Document C


Note: Nicholas de Lafaora was a Spanish engineer who helped inspect all missions and presidios in the two provinces of New Mexico and Texas. In August of 1767, Lafaora visited the five missions and one presidio in and around San Antonio. He reported 809 mission Indians supervised and taught by ten Franciscan friars. After complaining about the amount of money spent on the friars and the 22 soldiers who helped to protect them, Lafaora and his team moved on to Nacogdoches.

September 6, 1767

“(W)e arrived at the Mission of Nacogdoches where we found only one Franciscan friar..., two soldiers with their families, and some young farm workers. The priest had not one Indian to whom he could minister, nor had there been one during more than forty years of this mission’s existence.”
(Note: Mission closed in 1773)

September 8, 1767

“(T)he Mission of Los Ais ... is about as useless as the preceding one.... There are ... a lay brother and two soldiers with their families who comprise the entire population. The Ais Indian nation lives in the neighborhood. They speak Spanish well and appeal to the padres only when they want something.”
(Note: Mission closed in 1773)

October 9, 1767

(At the Mission of Nuestra Señora de la Luz, near the Gulf of Mexico)

“Here the same conditions prevail as at the preceding missions.... (S)ince the year 1758 when the mission was founded here ... not a single Indian has been converted.”
(Note: Mission later destroyed by Karankawa Indians)