Majesty by means of the same certified copies.

In the first consulta, he reports his visita in Reynosa: the abundance of its ganado menor, the great number of Indians congregated, and that as soon as the salt mine near there is in operation it will be possible to obtain corn, flour and other foodstuffs in exchange for salt. However, he also reports, the misfortune of the destruction by the overflow of the River of the irrigation ditch that had been constructed.

He reports, that he proceeded to Camargo and in order to safeguard it from the San Juan River he moved its location four hundred varas farther down; that the number of settlers and Indians congregated has increased, and
that the Indians, from the other side of the Río de el Norte are beginning to assemble at one place in consequence of the zeal of their priest, Father Friar Juan Baptista García; and also that the land is suitable for ganado menor.

He reports, that he next went to Revilla clearing the roads over which he traveled and that the settlers are well-to-do and their number is increasing; and that they also have found the land good for stock and crops.

He reports, that finally he arrived at Dolores clearing the road also. He crossed the Río del Norte on the canoe built by Don Joseph Vázquez Borrego, whom he commends for his bravery and good services asking Your Excellency to express your appreciation to him for the same in order that he may continue with encouragement, and to approve his appointment as captain of the said town.

He reports, that he was attempting to establish another town, ten leagues down the River on the north side, very useful and at no expense. He expresses his disapproval of the presidios because they drive the settlers from the towns and adds, that in the presidio of San Juan Baptista even the established settlers have moved out for lack of lands which the missionary fathers have refused them on the pretext that they belong to the Indians.

Finally, he acknowledges receipt of Your Excellency's
letter, of the twenty-second of November of the past year of one thousand seven hundred fifty-two with the opinion of the late auditor and the decree of the eighteenth of the same month, in which he was instructed of the advisability of maritime commerce, about which he promises to do all he can. He states that he also received Your Excellency's letter of the fifteenth of the same month, of November on the subject of the Tanambres and that he had postponed the campaign against them because he was compelled to do so until his return. This is the gist of the contents of the first consulta.

And in the proceedings and the certified copy from Reynosa which he enclosed with it, the said consulta, it is of record that there are in Reynosa forty-nine families consisting of two hundred thirty-two persons. In the squad there are eleven families consisting of forty-one persons. There is an adequate number of mares, horses, cattle, mules and a greater number of goats and sheep.

It is also of record that the vecinos petitioned either that their town be subsidized or that it be moved to the site of el Desierto, a league away. When it their petition, had been examined, they were ordered to remain in the same place with the stipulation that an embankment two varas high would be built around it the town, to
protect it from the River. And it is stated by Father Friar Augustín Fragoso, the missionary of the same, that about two hundred persons of the nations mentioned therein were subject to military duty, and that the Pintos and Sacatiles Indians were ready to congregate; that two hundred fifty fanegas of corn had been given to them for the above-said mission of San Joachín de el Monte; and finally that Athanasio Antonio de el Castillo had gone to register as a settler with his arms and horses, his wife and four daughters.

In the second consulta he reports the addition of six families to the villa of San Fernando referring to other previous consultas.

That in Reynosa since July of the past year of one thousand seven hundred fifty (after five settlers had been removed as trouble makers) there were fifty settlers, who did not belong to the squad, and that their property showed an increase over the previous résumé of the founding of the same.

That similarly he had removed from Camargo ten families whose destination was the new town of Mier leaving sixty-four families, and the squad, that their property had increased and the soil was very fertile.

That he believed it was important to populate the said town of Mier, which safeguards the route to Revilla, makes
possible the establishment of new towns on the banks of the Río Grande del Norte, and controls many pagan Indians who live in its environs. That he had left nineteen families hoping they would grow, that the small portions of land he had assigned to them had been granted and were those referred to on page 33 of the certified copy and that it was necessary to make restitution for the same elsewhere.

He reiterates that conditions are good at Revilla where he appointed Don Joseph Baez Benavides as captain because of the death of his predecessor; that he also took some lands that had been granted for assignment to the settlers with the stipulation that restitution would be made for the same.

That in Dolores he had assigned twenty-five sitios for ganado mayor in addition to fifty for ganado menor to the new captain, Don Joseph Vázquez Borrego to be settled by him and his children in order that others might be encouraged by their example. He asks for confirmation of the repartimientos made in Mier, Revilla, and Dolores to serve as titles to settlers and mercenarios respectively.

He asserts that the said three towns and that of Camargo serve as a safeguard for León and Coahuila and that the settlers of these towns, had unanimously petitioned for license to take their stock north of Río
Grande del Norte and that he had granted the same on condition //that they should not move from where they had settled originally, and that every attention possible was being shown to the frontier Indians who came here frequently.

He continues saying that in the villa of Burgos there are forty families, an increase of seven families, over the previous résumé; that although attacks had been made upon it, it had been possible to protect it; and that the irrigation ditch had been completed. That in the new town of Máliano in process of being founded the difficulties that had arisen had been overcome and that jacales and corrales for settlement were now being built.

That in Santander there was a good ranchería of the Indians who were being reduced, that by providing labor, ganados mayores and menores and promising to bring more families, the colonel had contributed to their tranquility.

//That the measure to the effect that the Pames dispersed toward Río Verde be brought before him had had the good effect of their having congregated at the missions, and that he was keeping thirty families that had been brought to him on his labor, a fourth of a league from Santander, at a salary of four pesos a month per Indian, three almudes of corn per week for those married and two for those unmarried, and that he had provided them with
some one to give them instruction on our Holy Faith as
an example for those at the mission to do likewise.

He reports also that the Indians of Igollo Mission,
and Xaumave are quiet and that he will subdue the Tanambres
between Llera and Horcassitas on his entrada.

That he had appointed Don Domingo de Unsaga captain
commandant of the three companies for his services a-
oblishing the company of Linares because it was useless.
He organized the company of Labradores, whose captain,
Don Francisco Manrique Malacara, had been unable to
complete his company because of the jealousy of the alcalde
mayor of the Pueblo of Labradores, who had previously
been a private. As soon as he became Alcalde mayor he
had the Huertas and solares seized. The Colonel ordered
their restitution complaining to the governor of Nuevo
Reyno de León in order that he should correct the said
Justice ordering him to act in harmony with the captain.

That he also wrote the above-said governor to pursue
the Apostates from his direction in order that by having
the three companies and the Colony also attack them from
the east they may either be exterminated or reduced.

He reports that there had been no trouble in Cor-
dillera de el Sur, that the founding of the villa of
Escandón would be completed in his presence, and that one
schooner was being completed in Altamira and that another
would be built to take freight to Vera Cruz where it had been impossible to find two sloops that he had ordered purchased and that in consequence of this he had suffered a great loss. This is the gist of paragraphs twenty-two and twenty-three. From paragraph nineteen he relates at length a petition that he says was made by the Colegio Apostólico de San Fernando about which Father Silva wrote a letter saying that it had been withdrawn at the insistence of Señor Auditor Marquis de Altamira and Captain Don Jacinto Martínez on condition that if this year the Colonel did not declare that the Indians were congregated the fathers would change their attitude. This had caused the present president of the missions to become excited and to plead their cause in due form. For this reason the Colonel himself has reported that those religious are mortified by the said petition and oppressed by want since they have not received even half of their allotment and they have been told that although Your Excellency had ordered payment of the allotments, for Revilla, Aguayo, and Escandón, the royal officials had ordered them suspended.

Evaluating, finally, his work in the conquest of that region, he states, that his work will speak for him, for which purpose he has made it a practice of always giving a report and although his attention has been called to the defect of their not being authenticated in due form, he
has been unable to conform with this requirement, because he considered it detrimental to himself to seek verification of the truth of what he had said. This is a compendium of the import of the second consulta and of the respective certified copies of the proceedings he has held.

From these certified copies, it is of record that there are, in San Fernando fifty-six families consisting of three hundred persons; twelve families in the squad; and that the Indians of the Mission said they were happy there because of the abundance of fish, maguey, tuna, mesquite; that they were continuing the work of preparing the land for planting; and that there was an adequate number of horses, mares, mules, burras, and ganado menor.

In Camargo he allotted lands between the San Juan River and the Río, del Norte that had been granted to Doña Josepha de Arosqueta on condition of their restitution with the consent of her attorney. There were sixty-three families of settlers, ten of which went to the town of Mier. The father minister of the mission, Friar Juan Baptista García, has stated that there were five hundred Indians in the mission, that he had married nine and was about to marry fifteen more, that they were being instructed in the faith and about farming, and he specified the holdings of the mission, which are adequate. The squad consists of thirteen families; on petition of the settlers,
he granted them one hundred sitios for ganado menor on the north bank of the Río Grande del Norte; there was an adequate number of ganado mayor and menor.

In the town of Mier there are nineteen families with their repartimiento of lands and ganados mayores and menores, also in adequate numbers.

In Revilla forty-three families are listed; eleven more in the squad; and the résumé of ganados mayores and menores. The missionary father, Friar Buenaventura de Rivera, stated that the place was healthful, the water supply was adequate, but they had not been able to win over the Indians because of the death of the chief; he believed it was very probable this could be done; and he was assigned a grant of land some of which had been previously granted to Don Xavier de la Garza.

The proceedings executed with Don Joseph Vázquez Borrego are, in fact, of record in Dolores, and the sitios granted to him for promising to found the town with thirteen families, the fact that, Borrego has a large number of mules, burras, cattle, and horses, and a large canoe for crossing the river, and that twenty-seven Indians Ladinos and Bozales of the Carrizo Nation came there promising to congregate themselves and to work in Dolores.

In the villa of Nuestra Señora de Burgos forty families were listed, twelve other families, in the squad, the
completion of the irrigation ditch, and an adequate number of the said kinds of stock.

With regard to the regular company of Labradores, the proceedings agree, in fact, with the report made by the Colonel.

And finally, there is the record of the proceedings rogatory made to the Reverend Father Friar Antonio Ciprián, the president of the missions, in order that, in view of the proceedings and of what the missionary may have reported to him, he should give, his opinion on the settlements notwithstanding the short time and the calamity suffered during the first three years, stating whether any other proceedings, were in order or whether any that were petitioned had been omitted, whether although His Majesty was paying two priests at San Fernando there was none there, one year, and whether this was true at Soto la Marina and other places recorded in the incitativa.

And in a report of the fifth of May the said father president stated, according to the substance of his report, that times had been bad; that the lands were rich and suitable for farming and stock raising, fishing and salt; that the missions should subsist under the protection of the town and that if they did not grow as much as was zealously desired no one was to blame; that all the measures that had been enacted were very good; that there were a
great many Indians to be congregated; that he had sent a minister to San Fernando and Soto la Marina; that the number of towns, including Real de los Infantes and Villa de Hoyos, was twenty and the missionaries took care of eighteen of them; that there were six regular missions but there should be fifteen; that in the nine missions, there were transients ready to congregate, that if they did not seek to do so for love of religion they did so for want of the supplies given them. He concludes his report with the statement of the missions that were being aided with corn. This is the gist of the certified copies, which are authorized by Joseph de Guevara, who signs himself as Notary of Guerra. And with regard to the number of settlers, the signatures of those of whom it was said that they knew how to write were notarized.

This is the first time that the Auditor has officially issued an expediente on this Conquista although from previous expedientes, that he has consulted, he is aware of its importance and urgency. And in view of the purposes for which the certified copies have been forwarded, the following measures should be enacted by Your Excellency if they meet with your superior approval:

First, order, that a letter be written to the Colonel acknowledging receipt of the certified copies and the consultas, enclosing the Auditor's opinion, and thanking
him for the promptness and diligence which he has shown in the execution of so important a task.

Second, approve his appointment of Don Domingo de Vnsaga as captain commandant and of Don Joseph Vázquez Borrego as captain of los Dolores. To the latter Your Excellency may express your approval of his bravery and services stating, that His Majesty will be informed not only of his past services, but also of those he may render in the future.

Third, approve the land grants to the towns of Mier, Revilla, and Dolores on condition of their restitution to the mercenarios and owners who had received them by order of His Majesty. The Colonel shall attend at once to this restitution and shall report the same at the earliest opportunity in order to avoid a loss to the tithes collector and contentions among the mercenarios and the settlers. And that in the future he shall avoid as far as possible the distribution and assignment of lands that previously have been granted because the new towns founded, in the interior should be required to select vacant sites that can be occupied by royal order without detriment to the Indians of natives //and with their unrestricted consent in conformity with the provisions of Law 1st and 7th, title 7, book 4 of the Recopilación of these Kingdoms, and Law 4 title 12 of the same book 4.
Fourth, approve in this instance but not as a regular practice the grant of twenty-five sitios for *ganado mayor* made to the said Captain Don Joseph Vázquez Borrego for the distinguished services reported by the Colonel: for although it is necessary to approve this grant for the present, in the future, land grants must be made in conformity with the provisions of Royal Laws for the benefit of the vassal and in the interest of His Majesty.

Fifth, that an order be written to the governor of León to instruct the Alcalde Mayor of Labradores that he must cooperate with the captain of the same locality. And the said governor shall make provision for pursuing the apostate enemy form his direction in order that by having them attacked on the east by the three companies and the towns of the Colonia it may be possible to reduce them.

Sixth, that an order be forwarded to the governor of Vera Cruz to the effect that when Colonel Don Joseph de Escandón shall again issue his order to his paymaster for the purchase of one or two balandras he shall be provided with the same because Your Excellency wishes to establish communication by water on that coast.

Seventh, for this same purpose, the Colonel shall be instructed to devote all his energy to the completion of the two schooners since it was not possible to set up maritime commerce in March or April as he had indicated.
to Your Excellency in paragraph nine of his consulta of the eighth of February of this year. He shall also be urged "to undertake, the pacification of the Tanambres Indians of la Cordillera de el Sur about which you are awaiting a report.

//Eighth, that titles for the land grants he has made to the towns of Mier, Revilla, and Dolores will be issued to the said towns only when restitution of the same, shall have been made to the mercenarios but not before. By way of title they shall be given a certified copy not only of the contents of this, the eighth recommendation but also of the third made above and of the survey and boundaries of the lands respectively that are of record in the original proceedings now in the possession of the said Colonel.

Ninth, with regard to the question raised against the Apostolic College, the Auditor is of the opinion that it should not be taken into account because he believes in rejecting statements not fully proved and because perhaps the Colonel was inspired by his own sense of honor to make these "statements, overlooking that this was not in due legal form and that he should not have heeded //the unverified reports that he had heard. But on the other hand in the case of questions mentioned in his consulta that can greatly handicap his coveted success, I must
point out to Your Excellency that, as the Colonel has said, the missionary fathers have resented even the vague report of the complaint which they presume was made by their college. This proves that they are mutually satisfied. Consequently, on this point Your Excellency needs only to tell him, the Colonel, to do all he can towards encouraging the greatest harmony by means of the prudent conduct he has shown heretofore.

Tenth, in as much as he states that only half the allotment has been sent to the missionary religious and since this can prevent the coveted success of the spiritual and temporal conquest, in order to prevent this, Your Excellency should order that a letter be written to the reverend father superior of the Apostolic College of Zacatecas for the sole purpose of asking whether the entire allotments provided by His Majesty for the support of the religious have been sent to them, to assure Your Excellency that this will be done hereafter and also that the religious appointed to the missions shall likewise be instructed to work, in harmony with the Colonel and other subaltern officers. And another letter should be written to the reverend father president of the missions to the same effect in order that he shall receive statements from the missionaries concerning the condition of the missions, which he shall forward to Your Excellency with the respective
sworn statements made by the same religious of the number, of Indians congregated. And these two letters shall be written by the most reverend father commissary general of these provinces, who shall also be entrusted with dispatching them and their reply.

Finally, since the Colonel says that his attention has been called to the defect of certifications relative to his reports, the reason for this must of course be that Your Excellency must have done so or the late Señor Auditor in one of his opinions. This, of course, is very just and need cast no reflection on the truth of the reports of those always favored by presumption nor on the reputation that he has attained and for which His Majesty and Your Excellency have expressed your satisfaction by way of confirmation of your confidence in the Colonel's leadership and conduct. This very conduct should impel him to desire, the greatest accuracy in his reports. For although the Prince has the greatest confidence, in Your Excellency and your superior tribunals and although he therefore has no reason for doubting your truthfulness, no memorandums or reports are made to him without the instruments and documents to prove and verify them especially on matters of so much gravity and on which such heavy expenditures have been made. And while the conquest is prospering as has been reported, if for some unforeseen
reason Providence should cause it to fail, if the past and the present events are not verified in due form according to law, in the future, it may be possible to find some pretext for distorting them. And since it is natural for great enterprises to inspire great jealousies, it is necessary that documents be always presented in the most proper and convincing manner admissible (in order that it may not be possible for anyone to say that the proof of the facts was omitted in some undocumented reports in which the missionaries, the settlers, and the soldiers had no part). Consequently, since Your Excellency has evident proof of the Colonel's zeal, disinterestedness, and sincerity, for this very reason and in view of the fact that Your Excellency's unquestionable authority is implicated and that you must give an account to His Majesty of all the events of the conquest as they are reported to you, it is therefore necessary that all the documents be as properly authenticated as possible.

And although the Auditor takes it for granted that, because of Your Excellency's zeal, all the rules and regulations necessary for the completion of the towns to be established have been issued, nevertheless, with the passing of time, it is important that Your Excellency should order the Colonel to send a report of the type of construction and the location of the twenty towns respectively. And
also of the crops that are raised in them; of the distribution of land that has been made to the individual settlers, since it is not advisable to make the distribution in common but individually in order that each person shall comply with the obligations agreed upon, and that the settlers and the soldiers themselves who can write their names and particularly the missionaries shall participate in this report. He shall also make affidavits of the number of troops, settlers and of the Indians reduced in the missions at the present time because this is required by the laws of the Kingdom. And he shall provide Your Excellency in the said legal form with a complete report of the condition of the conquest in question. And when it is not possible for the Colonel himself to execute the proceedings in all the towns, he shall entrust the proceedings, for the towns, he cannot visit to the main corporal or, by process rogatory, to the missionary father.

The following paragraph is deleted:

And finally, since the Auditor wishes to be informed on the fundamentals of this business from the beginning, will Your Excellency please order that all previous data, be sent to him and also the orders received from His
Majesty on the subject, or whatever Your Excellency's superior judgment deems advisable, which will as usual be for the best.

Mexico, August 21, 1753.

In the proceedings on the differences between the Squadron of Unzaga and the peaceful Indians who were in San Xptóval.

Fiscal petition, March 29 of this year.

Letters of the Viceroy of the 5th and 29th of December 1753.

Eff., August 21, 1753.