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CORONADO'S TESTIMONY IN THE VICEROY MENDOZA RESIDENCIA

By ARTHUR S. AITON and AGAPITO REY

INTRODUCTION

THE PUBLICATION of a new Coronado document is an event. Since George Parker Winship's monumental work appeared in 1896 little additional information has come to light concerning either the man or his great *entrada* into the Southwest.¹ Coronado's final report of his expedition, his own diary, or diaries of those who accompanied him, perhaps even the day by day account of an official diarist will be unearthed in the Archivo General de Indias at Seville at some future date. Until that happy time we shall have to be content with the contemporary letters and the narrative of the veteran Pedro de Castañeda, written many years after the event, made available in Winship, the sixteenth century chronicle of Baltasar de Obregón,² and the sworn testimony of Coronado in the viceroy Mendoza's *visita*, here reproduced.

Francisco Vázquez de Coronado came to the New World in 1535 as one of the gentlemen in the train of Viceroy Antonio de Mendoza, whom he had known at court in Spain. He was a native of Salamanca, a younger son of Juan Vázquez de Coronado and Doña Isabel de Luján, both of gentle birth.³ His grandfather, Juan Vázquez de Coronado, "el viejo," had two wives, Berenguela Vázquez, grandmother of

1. George Parker Winship, *The Coronado Expedition, 1540-1542*, in the *Fourteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology*, Washington, 1896. A. S. Aiton contributed an account of his last years, "The Later Career of Coronado" in *American Historical Review*, XXX, 298-305. Regarding the route of his expedition, see W. E. Richey, "Early Spanish Explorations and Indian implements in Kansas," *Kansas State Historical Society Collections*, VIII, 152-168; and David Donahue "The Route of the Coronado Expedition," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, XXXII, 181-193 presents the view that the explorers never left Texas.

2. *Obregón's History of 16th Century Explorations in Western America*, trans. and ed. by George P. Hammond and Agapito Rey, Los Angeles, 1928.

3. Francisco de Icaza, *Diccionario autobiográfico de conquistadores y pobladores de Nueva España*, 2 vol. (Madrid, 1923), I, 186.

the future seeker of the Seven Cities of Cíbola, and María Fernández, mother of his great uncle, Gonzalo Vázquez, María Vázquez and certain other unnamed great-aunts.⁴

Francisco's father inherited the estate of his father and the enmity of the children by the second wife, María Fernández, as is evidenced by the suit brought against him by them.⁵ Nevertheless, he seems to have prospered and to have earned the rewards of faithful service to the crown, for we find him appointed to the office of *corregidor* in the city of Burgos in 1512,⁶ and sufficiently wealthy in 1520 to safeguard the succession of his estate from the troubles which had harassed his own inheritance.⁷ At this time he created a *mayorazgo* whereby the eldest son, by his wife Doña Isabel de Luján, Gonzalo Vázquez de Coronado, should inherit his entire estate, and in turn it should be passed down through the eldest sons or as otherwise provided in the instrument. Two of the daughters became nuns and appropriate endowments were made to the convents, while the younger sons, and among them Francisco, were given outright settlements which extinguished any future claims they might make against their father's estate. From this it is clear that Francisco Vázquez de Coronado was an adventurous younger son with no expectations who went to the colonies to seek fame and fortune like many young Britishers of a later day.

Favored by the viceroy's esteem and friendship, Francisco Vázquez de Coronado was received as a *regidor* of the town council of Mexico City, June 14, 1538, and shortly thereafter he was appointed governor of New Galicia, to which province he repaired to prepare the great expedition

4. Archivo General de Simancas, Sello, May 1480, Instructions of Ferdinand and Isabella in the suit of Gonzalo Vázquez and his sister against Juan Vázquez de Coronado. We are indebted to Miss Alice Gould for this and the following citations to Coronado materials contained in the Sello papers at Simancas. While working at Simancas in 1928-29 the writer's attention was called to these materials by Miss Gould, whose great store of archives lore is most generously placed at the disposal of all transient scholars visiting Valladolid and the nearby repository of Simancas.

5. *Ibid.*, Sello, Jan. 1489, a suit pending, Aug., 1489, Comisión.

6. *Ibid.*, Sello, May 29, 1512, Provisions de Corregimiento a Juan Vázquez de Coronado.

7. *Ibid.*, Sello, May 9, 1520, Facultad granted to Juan Vázquez de Coronado, citizen of Salamanca, approving his creating of a *mayorazgo*.

which bears his name. In this period, prior to its departure in February of 1540, he married Beatriz de Estrada, wealthy heiress of the late treasurer of New Spain, Alonso de Estrada. From her patrimony, undoubtedly, came the fifty thousand ducats he claimed to have expended in the expedition.⁸

On his return from the journey to Cíbola and Golden Quivira, Coronado was in disfavor as the dazzling hopes of his departure had not been realized, and his leadership was open to considerable criticism. He resumed his duties as *regidor* and governor, but in the latter office disaster overtook him. A residencia in 1544 revealed incompetence and dereliction of duty, so he was removed as governor. The remainder of his days were spent in the minor role of town officer and rancher, with his time divided between his country estates and the city of Mexico. He was never again entrusted with an important post although he continued on friendly terms with the administration of New Spain. A long illness terminated in death just prior to November 12, 1554, when his passing was noted as a matter of routine business in the minutes of the town council.

The great *visita* of the officials of New Spain, conducted by Tello de Sandoval, 1544-1547, provided the occasion for the appearance of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado as a witness.⁹ The visitor brought forty-four charges against the viceroy, Antonio de Mendoza, June 21, 1546, to which this officer replied with a vigorous and categorical denial. To substantiate his statements he drew up a list of three hundred and three assertions in the form of questions to which *interrogatorio*,¹⁰ hundreds of the substantial citizens of New

8. Icaza, *op. cit.*, *loc. cit.*, who writes "Destrada."

9. For descriptions of the visita, cf. A. S. Aiton, *Antonio de Mendoza*, (Durham, N. C., 1927), 158-172; C. Pérez Bustamante, *Don Antonio de Mendoza* (Santiago de Galicia, 1928), 99-107. The former has made citations to the testimony of Coronado at pertinent points.

10. This is printed in Joaquín García Icazbalceta, *Colección de documentos para la historia de México*, 2 vol. (Mexico, 1858-66), II, 72-140, under the title "Fragmenta de la visita hecha a don Antonio de Mendoza." This was drawn up by the notary Miguel López de Legazpi, but lacks the five additional questions framed by Juan de Salazar for the *probanza* in Michoacán.

Spain testified under oath as to their truth or falsity and supplied any additional information they happened to possess.

Coronado's turn came January 18, 1547, in Mexico City, and his replies are of peculiar interest where the conduct of his expedition was the subject of inquiry. A total of fourteen answers touch on this subject. Although an obvious bias is apparent, Coronado was a valuable witness for the administration, since he was able to speak as an eye-witness concerning many of the events under discussion and to give details lacking in the *interrogatorio*. His statement (question 124) that Cortés attempted to form a partnership with the viceroy for the furtherance of northern discoveries, to be financed by the Marquis, is of greatest interest. Many sidelights are afforded on the viceroy's character and methods, on the treatment accorded the Indians, and the manifold relationships of the government of early New Spain to the governed in all phases of life. From this point of view the document constitutes a useful complement to the *interrogatorio* printed by García Icazbalceta, just after the middle of the last century, and all too infrequently used by scholars since its publication.

This translation was made from a paleographic transcript prepared under the direction of one of the editors from the original in the Archivo General de Indias. It was later carefully compared with the original which is to be found in the papers of the Tello de Sandoval *visita* (*Justicia, Legajo* 48-1-9/31) of that wealthy repository in Seville. A reclassification of the archives has been completed since the manuscript was examined, but citation is given to the older *legajo* number as the new numbers for individual *legajos* are not available.¹¹ This should occasion no inconvenience as the archive's officials have retained the *legajos* intact, save in

11. For recent comment on this reclassification Cf. R. R. Hill "Reforms in shelving and numbering in the Archivo General de Indias," *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, X, 520-525; José Torre Revello, *El Archivo General de Indias de Sevilla, historia y clasificación de sus fondas*, Instituto de investigaciones históricas, L. Buenos Aires, 1929.

the case of the large *legajos* which were split for ease of shelving and handling, and a key to cross references from the old to the new arrangement is available in Seville but, unfortunately, is not yet in print and at the disposal of the editors. In the text Spanish words which have become familiar to English readers through the writings of scholars in the Hispanic-American field have not been italicized.

A. S. AITON.

1547—INVESTIGATION OF THE VICEROY OF NEW SPAIN,
DON ANTONIO DE MENDOZA

... Witness IX.

The said Francisco Vázquez de Coronado, native of the city of Salamanca in the kingdoms of Castile, governor for His Majesty in the province of New Galicia, resident and *regidor* of this City of Mexico of this New Spain, having been sworn and being examined on the questions for which he appeared testified as follows:

1. To the first question he replied that he knew the said don Antonio de Mendoza as viceroy and governor of this New Spain and as president of the royal audiencia located in it, for as such he is accepted and acknowledged, and as such he has seen him use and exercise the said offices in the name of His Majesty and has seen the commissions of viceroy, governor, and president which he holds from His Majesty, and has known him in these offices for eleven years, more or less. That he knew the said Visitor Francisco Tello de Sandoval¹ since he came to this new Spain and long before that. (General:) Examined on the general questions he said that he is over thirty years of age and is not a relative of, nor related to, the said viceroy or holds any enmity against him, or is there any cause why under oath he would fail to tell the truth and what he knows; or is he disqualified by anything in any of the general questions. That he desires that the truth be known and verified, because he likes truth and because he believes and feels certain that, if the truth is known and established concerning how the said viceroy has lived in New Spain and discharged the offices he holds in it, His Majesty will be well served and will be greatly enlightened, if it is possible for him to be more so, that he may trust and employ the said viceroy don Antonio de Mendoza in very important enterprises.

1. A member of the Council of the Indies, canon of the Cathedral in Seville, and inquisitor of the bishopric of Toledo, who in addition to wide power as visitor-general of New Spain also was empowered to act as inquisitor of the viceroyalty.

2. To the second question he replied that concerning the staff of justice² which the said viceroy gave the said Martin de Peralta,³ where the question touches on this point, this witness believes that he has made his statement concerning it in the secret inquiry before the said visitor and does not remember what he has said about this matter, but that he knows that what he declared was true, as likewise it is and will be what he may testify now, for his aim and intention in both cases is to tell the truth as a Christian. That in so far as the question states that the said viceroy gave the said staff to the said Martin de Peralta with the intention and for the purpose that the question states this witness believes and considers it certain that it was given for the reason the question states, for it is true that many young gentlemen and other unattached people came with and used to follow the said viceroy, and this witness was one of those who came with the said viceroy and accompanied him. That this witness knew then how the said viceroy and the people who came with him disembarked in the port mentioned in the question; that it was his intention to protect, defend, and favor the natives of this New Spain and that they should not be offended or ill treated. He understands and holds from what he has said that the appointment was given to the said Martin de Peralta for the purpose mentioned in the question and for nothing else.

3. To the third question he replied that he knows the affair as is stated in the question,⁴ because he saw that it happened and took place according to and as described, as a person who was present at the whole thing with the said viceroy. Thus for this reason, and for others that may be brought out, this witness thinks and holds for certain that it was expedient and necessary to give the said office to the said Martin de Peralta for the reasons already stated and because Martin de Peralta was a married man, honorable, gentle and honest, and because in this he did what was proper, as is public and notorious.

4. To the fourth question this witness answered that he had already made his statement in the secret inquiry concerning a certain punish-

2. A staff of office symbolical of the majesty of the law carried by those charged with the administration of justice.

3. Coronado had made an earlier statement in the secret inquiry of the visitor and was quite anxious to avoid contradictions (*infra* question 66) between the two sets of replies. The question to which this constitutes an answer and the two succeeding questions are concerned with the visitor's charge that the viceroy meted out justice before he had been inducted into his offices. Mendoza's statement was that he had entrusted the punishment of any of the people with him on the march from Vera Cruz to Mexico City to Martin de Peralta to protect the natives along the route from molestation.

4. The viceroy had brought one Aguirre, a servant, before Peralta for a public brawl in an inn and a public whipping had been administered as punishment. Mendoza was not a *letrado* and never assumed the duty of administering justice.

ment meted out to Pedro García Naguatato in the pueblo of Tezcoco,⁵ and that the declaration he had made about it was true. That he knows that all the rest contained in the question is also true as this witness saw it and was present at all of it. It is to be understood that this and what he has already testified is the truth and that it is not the intention of this witness to have his statements contradict one another.

9. To the ninth question⁶ he replied that he knew that the said viceroy both in the offices he held from His Majesty and without them in his court in the kingdoms of Castile and in this New Spain has always been and is long suffering and temperate, this in deeds and words, both with those who hold offices and govern as with the servants in his household. He hears them and deals with them with all kindness and promptness; this at all hours that officials and other persons had or have business to transact with the said viceroy. There being no interference of door-keepers or other persons with such petitioners, as the viceroy is a person who sleeps little and is accustomed to rising early to hear and transact affairs. It has befallen a petitioner to arrive at his bed chamber and shake him by a foot in his bed so that he would hear him, and the said viceroy would hear him with all kindness, as he has stated. What he has said he knows, as a person who knew the said viceroy; has treated and communicated with him and saw everything, except what is said about being pulled by his foot in bed, as he did not see that, but it was certified to him by one who saw it. As to the statement that the said viceroy being in public audiencia said that this city⁷ lied, this witness states that he was and is *regidor* of this said city and that he does not know nor has heard it said that the said viceroy uttered what the question states, nor does he believe that he would say such a thing, as this witness has seen that the said viceroy treats the *regidores* of this city well and honors them when an occasion comes. And that the word that the question mentions is such that could never have been uttered by the said viceroy, because he would not say it to other persons of less prominence even if they gave him occasion for it, for the said viceroy is, as he has stated, very polite and careful in his words and actions, particularly when in public audiencia, where it is desirable

5. Pedro García, the servant and interpreter, brought from Spain by the viceroy, had violated orders not to accept any gifts from the Indians and was given one hundred stripes of the lash in public at this pueblo near Mexico City by Martín de Peralta's order.

6. Mendoza had been accused for being harsh and intemperate in the language he used toward subordinates and had, in particular, called the councilmen of Mexico City "liars."

7. The word in the text is "Cibdad" but the Cabildo was meant. This is a curious instance of personification of a city wherein a remark alleged to have been spoken to the town council was regarded as a reflection on the entire population.

that one comport himself, as has been done, with great reverence, circumspection and attention, hearing that which is related and of each person particularly what he requests. It is not to be credited nor does this witness believe that he said that this city lied, this witness rather believed the contrary.

10. To the tenth question he replied that he took the said Francisco de Santa Cruz⁸ to be just such a person as is described in the question,⁹ for he believes and holds it to be certain that if the said viceroy had reprimanded him in any way whatsoever it would be because the said Francisco de Santa Cruz deserved it.

12. To the twelfth question he replied that this witness had seen that the said viceroy had both desire and intention, shown in his words and deeds, to have the proper thing done in all matters concerning the good government of this City of Mexico and of New Spain. That if the said viceroy addressed some harsh words to the *regidores* of this city or to some one of them it was more by way of reprimand than because of selfishness of the said viceroy, which this witness has never known to exist in him, nor does he believe existed or is he possessed of it now, that on account of it he could say a harsh word to any *regidor*, because this witness has always observed that the said viceroy has tried and endeavors now to maintain this city and New Spain in order and peace, meting out equal justice to all as has been and is public and notorious, and that this witness has neither seen nor heard to the contrary.

14. To the fourteenth question¹⁰ he replied that he understood it as stated since as *regidor* of this said city he saw it happen and occur according to and as stated and set forth in the question, and that this witness has neither seen nor heard to the contrary. That if anything had taken place this witness would have seen it or heard and learned about it, and it could not have been otherwise.

15. To the fifteenth question¹¹ he replied that his knowledge of it is, that ever since the said viceroy has ruled in this New Spain this witness has not known, seen, or heard it stated that the said viceroy per-

8. A native of Burgos who came to New Spain with Pánfilo de Narváez. He had had previous service in Italy and was present at the capture of Mexico City, Higueiras, and Honduras. In New Spain he married and had many children.

9. The question stated that Francisco de Santa Cruz was a quarrelsome person and that the viceroy, if he reprimanded him, did so with reason.

10. The question stated that the viceroy had given the cabildo full liberty to write and to send proctors to the court in Spain and had never interfered in elections to municipal office.

11. The fifth charge placed against Mendoza by the visitor was that he had inspected all the letters arriving in New Spain and had withheld letters from certain individuals.

sonally, or by his command, hindered or failed to deliver any letter or despatch that came from Spain or elsewhere to this New Spain for persons who resided or reside in it. On the contrary, that he freely desires and has desired that they be delivered to everyone. That this witness once said to the said viceroy that he, being accustomed to sending his despatches and letters in the letterbag that his lordship despatched to His Majesty, and since he had occasion to send two letters, one for one of the members of the Council of Indies, and having brought it unsealed, that he begged him to examine it, as it was not to go in his mailbag as others, and that this witness told him about it in the hope he would favor him in the transaction about which he wrote, and the said viceroy replied to him: "You know very well that I am not in the habit of finding out or reading what others write nor what is written to them." Thus the said viceroy did not wish to see or read the said letter. And that what he had said was what he knew about this question.

16. To the sixteenth question¹² he replied that what he knows about it is that this witness came to this New Spain with the said viceroy, for which reason he did not take part in any of the conquests carried out in the times of other governors, but has heard it stated as public and notorious that one or some of those who governed in this New Spain before the said viceroy, in some incursions and conquests they made, did and were in the habit of doing what is contained in this question. That there was one governor¹³ who took with him as prisoners the persons he called on to go with him and wanted to get rid of them; from others he took arms and horses by force to distribute among the persons who did not possess them. That this is what he knows of this question.

17. To the seventeenth question this witness replied that he was not in this New Spain at the time, as he had gone to serve His Majesty in the conquest and discovery of the new land of Cibola, but that he believes and holds it for certain that the said viceroy furnished and supplied from his own resources the aid and help that the question states.¹⁴ He believes this, as the said viceroy has always been and is well disposed and ready to serve His Majesty with his person and wealth as he has done and does.

12. The viceroy had been accused by the visitor of accepting gifts of horses and replied that the horses were only accepted as substitutes for the military services of their donors in the expeditions of His Majesty.

13. Nuño de Guzmán undoubtedly.

14. Mendoza furnished horses from his ranches and arms from his private stores for the use of those going with him to the Mixtón war.

20. To the twentieth question²⁵ he replied that he knows it to be as stated, because he saw it happen and take place according to and in the manner the question states and declares as is public and notorious.

21. To the twenty-first question he replied that he understood it to be as stated in the question since, by order of the said viceroy, this witness had seen built, repaired, and opened all the roads mentioned in the question, or most of them.²⁶ This witness by order of the said viceroy even took part in making, opening, and repairing some of the said roads. That what is stated in this question is public and notorious in this New Spain.

22. To the twenty-second question he replied that he understood it to be as set forth since from the building, opening, and repairing of these roads by the said viceroy there had accrued to many of the natives the advantages and benefits that the question relates. Because over the said roads travel pack trains of mules and horses, and on some of them carts, and by reason of this many of the said natives are relieved of hardships, and this would not be the case if the said roads had not been built. Even the Spaniards, residents, settlers, and inhabitants of this New Spain, have derived benefit and profit thereby as is public and notorious.

23. To the twenty-third question he replied that it is as stated and declared in the question,²⁷ and that concerning the damage that the carts cause to the streets, this witness as a *regidor* of this city with other *regidores* of it discussed at times forbidding the entrance of carts into this city by reason of the harm they did to the streets, and that up to the present the *cabildo* of this city has not decreed against the circulation of carts through the streets.

27. To the twenty-seventh question²⁸ this witness replied that what he knows about it is that when he came to this said city from his Cíbola

15. The question stated that the viceroy since his arrival had repaired the streets of Mexico, and had constructed new roads, streets, bridges, and causeways.

16. New roads had been constructed to Acapulco, Oaxaca, Telmantepeque, Michoacán, Colima, Jalisco, and Pánuco. Local roads to the mines of Taxco, Zultepeque, and Zumpango had also been built; while the road to Vera Cruz had been repaired.

17. The Viceregal statement was that the streets owed their bad condition to the heavy carts which broke them down and to the frequent breaks in the aqueduct which washed them out. A skilled aqueduct builder had been requested by the viceroy but had not been sent from Spain.

18. Mendoza had been accused by the visitor of marrying his sister, María de Mendoza, to the wealthy mine owner, Martín de Ircio, by proxy, while she was still in Spain, and then, after Ircio had paid the costs of her journey to New Spain, of withholding her from communication with her husband. Mendoza explained that his sister had taken a vow from which she had to be released before her marriage could be consummated and that he used no compulsion whatsoever. In this he was fully supported by the testimony of Bishop Zumárraga and other distinguished churchmen.

expedition he found that the said Doña María de Mendoza lived in a room in the residence of the said viceroy and that the said Doña María enjoyed full freedom and inquired from and consulted with learned clergymen as well as with other persons of experience and conscience about what is related in the question. This witness being informed, he was present at her wedding to the said Martín de Ircio. Thus they were married, and during her wedded life the said Doña María was delivered of children. This is what he knows about this question.

28. To the twenty-eighth question he replied that this witness has seen that the said viceroy has had and has a book¹⁹ in which this witness has seen entered some of the provisions the said viceroy enacted for the government [of New Spain], which is a beneficial and necessary thing. He has heard it said that the governors who preceded him did not have it.

31. To the thirty-first question²⁰ he answered that it is as the question states and declares it to be.

32. To the thirty-second question²¹ he replied that he understands it to be as stated, as this witness is the said Francisco Vázquez de Coronado mentioned in the question.

33. To the thirty-third question this witness replied that he was not in this country at the time when the events mentioned in the question²² took place, however, that upon his arrival he was told that the individuals were Juan de Carvajal and Juan Enríquez, and that it was as the question states.

37. To the thirty-seventh question²³ he replied that he understood it as stated, as this witness had received notice of the grant (Cédula) from

19. An official record in which all the decrees of the government were entered. The visitor had accused the viceroy of acting through his personal secretaries so that no record of many transactions had been kept.

20. The visitor had accused the viceroy of favoritism in disputes over certain holdings of Indians in encomienda. He replied that these cases had been submitted as legal cases to the audiencia for decision and had been settled by due process of law.

21. Doña Marina, the widow of the treasurer Alfonso de Estrada, and her son-in-law Francisco Vázquez de Coronado brought suit against the *fiscal* over the disposition of half of the Indians of Tlapa which was adjudged in their favor by the audiencia.

22. Juan de Carvajal, a native of Plasencia and a resident of Mexico City, and his wife had had a suit with Juan Enríquez and his wife over certain Indians that had been in encomienda to Francisco Rodríguez Margarino but both parties had agreed and a cédula of encomienda had been granted them legally before the "New Laws" had been published.

23. The visitor had accused the viceroy of favoring Lope de Samaniego when he was keeper of the arsenal, with a *corregimiento* of Indians and a free supply of wood and feed for his horses, which services he had not seen fit to extend to the incumbent keeper, Bernaldino de Albornoz. The viceroy replied that Lope de Samaniego had presented a royal cédula for the *corregimiento* and that the office of *Alcaide* did not carry with it any inherent right to Indians, and that Albornoz, lacking a cédula, had not been granted them.

His Majesty, held by the said Alcaide Lope de Samaniego, was as the question states. With respect to what the question says that he was not granted [a *corregimiento*] through partiality is correct, because the said viceroy has not been nor is partial to any person either publicly or privately, but rather very just with all. And that this witness believes him to be so upright that even if it were something that concerned Don Francisco de Mendoza, his son, he would not favor him to the detriment of others.

39. To the thirty-ninth question he replied that in the time this witness has been and resided in this New Spain, in the parts and localities where the said viceroy has been, he knows and has seen that the said viceroy has obeyed and complied with the letters and provisions that came to him from His Majesty with all respect and reverence. That he noticed especially that the said viceroy has tried to bring about the marriage of persons who had or have Indians in encomienda, and so they got married. That if some of the number that the question mentions are still unmarried it is because they have some obstacle in the way of marriage as is public and notorious.

41. To the forty-first question²⁴ he replied that he knows, and it is also public and notorious that the said Francisco de Lerma has belonged to the city council and held the offices that the question mentions, and this witness has seen him occupy most of these offices, and that at present he holds the position of *procurador*, and that with the said offices, or with some of them, the said Francisco de Lerma could and can obtain sufficiently and abundantly to live in keeping with the importance of his rank and to save money without having a *corregimiento*.

45. To the forty-fifth question²⁵ this witness replied he knows that the said Gutierre de Badajoz has good Indians and revenues and that he lives without privation; and further, that he saves of that which he has so he must not lack of what he needs, as is public and notorious.

24. Mendoza had been charged with not granting a *corregimiento* to Francisco de Lerma when he presented a cédula and had replied that he was not a fit person to whom a *corregimiento* might be granted. Moreover, he pointed out Lerma did not need the Indians as he was well-to-do in that he owned several shops in Mexico City, among them an apothecary shop and a confectionary store, ran a dance hall, acted as cook at wedding feasts and other festivals and had been an official in the mint.

25. The viceroy stated that he gave no additional Indians in *corregimiento* to Gutierre de Burgos since he was a rich man and already amply provided for in Indians and revenue. Gutierre de Badajoz was a native of Ciudad Rodrigo and had come to America with Ovando and to New Spain with Narváez.

46. To the forty-sixth question²⁶ he replied that the *corregimiento* which the question mentions is such and as good as the question states, due to the advantage it has. And that it is public and notorious that the said Jerónimo López has had the said *corregimiento* by appointment from the said viceroy.

47. To the forty-seventh question²⁷ he replied that he knows it to be as the question states it, as is public and notorious.

50. To the fiftieth question²⁸ he replied that he knows and has seen that the said Don Pedro de Guzmán had in the treasury of His Majesty the two hundred pesos that the question mentions and that this witness does not regard him as able and qualified to hold the office of *corregidor*.

51. To the fifty-first question he replied that the said Bernardino Vázquez de Tapia²⁹ is one of the richest men there is in this land both in mines, slaves, stock, and other sources of revenue, and that he has very good Indians and as such is one of those named of whom His Majesty orders that he be informed and act in compliance with the new law, to which he refers in regard to this point.

53. To the fifty-third question he replied that he heard the said Bernardino Vázquez de Tapia say, and he said it to this witness, that he did not want the land mentioned in this question because they did not give him the one he wanted.

55. To the fifty-fifth question³⁰ he replied that he understood it to be as stated for he had seen it thus in the kingdoms of Castile as in other parts and in this New Spain. Likewise he knows and has seen that not

26. The viceroy stated that the *corregimiento* of the pueblo of Mexicalcingo which he had given Jerónimo López in fulfilment of a royal cédula, while yielding a slight stipend in gold, afforded such services and tribute in food that it was accounted one of the most desirable in New Spain.

27. Mendoza claimed that Pedro de Bazán, a native of Cuellar who came to New Spain subsequent to the conquest, was a wealthy man possessed of Indians and the owner of a silver mine. On his death he left his only son in easy circumstances so no further grant of Indians was necessary.

28. Mendoza obeyed a royal cédula in Pedro de Guzmán's favor by granting him a money sum of two hundred pesos rather than appoint a person of his incompetence as *corregidor*.

29. Bernardino Vázquez de Tapia, a native of Oropesa, had gone to Panama with Pedrarias and from there to Cuba. He had played a prominent part in the conquest beginning with Grijalva's expedition, on which he had served as general alférez, and had continued with Cortés. He had served twice as *procurador general* of New Spain and was a member of the town council of Mexico City. He was a strong Cortés partisan and had complained of ill-treatment at the hands of the viceroy. He had been deprived of certain Indians under the terms of the "New Laws" and had refused to accept lands allotted him by Mendoza, claiming that they were barren.

30. The fourteenth charge of the visitor against the viceroy was that his servants were undisciplined and molested the citizens with impunity. In particular the mistreatment of a woman which went unpunished was cited.

only the servants of the said viceroy have managed and do manage to live honestly, chastely, and quietly, but even the retainers of the said viceroy have tried and do try to do so, knowing how much the said viceroy likes all modesty and decency and how he dislikes the opposite, as was and is public and notorious.

56. To the fifty-sixth question he replied that he had heard from the said Gonzalo Gómez,³¹ mentioned in the question, and he had said to this witness, while at the home of the said Gonzalo Gómez, that which the question sets forth.

57. To the fifty-seventh question he replied that he had heard the said Gonzalo Gómez say and even state to this witness what is contained in the question, and that he said it to him over two years ago while talking about this matter.

58. To the fifty-eighth question he replied that what he knows concerning it is that this witness has often seen that the said viceroy in addition to feeding and clothing his servants fed and clothed many persons who came to serve His Majesty in New Spain, because they endured and suffered privations. This he did to gentlemen as well as to other persons. And that the clothes which he thus gave to his servants and to most of the others were of his own goods and of those which had been brought for him from Spain for the use of his household, and other [cloth] bought from the merchants here. And as to that which the question states concerning his having used up all the cloth it is as the question states, since if he did not use it all it would not have been necessary for him to buy cloth in the shops as he did nor to have taken some from that brought from Spain for the use of his own household.

59. To the fifty-ninth question he replied that it is as the question states it to be, namely that from having taught and ordered the natives and slaves to be taught the weaving of cloth there accrued the benefits that the question sets forth, especially in the town of Tezcoco and its environs where the weaving of the said cloth was carried on. And that this has resulted not only in the benefit of the natives but also of the Spaniards, as is public and notorious.

61. To the sixty-first question he answered that he knows that neither publicly nor privately, directly or indirectly, the said viceroy never

31. A native of Seville and resident of Mexico City who was engaged in the manufacture and sale of wool-cloth, with his factory located in Tezcoco. Mendoza was accused by the visitor in his fifteenth charge of being in partnership with him in this business and of employing numerous Indian slaves and domestic Indians in *encomienda* in this work. Mendoza replied that he was not in partnership but had apprenticed slaves and other Indians to the number of about thirty-three to Gonzalo Gómez so that they might learn this useful trade. The cloth he had received was from the proceeds of his own wool sold to Gómez and that it had been consumed in the equipment of His Majesty's expeditions.

had nor has a share in the store that the said Gonzalo Gómez has owned and owns, or in the cloth that the latter has manufactured and manufactures at Tezococo and in Michoacán. That, if the contrary of this had been the case, this witness would know it and would have seen and heard about it, and it could not have been otherwise however secret it was kept, because this witness is one of the persons who was most engaged in business at the house of the said viceroy. Also, because as *regidor* of this said city on a certain occasion when his turn came to be deputy (inspector) he visited among other stores the drygoods stores owned by the said Gonzalo Gómez due to the fact that the weaving inspector had denounced a piece of goods saying that it was not properly done, and among other things he tried to find out in his visit who was in partnership with the said Gonzalo Gómez and investigating with all diligence he learned and established that the viceroy had no partnership in the said store.

62. To the sixty-second question³² he replied that he knows it to be as stated, as he thus saw it happen and take place as the question declares and sets forth, and that he has not seen or heard to the contrary. And he has observed that the said viceroy distributed and gave merino rams and some sheep to Spaniards who now have flocks from them, and this witness is one of these individuals.

63. To the sixty-third question³³ he answered that he understands it to be as stated, because he has seen it happen and take place as the question sets forth and declares, as is public and notorious.

64. To the sixty-fourth question he said that he knows it to be as stated, because he saw it occur and take place as the question states and declares. He states that he knows that if it were not for the income that the cattle owned by the said viceroy brought and bring him for the expenses and support of his house the salary that His Majesty grants him would not have sufficed him, because even possessing the said stock he is rather in debt and does not save anything from his salary.

66. To the sixty-sixth question³⁴ he replied that I, the said Pedro Salazar, *escribano*,³⁵ know that he has answered some of the questions of this inquiry and that his aim has been and is to see the statements he

32. Mendoza was accused of owning ranches stocked with great herds and flocks of horses, cows, and sheep contrary to the law. He replied that these ranches had been acquired with the knowledge and consent of the crown and that great benefit had accrued to New Spain from his introduction of fine merino sheep from Castile which supplied the land with food and clothing.

33. In this question Mendoza claimed that the Indians using his wool now had clothes and cloaks of wool rather than as formerly of cotton.

34. The viceroy was accused of not maintaining a bodyguard although granted two thousand ducats a year for this purpose. He replied that he did keep a bodyguard of gentlemen, foot and horse, and was able to produce the monthly muster rolls of this

had made in the secret investigation in order to tell the truth in every case, with the purpose that what he has said and may say will not contradict what he has already declared in the said testimony as it seems by the said questions that he has rectified himself in what he had declared. That it has always been and is his aim not to correct himself of what he may say before me, and much less to sign without first being told his testimony so as not to contradict himself and to correct those portions where memory failed him. That now again, for greater justification, said that as this witness has stated in the secret inquiry that the very magnificent Señor Francisco Tello de Sandoval, of the Royal Council of Indies of His Majesty, visitor and general inquisitor in this New Spain has given his order as to what should be said to bring out the truth and to tell what he knew without contradicting the previous statement he had made in the secret inquiry. That he asked and requested me, the said Pedro de Salazar, *escribano* of His Majesty, that I show him his said statement and deposition so he might see it. For, as he has said, he wishes to tell the truth and not contradict himself in anything; and as men's memory is fragile it might very well happen that in some case or question one statement might exceed or contradict the other without being his intention to err purposely, but on the contrary to tell the truth in all and by all means as a good Christian fearful of God our Lord as he has sworn to do.

And I, the said *escribano*, declare that the aforesaid secret investigation did not take place in my presence, nor do I have the report; and that I am ready to ask the said visitor for the testimony this witness has given and declared in the said secret inquiry, and that if his lordship gives it to me I am ready to show it to him. The said Francisco Vázquez replied that until I showed him the aforesaid deposition or the reply from the said visitor that he was not going to say anything. And I, the said *escribano* of the petition, attest that I read to the said visitor the reply and demand made by the said Francisco Vázquez de Coronado. After reading it the said visitor replied saying that the deposition could not be shown to him; that in the declarations he makes he may refer to [that deposition] if he wishes, otherwise he could let it go and not testify. And I, the said *escribano*, read to the said Francisco de Coronado the answer from the said visitor. After reading it the said Francisco Vázquez replied that by not showing him his aforesaid deposition, so he could see it and ratify it, he should prefer not to finish giving his testimony in behalf of the said viceroy, but because at the time he was called as a witness on behalf of the said viceroy he swore solemnly to testify and tell the truth, that now in fulfillment of the said

corps. He was not followed about by halberdiers first because he couldn't get anyone to serve as such and in the second place because his person was safe without them.

35. A native of Almazán who came to New Spain after the conquest, where he married and had a family.

oath he wishes to tell what he knows about what may be asked of him, with the understanding and premonition that what he [then] said and may [now] say will not contradict each other in any way, because, as he has stated, his aim is to tell the truth. On saying this he added that as for the said sixty-sixth question it is as the question sets forth, that the said viceroy appointed a captain of his guard (halberdiers), and it seems to him that it was Agustín Guerrero. That the said viceroy has had and maintains continuously in his house besides the officers, pages and servants, other persons, and this witness believes he has them for his guard. That it happens that in these parts the people residing here pride themselves on not carrying escorts, but many believe they could carry bodyguards, and that for this reason and on account of it being so difficult to find people willing to accept salary for forming the said guard this witness considers it certain that the said viceroy did not carry them. As for the rest stated in this question this witness replied that it is as the question states it. Because the said viceroy has not had and does not have need to carry guards with him, because, as this witness has said, the said viceroy lives in a manner so Christian-like and as such a royal vassal and servant of His Majesty that he has been and is well liked by all, as a person who has not wronged anyone either by word or deed, and for this reason does not need to carry guards, as the question states; also because he has in his house many persons whom he provides with food, lodging, and advancement, as is public and notorious.

67. To the sixty-seventh question³⁶ he replied that he knows it to be as stated in view of what he has declared in the previous question and because thus he saw it occur and take place as the question sets forth.

68. To the sixty-eighth question³⁷ he answered that the said viceroy has army stores of his own containing many corselets, armors, breast-plates, cross-bows, arquebuses, shields, spears, lances, much ammunition, and other types of weapons. He ordered artillery made, and they even brought him more artillery from Spain; all in order to be, as he is, prepared for any eventuality of war and to serve His Majesty. And that to judge from the quantity of arms this witness has seen, the said viceroy has the number of people that the question says and more could be equipped and what he has stated and declared that it comprises is to be understood to be besides and in addition to the arms needed for the people in his guard.

36. Mendoza stated that he had constantly kept more servants in his house than he needed and in addition lodged and fed many needy gentlemen.

37. The viceroy claimed that he had on hand over and above the needs of his bodyguard, arms, in sufficient quantity to equip three hundred men and much artillery and munitions.

69. To the sixty-ninth question³⁸ he declares that it is as stated in the question; that thus is public and notorious, and that he has not seen or heard otherwise. On the contrary that he has heard from many trustworthy people who have passed through that province say that the said cacique did with them and with many others what is set forth in the question.

70. To the seventieth question he replied that he knew the Indians mentioned in the question and saw that they came from Spain³⁹ with the said viceroy and that they possessed the qualities stated in the question.

74. To the seventy-fourth question he declared that he knew the said Hernando de Tapia as the interpreter (*lengua*) of the royal audiencia of this New Spain. He dresses like a Spaniard, speaks our Castilian language, and to all appearances he is friendly with the Spaniards, and he had heard that he had been married to a woman from Castile and that he knows that at present he is married to a daughter of Spanish parents, as is public and notorious.

78. To the seventy-eighth question he stated that the said Don Antonio,⁴⁰ governor of the province of Michoacán, acts like a Christian, and this witness considers him as such. That this witness saw him as a boy being brought up at the home of the said viceroy, and that he acts like a Spaniard, and that he is considered and held to be the son of the cacique Cazonci, who went to the province of Michoacán.

80. To the eightieth question⁴¹ he replied that he knows it to be as stated, because he has seen it happen and take place in the manner stated and declared in the question, and that this witness has not seen or heard to the contrary. And that he knows and has seen that some conquistadores, almost deprived of their natural sight, having been assigned a certain sum of pesos in gold in the treasury of His Majesty, the said viceroy seeing that they were not being paid what was due to them of their vouchers this witness saw that one day the said viceroy

38. Don Juan, cacique and governor of Soconusco, permitted to carry a sword by the viceroy, was a friend of the Spaniards and honored by them prior to his death, for his aid and assistance to those Spaniards passing through his province. The visitor had declared that any permission to carry Spanish arms or to ride horses granted to the Indians was illegal.

39. Don Diego and Don Martín, and Don Sebastian, Tlascalcan Indians, the first two dead at the time of Vázquez de Coronado's testimony, had journeyed to Spain with the licentiate Juan de Salmerón, *oidor* of the second audiencia, to have an audience with Charles V and had returned to New Spain with the viceroy in 1535. As honorable persons and good Christians the viceroy had permitted them to wear swords.

40. Another native permitted by Mendoza to wear a sword, brought up in the viceroy's household and educated in latin at the *colegio* in Michoacán.

41. Mendoza in the visitor's nineteenth charge was accused of neglect of the conquistadores and rejoined with a stout denial.

sent for Alonso de Bazán,⁴² sub-treasurer of His Majesty in this New Spain during the absence of Juan Alonso de Sosa,⁴³ general treasurer, and told him and charged him to pay with all urgency the assignments (tercios) to the said conquistadores, because if he did not do so the said viceroy would give them a silver inkstand, a little bell, and a sand-box which he had there on a small table. He said this to him so the conquistadores could eat, as they were poor and had no means of support.

81. To the eighty-first question⁴⁴ he replied that concerning the contents of this question he has made his declaration in the said secret investigation and that he refers to it now because that is the truth.

84. To the eighty-fourth question⁴⁵ he replied that it is as the question states and declares.

86. To the eighty-sixth question⁴⁶ he answered that he knows that, in the reduction of salaries and the vacating of *corregimientos* and *alguazilazgos* that the said viceroy made, God our Lord and His Majesty have been thereby greatly served and this country has derived notable benefits for the reasons set forth in the question, as is public and notorious, and that he has not seen or heard to the contrary.

90. To the ninetieth question⁴⁷ this witness answered that he knows and has seen that when the said viceroy came to this New Spain it was the custom that the *alcaldes* of mines should have mines, as they did, and have their houses and residences in the mining camps, and thus keeping this custom the said viceroy acted accordingly. And he knows this because he has seen it to be so.

91. To the ninety-first question he replied that it is as the question states it.⁴⁸ And he knows this as *regidor* of this city.

42. A native of Cuéllar in Spain, who married Francisca Verduga, daughter of one of the conquerors.

43. A native of Córdoba in Spain, whose father, Lope de Sosa, had been governor of the Canary Islands and had led an expedition to Castilla del Oro. Juan Alonso de Sosa had served as treasurer in Panama and had come to New Spain in like capacity with the second audiencia.

44. The viceroy in this question explained that he had favored Luís de Castilla, his aide, because he was an honorable gentleman, who discharged his duties faithfully and treated the Indians with kindness.

45. The viceroy stated that he gave Martín de Peralta a *corregimiento* because he was needy, married, and beset with many children.

46. The viceroy declared that the growth in population made many new mouths to feed and this could only be accomplished by savings produced from the lowering of salaries and by the regranting of vacated offices.

47. The appointment of *alcaldes mayores de minas* by the viceroy was attacked in the visitor's twenty-first charge. He was accused of providing his appointees with houses, slaves, and mines contrary to the laws of His Majesty. Mendoza's reply was that he merely followed local precedent in this matter.

48. Mendoza was charged by the visitor with providing Juan Franco and his son, carpenters, with *corregimientos* which they held for several years. He replied that

93. To the ninety-third question⁴⁹ he answered that he refers to what he has testified in the secret inquiry concerning the contents of this question.

97. To the ninety-seventh question⁵⁰ he replied that it is as reported, because before his death the said Hernando de Torres told this witness that he had arranged the said marriage with the said Pedro Osorio, as the question states, and that he wanted to see it carried out, and that since then this marriage has taken place.

98. To the ninety-eighth question he answered that it is as the question states, because he knows and has seen that the said Antonio de Almaguer⁵¹ is married to the wife of the said Hernando de Torres and that he holds one half of the town that the said Hernando de Torres held, in accordance with what His Majesty has prescribed and decreed.

99. To the ninety-ninth question⁵² he replied that he knows as public and notorious what is set forth in the said question.

101. To this question⁵³ he replied that he knows it to be as stated because the said Rodrigo Gómez was considered and held as a conquistador and was a resident of this City of Mexico. This Rodrigo Gómez

49. The visitor accused Mendoza of transferring town council and notary posts to other persons. Coronado, for instance, was made a *regidor* by such procedure. The viceroy replied that such transfers were always for limited terms, always secured better officials and were subject to royal approval.

50. Hernando de Torres, conquistador, had contracted to give Pedro de Osorio, a native of Ocaña and former *alcalde mayor* of the mines of Taxco, half of a pueblo in encomienda as a marriage dowry if he married his daughter. After the death of Torres the marriage was solemnized, so the viceroy confirmed Osorio as encomendero of the half pueblo in question.

51. A native of Corral de Almaguer and conquistador, he married Doña Juana Briseño, widow of Hernando de Torres, and thus received the remaining half pueblo left by Torres.

52. The royal law provided that pueblos held in encomienda should on the death of the encomendero pass to his legitimate children and if he had none to his legitimate wife. The viceroy was also ordered to favor those bearing arms and to foster marriages. When the laws conflicted he settled each case on its merits for the interest of New Spain.

53. Another case in which the viceroy set aside the letter of the law for the best interest of the land. The visitor charged that as no legitimate children were present to inherit the Indians of Rodrigo Gómez they should have passed into crown ownership. Juan Guerrero, a native of Alcaraz, married the natural daughter of Gómez, a native of Avila, and by so doing was entitled to special consideration as the government was anxious to promote marriages and families in the new colony. In addition it was not a case of inheritance but of gift, since the wedding took place before the death of Gómez.

Beginning here an editorial "this" is substituted for the long ordinal numbers.

the king had granted this privilege to the person serving as superintendent of construction (alarife) for the City of Mexico and that Franco and his son had secured their salaries for this work from these grants.

being acquainted and friendly with this witness told him that he knew very well that he had Indians, obtained as remuneration for the hardships and services he had rendered His Majesty in the conquests of this New Spain, and that he had a maiden natural daughter; that he as a man born to die awaited his end and death whenever God our Lord was pleased to send it to him. That he wished to leave his said daughter married and protected by a husband and relatives, and that he wanted to grant her the said Indians at once during his life. That he requested and asked this witness to take upon himself to marry her to someone of his own choice whom he considered suitable. Thus this witness endeavored to get her married and concerted the marriage of the mentioned daughter to Juan Guerrero, on such condition that first of all the said Rodrigo Gómez bequeath his said Indians to the mentioned Juan Guerrero and that it should be approved by the said viceroy. Thus the latter being informed of what this witness has related and that the said Juan Guerrero is a person of high birth, and that His Majesty would be served by the establishment in this city of such a good resident and dweller, the transfer to him of the said Indians by the above mentioned Rodrigo Gómez was done so the said marriage should take effect. The said viceroy confirmed it in the name of His Majesty. Thus the said marriage took place before the said Rodrigo Gómez died, as is public and notorious.

102. To this question⁵⁴ he replied that it is thus as the question states and declares, because thus it was and is public and notorious.

104. To this question⁵⁵ he answered that he knew that by the permission of the said viceroy for the transfer and relinquishments of rights to Indians His Majesty has been served and this New Spain has gained much thereby, the Spaniards as well as the natives, due to the causes and reasons set forth in the question, and for many others.

106. To this question he replied that this witness is the said Francisco Vázquez de Coronado mentioned in the question, and that it is true that for the reasons stated in this question the said viceroy approved in the name of His Majesty the transfer which the said Juan de Burgos⁵⁶ made to this witness. This approval was on the proviso that His

54. Mendoza cited the royal order that he should confirm the transfer of Indians as a marriage dowry if the husband were a person of quality who would treat them well.

55. The viceroy defended his entire policy of Indian transfer as beneficial and necessary for the continued peopling of New Spain.

56. The visitor in his twenty-seventh charge accused Mendoza of permitting the transfer of Indian pueblos and of giving cédulas of encomienda to assignees, with a sale of the transfer in some cases. Mendoza replied that in all cases a royal cédula was secured and that the Indians passed into the hands of married men with families to support. Juan de Burgos from whom Vázquez Coronado secured Indians of two pueblos was a native of Seville, originally a settler at Pánuco who was a resident of Mexico, but wished to return to Spain.

Majesty would approve it and not otherwise. His Majesty being informed of it approved and sanctioned it, of which this witness has three documents. That as for the rest contained in this question this witness has heard it said as public and notorious.

107. To this question⁵⁷ he answered that he knows that many of the persons mentioned in the previous question are living in this New Spain, and this witness feels sure that most of the people to whom transfers of Indians were made would not live in this land if they did not have Indians. And that up to the present no harm has been noticed in having allowed the said transfers, on the contrary, great benefit has been derived and the land has been further settled with them, as is public and notorious.

111. To this question⁵⁸ he replied that it was as stated in the question, and that corn at that time was worth much less than now, and that for this reason the town of Cinacantepeque did not bring so much revenue as now, because now, as he has pointed out, corn is very high in value. That in regard to His Majesty having approved the transfer that the question states this witness considers it certain, because in the time this witness governed the province where the said town of Coyna is located His Majesty through an order addressed to this witness ordered him to give to a certain Juan del Camino, a former resident of the city of Guadalajara in the said province, the said town of Coyna which the said Juan de Samano had left because he had been given for it and for other Indians the town of Cinacantepeque, as was and is public and notorious.

113. To this question⁵⁹ he answered that in the time this witness has been in this New Spain he has seen continuously that the said viceroy has taken special care in serving His Majesty well, faithfully, and diligently on all occasions; in the good order, enrichment and benefit

57. The question continues the discussion as to the benefits derived from transfers of pueblos held in encomienda.

58. The visitor had accused the viceroy of giving Juan de Samano, a native of Santa Gadea who came to New Spain with Garay, a better pueblo than the one he vacated contrary to the instructions of His Majesty. Juan del Camino, a relative of Pedro de Alvarado and at whose home the conquistador is reputed to have died, received the pueblos vacated by Samano. The viceroy pointed out in his reply that the values had changed since the transfer was effected.

59. The thirty-first charge of the visitor taxed the viceroy with laxity in the collection of royal revenues and alleged that over one hundred and seventy thousand ducats of Castilian gold belonging to the crown was outstanding. Mendoza explained this by pointing out, in this and the succeeding two questions, that he had been most diligent in the collection, promotion, and accounting of His Majesty's revenue. The money outstanding was due to payments of tribute and other taxes in kind which took time to convert into money and to the fact that it was necessary to wait until merchants sold goods before collecting the *almojarifazgo* due the crown on the same goods.

of the royal treasury of His Majesty, making provisions thereto as the question states, as is public and notorious.

114. To this question he replied that what he knows about it is that in the public auctions that have been and are held of the tributes of His Majesty, especially in some of them, this witness has found that they are sold on credit and are given and granted to people who are under contract so they pay their debts from what they draw through the quarterly revenue, so they pay it to the factor of His Majesty making the proper record of it. That if this had been done in any other way neither things would have had the value they had and have nor would those who take them out from the auction sales be able to pay for them without sacrifice. For this reason there must be necessarily a large number of gold pesos from the coffers of His Majesty in circulation; this is due to what he has stated and because, for the greater advancement of the royal treasury of His Majesty, the tributes of some towns that belong to the Crown are leased and paid through the quarterly revenues as the question points out, as is public and notorious.

116. To this question he replied that as he has stated in the one hundred thirteenth question this witness understands and is certain that if news had reached the said viceroy that any of His Majesty's property was out of the coffer with the three keys or put to bad use he would have remedied it and done what was proper as a person who next to the service of God our Lord in no other thing does he put so much care as in what concerns the service of His Majesty, as is public and notorious.

117. To this question⁶⁰ this witness replied that he considers the said licenciado Ceynos and Agustín Guerrero to be such persons as the question states, and that he has not seen or heard to the contrary.

124. To this question⁶¹ he answered that from what this witness knows of the said viceroy he would not have assembled or ordered formed the said expeditions without having permission for it from His Majesty. As this witness knows that the Marqués del Valle has requested this witness several times to induce the said viceroy to join

60. Francisco de Céynos, *oider* of the audiencia of Mexico, and Agustín Guerrero, the viceroy's majordomo, were appointed accountants to check the books of the treasurer in 1536. The visitor questioned their fitness for the task, but Gonzalo de Aranda, financial inspector for the crown, gave them a clean bill of health.

61. The visitor intimated in his thirty-fifth charge, that the viceroy had engaged in personal discovery and that his expeditions had caused the Mixtón uprising by their abuse of the natives. The viceroy replied that all his expeditions by land and by sea were despatched with the license and consent of His Majesty. In this and the following questions he claimed that great good had come from these expeditions and that he had not neglected his duties for them or had they been responsible for the revolt in Jalisco known as the Mixtón war.

company with him in some expeditions that the said marquis offered to carry out at his own expense, without the said viceroy having to contribute anything to the cost of the said expedition. This witness mentioned to the said viceroy what the marquis had said of what he has stated and the said viceroy answered to this witness that he was not going to join company with anybody or organize an expedition himself without express permission from His Majesty. He even replied to this witness, because he told him that the marquis would stand the whole expense, saying: "You know very well, for you know me, that I am not going to accept anything from the marquis or from anybody else, except from His Majesty, nor is it right to accept it. I may give of what I possess, and I shall do it when I consider it opportune; to accept or receive anything from anybody, little or much, I am not going to do it. So I charge you not to speak to me about this again."

125. To this question he replied that it is so; that His Majesty has been served by the expedition in what the question states. And because the captains of these expeditions by land and sea have been and are instructed and forewarned that above all things they should look earnestly to the service of God our Lord, that of His Majesty, and the good treatment of the natives of the lands, islands, and provinces where they may stop or pass through; that they should observe the instructions that His Majesty has issued and ordered obeyed in such expeditions. All of which the said viceroy ordered and charged this witness when he went as captain general to the discovery and conquest of the new land of Cibola. This very thing he charged the other persons under whose leadership expeditions were carried out, as this and the rest stated in this question is public and notorious.

126. To this question he replied that what he knows about it is that at the time this witness went as captain general to the discovery of the new land of Cibola the said viceroy went on that occasion to visit the provinces of Michoacán and New Galicia. This witness was with the said viceroy in the said provinces and saw that he took special care in learning the condition in which all things were in this City of Mexico and elsewhere and to make provisions accordingly, as he saw that he provided for all necessary things. For this reason he thinks and is sure that in this trip as well as in the others he must have attended to everything so that nothing was neglected.

127. To this question he answered that he understands from what he has stated that it happened and does happen as the question states and declares and that this witness has not seen or heard to the contrary.⁶²

62. Mendoza claimed that the province of Michoacán had received no injury from the passage of his men, both those of the expeditions and of his army passing through to pacify New Galicia.

For as regards the expedition to the new land of Cibola the said viceroy charged and ordered this witness to instruct and admonish his soldiers that in the province of Michoacán as in the distance between here and there and in the said province of New Galicia, through which the army was to cross and did cross, the party was not to cause any offense or ill treatment to any of the natives nor take anything from them. Thus this witness knows that the said natives were well treated, because many of the caciques of the pueblos located along the route said so. They said it to this witness during his trips back and forth between this city and his government post. Thus it would appear that the said provinces received benefit rather than harm from having been visited by the said viceroy. Further he has provided for them things which were needed, as was and is public and notorious.

130. To this question he answered that he knows that the people who went with this witness, who is the said Francisco Vázquez de Coronado, to the discovery of the new land of Cibola were not the cause nor gave occasion for the said province of New Galicia to revolt, because from the pueblos of Ávalos, through which these people passed, to the peñol mentioned in the question it is more or less the leagues stated therein.⁶⁸ And, because when the army assembled in the said province of New Galicia the said viceroy ordered corn brought from the pueblos of Ávalos and from others so that the natives of that province should not be annoyed or injured. And at the expense of the said viceroy the said corn and other provisions were bought and taken along; all with the purpose that the natives should not be ill-treated or molested, and likewise so that the Spaniards settled in that province would not suffer or be injured for lack of provisions to supply the army. So, as he has stated, it is very plain that the people who went to Cibola were not the cause whereby that province revolted, as is public and notorious.

132. To this question he replied that what he knows about it is that when this witness came from the said new land of Cibola to the said province of New Galicia, where this witness was governing in the name of His Majesty, on learning of the revolt of the said province he wished to find out what had been the causes of the said rebellion and ordered some leading Indian caciques, and laborers of the pueblos of the said province who were in rebellion to appear before him. He informed himself from each one separately and secretly by means of a Spanish interpreter who had been sworn beforehand that he would tell the truth of what the said Indians should tell him. This was done in the

68. Mendoza pointed out that the Coronado expedition could not have been the cause of the revolt since it passed through the province of Ávalos on the coast over forty leagues distant from the scene of the outbreak of the Peñol of Tespestistaque, over toward Zacatecas.

presence of Pedro Ruiz de Haro,⁶⁴ *escribano* of His Majesty, and as he has stated, informed himself individually from each one of the said Indians, who had been called to this effect, of the cause that moved them to rise and revolt. The said Indians, and each one individually, under the oath that had been administered to them, stated and declared that they had no other reason except that the devil appeared in person to many of them and told them that before the Christians came they were enjoying a good life, and many things of this sort, and that they should rise and kill the Christians. That this was the reason why they had revolted and no other, as this witness has declared and set forth more at length in his testimony in the secret investigation, to which he refers under the said protest to the effect that this testimony is not to contradict the other or viceversa, because all of it is true, even though the words may differ somewhat. Therefore, this witness understands that he (the devil) was among them as the question says.

133. To this question⁶⁵ he replied that he repeats what he has said in the previous question.

137. To this question⁶⁶ he answered that he reaffirms what he has said in question 132.

146. To this question he replied that it was as the question states. That the said Cristóbal de Oñate⁶⁷ is an able and competent person who possesses the qualities mentioned in this question; and that this witness considering him as such left him as his substitute as governor and captain general of New Galicia, and that he has preparation, understanding and other good qualities so that he may be entrusted with undertakings of greater importance as the question states, as is public and notorious.

64. A native of Peñaranda, and a resident of Compostela in New Galicia. He came to New Spain in 1521 and took part in the discovery of the South Sea and later marched to the conquest of New Galicia with Nuño de Guzmán.

65. A declaration that "Thatol" or the devil of the Indians stirred them to revolt in New Galicia.

66. A statement denying the existence of ill-treatment of the natives by either the expeditions or the encomenderos eliminating this therefore as the cause of the uprising in New Galicia.

67. Mendoza was charged with neglect of duty by the visitor for returning to Mexico City after the beginning of the Mixtón war. It was alleged that the later spread of the revolt was due to this negligence. The viceroy replied that he left the province in good hands and on the advice of competent local authorities. Cristóbal de Oñate, the acting governor, was a native of Vitoria, and Lorenzo de Tejada, *oidor* of the audiencia of Mexico, was warm in his praise of this official when he conducted the residencia of Oñate in 1544.

194. To this question⁶⁸ he replied that he knows it as reported to be, because he has seen it happen and take place as the question states and declares, and as he has it stated and explained in the other question or questions.

195. To this question he answered that he knows and has seen that since the said viceroy has been ruling many things have been brought him from the kingdoms of Castile for the furnishing of his home, and that his brothers have sent him arms and artillery, which he has had and has at the service of His Majesty, as is public and notorious.

199. To this question⁶⁹ he replied that he knew it to be as stated because this witness is the said captain general Francisco Vázquez de Coronado mentioned in the question. That this witness ordered the horses, mules, and stock that were carried in the said expedition counted at a certain narrow pass where they could be easily counted and there were found to be by count fifteen hundred animals.

200. To this question he answered that it is as the question states;⁷⁰ that from the province of Culiacán they passed among the Indians mentioned in this question, a few more or less, who went of their own free will to serve His Majesty in the said expedition. That he knows this because many of the said Indians told this witness many times that they desired and wanted to go in the said expedition of their own free will, without being forced, constrained, compelled, or called for it, and that the said Indians were from this New Spain. They told and assured this witness that if the said viceroy would authorize it or show inclination to want it more than ten thousand Indians could go. That as they had offered themselves and decided to take part in the said expedition, seeing that they wanted to take part of their own accord they were given aid by order of the said viceroy, as the question states it. Likewise, this witness knows that the said viceroy among other things which he charged and commanded this witness relating to the said expedition was that he should take good care of the free Indians who were taking part in the expedition as people who wanted to do it

68. The question declared that the viceroy had constantly gathered needy gentlemen and others in his house where he fed, clothed and armed them so they might serve the crown. The omission of numerous questions here is accounted for by Coronado's absence on his expedition during the period of the Mixtón war. As the events discussed in these questions were necessarily outside his knowledge they were omitted.

69. The viceroy stated that two hundred and fifty horsemen left Culiacán with Coronado on his expedition, and that for remounts, carrying of baggage and munition, and food they took along more than a thousand horses, mules, and stock.

70. Mendoza claimed that thirteen hundred Indians voluntarily accompanied Coronado from Culiacán and that every care was exercised to care for them and to support their families in New Spain.

of their own accord in order to serve His Majesty. That any time they wished to turn back they should be given permission to return, and that he should give them of whatever there was in the land. That he should honor them as free people who of their own free will wished to serve His Majesty. That if they decided to return, all or part of them, from the interior in such a way they could not do it safely the said viceroy ordered this witness that he should provide them with some mounted men with whom they could go unmolested. Likewise, that he should give them some articles of those that the governor ordered to be taken along to trade for food and to give the natives of the lands through which the army passed. And that although the Indians knew and understood this order there was not one who asked permission to return, except a few service-Indians whom Fray Juan de Padilla⁷¹ had taken from the town of Zapotlán. Because the said Fray Juan de Padilla wanted to go to stay at Quivira they asked permission to return to their homes and this witness granted it to them and put them on their way accompanied by some men on horseback who were carrying letters for His Majesty and for the said viceroy. That what he has declared in this question is the truth, and a good portion of it is public and notorious to those who participated in the said expedition.

201. To this question he answered that this witness knows that the said viceroy gave as aid and advancement to those who went in the said expedition a large number of gold pesos. To some of them he gave arms, horses, and money and to others lances and arms of the country, as this was expedient in order that the said expedition which the said viceroy (assembled) in the name of His Majesty for the furtherance of our holy Catholic faith and the increase of the royal patrimony should take place. That many of the succors, or most of them, that the said viceroy ordered given were distributed by Agustín Guerrero through vouchers signed by this witness as a person to whom the said viceroy had entrusted this duty. He issued these supplies according to the needs he noticed in each one of the soldiers who went in the said expedition to serve His Majesty. That besides what he has stated he knows and saw that the said viceroy has furnished large numbers of stock as the question states. Likewise he gave and ordered delivered to the individual who went as *factor* for His Majesty articles to trade for food and to give to the natives wherever the army went so that they might understand that the people were not going there to take their property or to cause them any harm or ill-treatment, being requested to render their obedience to His Majesty as their Sovereign and ours.

71. This friar, with a Portuguese companion, two oblates, and some native guides went back to Quivira, where he achieved martyrdom.

202. To this question⁷² he replied that it was and is as the question states and sets forth, and as this witness has testified in question two hundred.

203. To this question⁷³ he answered that he knows it as stated because he has seen it happen and take place as the question declares. That this witness has seen soldiers of high rank march on foot because they carried their food and other belongings on their horses, as they were not allowed to use any Indians to carry burdens. That this witness has seen soldiers carrying corn for their subsistence and to feed their horses. And that this witness many a time dismounted so the said soldiers who were thus traveling laden they and their horses would suffer and withstand the hardships with greater forbearance. That as to what the question states that Indians were not employed to carry burdens that is the case, as this witness in an investigation he undertook had it verified with ample witnesses.

204. To this question he replied that as he had stated, this witness went in the said expedition as captain general and both because he wanted fulfilled what the viceroy had charged and commanded him concerning the good treatment of the said Indians, and because as the said Indians were going in his company as they did to serve His Majesty, this witness took special care to look after them and provide for the sick people and to keep a record of the dead, by these means he knows and is sure that according to the reckoning of this witness thirty Indians did not die in the said expedition, including the stops and trip back and forth.

205. To this question this witness declared that on his way back and forth between this City of Mexico and his governmental charge: which is the route that was followed to the said new land and by a great portion of the said expeditions, passing through many towns located in the interior of the said district, of New Galicia and from many of the sea ports; this witness asked many prominent Indians, caciques and laborers, whether they had been paid for the carrying of burdens and for the supplies they had furnished this witness and to those who went to the new land and other places. The said Indians told this witness in different pueblos and localities that the said viceroy of this New Spain had ordered that they be paid and that they had been paid much to their satisfaction. This witness, asking them in what manner they

72. The viceroy stated he had ordered Coronado to take special care that the Indians serving voluntarily with his expedition be well-treated and allowed to return home whenever they wished with pay and provisions, which Coronado had obeyed.

73. Mendoza declared that the Indians on the Coronado expedition were not used as carriers save for their own equipment and that the Spaniards walked and loaded their horses with supplies and even carried their own food supplies on occasion.

had been able to pay and how did they determine the amount of transportation service and the supplies they had given, they replied that when soldiers of the said expeditions passed through the said Indians painted in their own way, as they are accustomed to, what they had thus given this witness and to all others, and that through the paintings and reckonings that the said Indians presented by the order of the said viceroy they had been paid much to their satisfaction and that nothing was owed them.

206. To this question⁷⁴ he answered that he repeats what he has said in the previous question, to which he refers.

207. To this question he replied that what he knows about it is that this witness has seen some of the lands of Atzacaputzalco⁷⁵ where horses and lands were given to the said licenciado Tejada⁷⁶ and to other persons, and that they were unimproved lands which the Indians did not plant or cultivate. That the said Tejada did and does possess the qualifications that the question sets forth, as is public and notorious. That the said viceroy is not in the habit of granting lands and horses without first investigating whether they can be given without injury to a third party. That thus in the titles that the said viceroy issues of lands and horses he customarily states in these titles that he gives them without injury to His Majesty or to any other third party. This witness had asked the said viceroy some times for farm-lands and horses, and because he was informed that it would be of some detriment to the natives of this land he did not grant them to him.

208. To this question⁷⁷ he answered that he repeats what he has said in the previous questions.

209. To this question he replied that he repeats what he has said in the previous questions.

210. To this question⁷⁸ he answered that it is so, that this City of Mexico has derived much profit and benefit from the mills which the

74. Mendoza claimed that in each of the towns through which his expeditions passed a Spaniard was posted to supply the men on them with food and to keep account of anything supplied by the natives so they might be paid.

75. One of the Indian pueblos about the lakes of Mexico City.

76. The viceroy had been charged with giving Lorenzo de Tejada, one of the *oidores* of the royal audiencia, these lands, and, since they were alleged to be improved lands at the time of the grant, of thus depriving the crown of revenue. Mendoza replied that they were uncultivated lands when rented and had belonged to Montezuma. He also declared that Tejada presented a royal cédula for them.

77. In this and the following question Mendoza defended his land grants near Chalco and Azcapotzulco as beneficial and legal and singled out Tejada as a worthy citizen entitled to his share of such lands.

78. In this and the 211th question the viceroy defends the ditch dug by Tejada to bring water from the Rio Tacuba to his lands and mills. The visitor had charged that the rights of the city had been violated and that it interrupted animal and human traffic. Mendoza pointed out that it was bridged by Tejada at convenient points and that the mills built along it produced flour so necessary to the city.

said *licenciate* Tejada had built where the question states. That he does not know that any harm had resulted from the building of this irrigation ditch or mill stream by the said *licenciate* Tejada. That it is such that more mills and fulling-mills can be built on it for the working of textiles, and that if they were built this city and republic would derive great benefits thereby.

215. To this question he replied that he knows it to be as stated because since the said viceroy came to this New Spain he has seen that he has issued severe ordinances concerning gambling, which seem to be rigorous, by means of which the disorder that prevailed in these parts before the said ordinances were issued has been greatly remedied. He ordered that they be applied to the people who, as he had been informed, had infringed them. That this witness has not seen or heard that in the enforcement of them favor was shown through the order of the said viceroy to any person so as to fail to punish him.

216. To this question⁷⁹ this witness replied that during the time he has been in this New Spain the said viceroy has done and carried out what is declared in this question, as is public and notorious. That this witness has not seen or heard to the contrary. Moreover, that the custom of the said viceroy is to treat everybody well.

217. To this question⁸⁰ this witness answered that he was present at the time when the accounts were figured out with the treasurer and he saw that it was and happened as the question states and declares.

219. To this question⁸¹ he testified that what he knows about it is that as it happened that some complained that they had been given some offense by the religious while on the march, or that the Indians did not furnish them with food in the pueblos through which they passed, or that they influenced others so that they said they could not comply with the requisition, and other things of this and of a similar nature, the said viceroy heard them and said to those who were complaining to him: "The religious have good intentions and their end and aim must be good." He told them not to worry and to cease their

79. In this question the viceroy denied that he had failed to treat the *contador* Rodrigo de Albornoz, one of the chief complainants against him and a staunch adherent of Cortés, with proper courtesy and favor.

80. Mendoza stated that the pueblos of Indians were granted to the treasurer Juan Alonso de Sosa, according to royal *cédula*, to recompense him for the *tercios* of his salary he had paid taxes prior to the grant to him, and these taxes were still paid the crown minus an amount equivalent to the salary due the treasurer.

81. The viceroy left the punishment of erring clergy to their ecclesiastical superiors so that it could be private and not reflect on the reputation of the church.

complaint, that he was going to inform himself about it and that he would see that this was remedied in such a way that no one should be injured thereby.

Thus he discussed this with the prelates whose subordinates those who were doing these things were, so that they should be reprimanded and punished secretly in their monasteries so none might see or the affair be known outside of the said monasteries. This declaration he has made is based on knowledge, because in the presence of this witness on different occasions several people told the said viceroy what he has stated, and he saw that when the people who came to complain had left, the said viceroy used to send for the said prelates, as he has pointed out. He is sure they were called for the purpose he has mentioned because there was a prelate who told this witness that the viceroy had charged the trustworthy friars to notify him of what they saw and knew. For it was important that the said viceroy in the service of God our Lord and of His Majesty should provide for and help that which concerned the instruction of the natives of this New Spain and that they should not be injured. That in matters concerning the religious of the orders and monasteries of this New Spain when they disobeyed and were in need of correction he would notify the said prelates so they should remedy it secretly and without scandal. Thus it was done as he has declared, as is public and notorious among the people who without hatred or malice have looked into such matters.

220. To the two hundred-twentieth question he said that it seemed to him convenient that whosoever governs in this New Spain should have contact and conversation with the bishops, friars, and clergymen of this New Spain.⁸² That is to say, with the friars and clergymen whom the governor should consider of good conscience and good aims in the service of God our Lord and of His Majesty, because possessing this they will take care, telling the truth, to notify the governor of what is important. Especially when they are entrusted with and have in their charge the doctrine that is taught to the natives of this New Spain. For this reason they associate and deal with them a great deal, because among them there are many who understand their language and can notify the one who governs of their needs and other things that the rulers should know, as is public and notorious.

223. To this question⁸³ he replied that it is as the question states, because this witness has thus seen it happen and take place; and that he has not seen or heard to the contrary.

82. Mendoza declared that the ruler of New Spain needed to consult with the bishops and clergy on both spiritual and temporal matters as the clergy were in close contact with the natives and knew their needs.

83. Mendoza claimed that he never coerced people into marriage but rather favored those who embraced the conjugal yoke.

228. To this question he replied that he knows and that such is the case, that the construction of the mole in the port of San Juan de Ulloa⁸⁴ is one of the most convenient and necessary things for the ships coming into the said harbor. And as an important and suitable thing for the service of His Majesty and the benefit of this New Spain the said viceroy before ordering it built considered, weighed, and looked into it very carefully. He is sure that because it was a very important thing for the service of His Majesty the said viceroy had notified him of it, as the said viceroy is in the habit of doing in matters that he considers proper that they be known, as is public and notorious. That from what he has stated in this question, the levy was and is necessary, and it was fitting inasmuch as the benefits from the said mole accrue mostly to those who in this New Spain carry their trade by the sea, as the ships coming to this New Spain with merchandise find in the said harbor shelter and greater protection than they would if they did not have the said mole, as is notorious to people who may consider it without passion.

230. To this question⁸⁵ this witness answered that he considers the said Luís de León such an individual as the question declares him to be. That many times this witness saw the said Luís de León when he was *corregidor* of the city of Michoacán that he fulfilled faithfully the office he held as *corregidor*, administering and meting out justice to all parties.

234. To this question this witness replied that he knows that the free native Indians of this New Spain who were working in the silver mines of this New Spain, many of them worked at the furnaces of the foundries and were covered with grease, from which the natives received much harm. So it turned out that after the said viceroy ordered an inspection of the said mines, in order to eliminate the harm which they suffered in them, there were promulgated ordinances to the effect that the Indians are not to work the bellows nor load ore or coal in the furnaces of the said foundries in order to avoid the above mentioned inconveniences. Further, it developed that it was necessary and fitting to build water contrivances to operate the bellows or to do the smelting. The said Comendador Baeza asked for permission to use the injured people proposing to build the said devices.⁸⁶ The said viceroy seeing and

84. Mendoza had levied a slight landing duty on goods landed in the mole to defray the cost of its construction.

85. Luís de León Romano had been declared a good judge by the Licentiate Arevalo, commissioned to take his residencia by the audiencia of Mexico, and the viceroy regarded him as an excellent appointment despite the visitor's criticism.

86. Mendoza had been criticized for granting permission to the Comendador Baeza, a native of the town of Baeza in Spain who had come to New Spain with Cortés to use the Indians injured by labor in the silver mines and foundries in the construction of water power machinery for a limited period of time at Taxco. In this and the following question he pointed out the great benefits derived from their use.

considering the said contrivances a very useful and beneficial thing, and that if they were built the royal treasury would prosper because one would be able to smelt more, as it is done, that likewise the people who possess mines and slaves would benefit, he gave his permission to the said comendador for a limited time so he could build the said devices as the question states, as is public and notorious.

235. To this question he replied that he reaffirmed what he has said in the previous question.

237. To this question⁸⁷ he declared that what he knows about it is that the said viceroy learned, and so it was public and notorious, that the said governor Don Francisco de Pizarro was in the difficulties that the question declares and that the said viceroy as a servant and vassal of His Majesty regretted the situation and bad circumstances in which that land was. Among other persons with whom the said viceroy communicated that he wanted to help the said Don Francisco Pizarro was this witness. Likewise the said viceroy consulted about the situation with the *oidores* of this royal audiencia and with other people of prominence and experience. The said viceroy was of the opinion, and thus he stated it, that he should relieve the needs of Peru because it was of great importance for the service of His Majesty and the royal patrimony. In order to render this help by sea, as it was to be done, he decided to get ready ships and other things that the question mentions; which things consisted in artillery, ammunition, accoutrements, powder, and arms. The said viceroy sent to the city of Veracruz to buy provisions for the ships, which were to sail by the South Sea to the said succor, as was public and notorious.

241. To this question⁸⁸ he answered that he has known those mentioned in it and each one of them for the last twelve years more or less. Exception to be made in regard to Alonso Vázquez, resident of the city of Veracruz, whom, if he knows him, he does not recall at present. That as to Iñigo López de Annuncibay he has known him only for three or four years thereabouts.

242. To this question this witness declared that he has and does hold the people mentioned in this question as servants and friends of the said marquis, as they are held and considered as such.

87. Mendoza heard that Francisco de Pizarro was besieged in Cuzco by Diego de Almagro and rebellious Indians and prepared to send armed assistance to him by vessels from the west coast of Mexico.

88. Questions 241-258 of the viceroy's *interrogatorio* listed the witnesses against him, showed them to be prejudiced against him as friends of Cortés or by reason of just punishment administered to them by the viceroy. The visitor is also declared to have consorted with these known enemies of the viceroy and to have based his case on their biased testimony: Iñigo López de Annuncibay had been roundly berated by Mendoza for his misconduct in the Mixtón War.

254. To this question⁸⁹ he replied that the said Marques del Valle wanted to speak to him demanding the conquest of the new land of Cíbola and what Fray Marcos de Niza said he had discovered, claiming that it belonged to him by virtue of what His Majesty had ordered capitulated with him. That he knows that the said viceroy did not give him occasion for it as the said viceroy sent Fray Marcos de Niza with instructions concerning the path to follow and what he was to do: to discover by land from the province of Culiacán on. And, as a place that had been discovered in the name of His Majesty and for the royal crown, the said viceroy did not consent that the said marquis have a part in it unless His Majesty ordered it. For this reason this witness understands and believes that the said marquis remained bitter toward the said viceroy.

262. To the two hundred sixty-second question he replied that he knows it to be as stated because he has thus seen it happen and take place as the question declares and sets forth. That the said viceroy is so chaste and virtuous that this witness knows and has seen that some honorable people refrained from lewdness with women and from other dishonest practices because they thought and felt sure that if the said viceroy found them in these immoral or licentious vices they would not obtain anything from him nor would he entrust them with any commission of importance in which they could serve His Majesty and benefit thereby. As regards the said viceroy being a good Christian, this witness considers him so zealous for the service of God our Lord and such an observer of His commands that he does not know any religious of those of good reputation and life whose conscience he should prefer for himself more than that of the said viceroy.

263. To this question he answered that he knows and has seen that from the time the said viceroy has been governing he has ordered built, and there have been built, churches and monasteries in the towns which are under the authority of His Majesty as in the ones that are in charge of private persons, as is public and notorious.

264. To this question⁹⁰ he replied that he knows it to be as stated because he has thus seen it happen and take place as the question states and declares.

89. Mendoza accused Cortés of entertaining "passion, enmity, and ill-will against all who have governed for His Majesty in this New Spain and especially against the said viceroy because, on the discovery of the new land of Cíbola, he had not permitted the said marquis to settle it and take it for himself and because he had not consented to fraud in the count of the vassals granted him by His Majesty . . ."

90. The viceroy set forth that he had been strict in enforcing the honoring of God and had punished blasphemy, gambling, and public sin so that these had almost disappeared from the land.

265. To this question⁹¹ he answered that he knows and has seen during the time this witness was at the place where he had been sent by the viceroy that the said viceroy has done and observed what the question declares. For this reason the friars and clergymen have been and are much esteemed and respected.

266. To this question⁹² he replied that he thus saw it happen and take place as the question declares and sets forth during all the time that this witness was in this New Spain, as is public and notorious.

267. To this question he replied that he knows it to be as stated because he has seen it happen and take place as the question declares and sets forth, and because of what he has testified in some questions related to this one.

268. To this question he answered that he has thus seen it happen and take place as stated and declared in the question and had not seen or heard to the contrary.

269. To this question he replied that what is contained in this question is true because he has thus seen it happen and take place as set forth in the question during the time that this witness has resided in this New Spain.

270. To this question he answered that he repeats what he has testified in other questions that refer to the good administration of the royal revenue of His Majesty.

271. To this question⁹³ he replied that he knows that from the time the said viceroy has been ruling the royal patrimony of His Majesty has increased. And he knows there have been discovered many new lands and harbors by the expeditions that the said viceroy has organized by land and sea. He has spent in this a great portion of his wealth and for this reason the said viceroy is without resources, needy, and in bad financial situation, as is public and notorious.

272. To this question he replied that it is as the question states⁹⁴ and declares because he has thus seen it happen and take place. That it has been and is a very proper thing, because if he had not prescribed

91. Mendoza claimed that he had honored the religious of New Spain and as a result they were revered and respected.

92. In this and the four succeeding questions the viceroy declared that he had taken special pains to insure the conversion and instruction of the Indians in the Christian faith, that he had served His Majesty faithfully in his various capacities, administering justice, seeking the peaceful growth of the country, and in particular, promoting the growth and collection of royal revenues.

93. The viceroy claimed that while the king's income had grown his own fortune had been spent on new discoveries by land and by sea.

94. In order to prevent flight from New Spain without payment of debts and sums due the treasury Mendoza required his personal license countersigned by the treasury of all leaving the land.

that no one should leave this New Spain without a permit from the said viceroy and the certification from the treasury officials of His Majesty many persons would have left defrauding the royal treasury of His Majesty and with debts to other individuals. Thus it happens that many avoid getting into difficulties and debts because they know they cannot leave this New Spain without the said permission and certification.

273. To this question⁹⁶ he answered that he knows that for the benefit of the service of His Majesty; for the good government and settling of this New Spain, it was convenient to grant the said exemptions and cancellations mentioned in the question because many people are supported by means of them who otherwise would not have been supported if the said order had not been given, because many Spaniards have been given aid from the said exemptions and cancellations. Others with the hope of obtaining this aid remain, which they would not do if it were not for the order issued in this case by the said viceroy.

274. To this question⁹⁶ he replied that he knows it to be as stated, because he has thus seen it happen and take place as the question states and that he has not seen or heard to the contrary.

275. To this question he answered that what it contains is true, because he has thus seen it happen and take place as the question states; and that this witness never heard anyone complain of any injury or ill-treatment received from the said viceroy. That he saw that some people were complaining saying that the said viceroy protects and defends the Indians as much as if they were relatives of the said viceroy.

276. To this question he replied that he knows it to be as stated because he saw it happen and take place as the question states,⁹⁷ and because this moderation in that which concerns tributes and services was put into effect by this witness, being a person who has Indians granted to him in the name of His Majesty.

277. To this question he answered that this witness has seen that the said viceroy has exercised and exercises great vigilance and care in inquiring and learning whether the caciques and leaders of the pueblos

95. Mendoza claimed that with the savings effected by stopping of holidays in the salaries of *corregimientos* and *alguazilazgos* he was able to support many additional settlers.

96. Mendoza stated that he had been diligent in favoring the conquerors and settlers of New Spain granting them lands and flocks without injury to His Majesty or any third party.

97. Mendoza alleged that he moderated the services required of Indians and had lowered the tributes they were required to give to their *encomenderos*.

take from the Indian laborers any tributes; or if they exact anything from them in such a way as to vex in any way the said Indian laborers. After having investigated and discovered the ones who had exceeded in what has been told he has corrected and punished them, giving the Indian laborers to understand that they are free vassals of His Majesty and as such they are to be considered and favored. That there is not to be allowed that any harm or vexation should be brought upon them by the said caciques or leaders, or by any other individuals. Notifying them at the same time to bring complaint whenever any offense or vexation is caused them so as to help them. This he has seen that was and is done as the question states, as is public and notorious, and that he has not seen or heard to the contrary.

278. To this question he replied that he knows it to be as stated⁹⁸ because he has thus seen it happen and take place as the question states it. And he has seen the protective ordinances and the *alguaciles* mentioned in the question. This witness has seen paid and has paid by virtue of the said ordinances the said carriers of burdens (*tamenes*) and has given them subsistence while traveling through this New Spain. He knows that the transgressors of the said ordinances and commands, if they come to the notice of the said viceroy, he has had them punished.

280. To this question⁹⁹ he answered that he knows it to be as stated because of what he has said, since he has seen it happen and take place as the question states it.

281. To this question he replied that it is as the question sets forth, because the said viceroy gave the order mentioned in the question. For this reason a large number of mulberry trees (*morales*) have been planted, which has and does result in the service of His Majesty, benefit, and profit to the residents of this New Spain, to the natives as well as to the Spaniards, because some of the natives have sufficient means to pay their tributes with little hardship and effort.

282. To this question he replied that he reasserts what he has said in the question preceding this one. That it happens that due to the working and trading in silk there are more merchants and residents than there would be otherwise. That this benefit accrues to the Span-

98. Mendoza framed ordinances whereby the Indians were to be paid for their labor and given food while working and placed officers in the Indian villages and towns to enforce them.

99. The viceroy took special care to train the Indians in the industrial and mechanical arts at his own expense, and as he explained in the next question, planted groves of mulberry trees in all parts of the country and created a silk industry in Mexico City which employed many people both native and Spanish.

iards as well as to the Indians; and the revenues of His Majesty are increased with the said trading and working of silk.

284. To this question he replied that he understands the question as stated¹⁰⁰ because he has thus seen it happen and take place as the question states it. When the said viceroy came to these parts this witness heard that the said wools were not worked or utilized.

286. To this question¹⁰¹ he replied that he has seen that in some towns the Indians live together, and in much more order and cleanliness than they used to live. And that the said order and cleanliness has been established by the said viceroy by having ordered and commanded what the question declares. From this there has resulted great service to God our Lord and to His Majesty, and great benefit has accrued to the natives, because with this said order their teaching is easy and they do not have occasion as they did before, living as they used to do in the hills and ravines scattered and separated from each other, to offer sacrifices, worship idols, and commit other sins which formerly they used to commit as is public and notorious.

288. To this question he answered that it is as the question states it.¹⁰² that in the towns that serve the mines the said viceroy has set the number of people they were to furnish, commuting other tributes for the said service. This was not done before the said viceroy established this practice and issued other ordinances concerning the treatment of the natives and the food they were to be given, and the statement of the things in which they were to serve. This witness, commissioned by the said viceroy, made an inspection of the said mines investigated and approved by the said viceroy. This order from the said viceroy resulted in great service to God our Lord and to His Majesty and much benefit to the free natives who serve in the said mines as is public and notorious.

289. To this question he replied that he knows it to be as stated¹⁰³ because he knows and has seen that the said viceroy ordered it and that its observance is kept and complied with and that if anyone disregards it when it comes to the attention of the said viceroy he corrects and punishes him. This in regard to these commutations was not done

100. The viceroy claimed to have fostered the wool growing and the wool cloth industry of New Spain.

101. In anticipation of the later mission system Mendoza brought the Indians together into towns so that they might be taught religion and industries.

102. Mendoza passed ordinances restricting the services of the Indians in mines, reducing their tasks and regulating their food, clothing, and lodging.

103. Mendoza forbade commutation of tributes by the *corregidores* and *encomenderos*.

so when the said viceroy came to these parts since then it has been done and is observed as is public and notorious.

290. To this question¹⁰⁴ he answered that he knows and has seen that the said viceroy personally has visited a large portion of this New Spain doing, fulfilling, and correcting what the question declares, as is public and notorious.

291. To this question¹⁰⁵ he replied that he knows it to be as stated, for it is so and has happened and taken place as the question states and declares.

292. To this question¹⁰⁶ he replied that he has thus seen it happen and take place as the question states and sets forth, and that he has not seen or heard to the contrary.

293. To this question¹⁰⁷ he answered that he has seen that since the said viceroy rules he has carried out what the question states and that it has resulted in a general benefit to all this New Spain, as is public and notorious.

294. To this question¹⁰⁸ he replied that he knows it to be as stated because he has thus seen it happen and take place as the question states and declares, and that he has not seen or heard to the contrary, as is public and notorious.

295. To this question¹⁰⁹ he answered that he knows and has seen that the *oidores* have visited and do visit the jails of the said Indians. This has resulted in great benefit for the natives, because by this order of the said viceroy there have been removed and remedied the offenses and injuries mentioned in the question.

297. To this question he replied that it is as stated and declared in the question.¹¹⁰ This witness knows it as he has declared in the ques-

104. Mendoza visited the greater part of New Spain correcting local abuses, ordering churches built, and putting ranches in order.

105. Mendoza had founded a mint in Mexico City where silver and copper coins were minted to the great benefit of trade. cf. A. S. Aiton and B. W. Wheeler, "The First American Mint," *Hispanic American Historical Review*, XI, 198-215.

106. The viceroy alleged that he had protected the honor of wedded people, widows, and maidens.

107. The viceroy claimed to have fostered the building of flour mills, irrigation ditches, the planting of orchards and other things useful to Mexico City.

108. Mendoza declared that he had favored the virtuous and had attempted to reform the wicked.

109. Mendoza stated that he had instituted regular inspections of the jails both in the capital by the *oidores* and in the country by the *corregidores*.

110. The viceroy pointed to his road building record which had been most useful to New Spain.

tions which deal with this matter, as is public and notorious that the said viceroy has ordered the said roads opened, built, and repaired.

298. To this question he answered that he knows it to be as stated¹¹¹ because he has thus seen it happen and take place in many towns of this New Spain, as the question states. In this His Majesty has been very well served and the natives have derived benefit from it, as is public and notorious and is declared in the question.

299. To this question he replied that he knows it as stated because he has thus seen it happen and take place in the manner the question declares and sets forth. In this way God our Lord and His Majesty have been and are served at present.

301. To this question he replied that what he knows about it is that he has seen and sees that the native Indians of this New Spain have been and are very favored, defended, and protected by the said viceroy, as he has not consented nor consents or allows that one should cause any harm to the said Indians; nor that they be ill-treated or have taken anything from their belongings against their will. That when the news reached the said viceroy concerning any ill treatment, violence, or stealing he has corrected it and ordered punishment as is public and notorious.

302. To this question he answered that he knows it as set forth, because this witness has seen that besides the good measures that he has pointed out the said viceroy has provided, the latter has issued and put into effect many others in the service of God our Lord and His Majesty for the betterment, conservation, profit, and benefit of the residents and natives of this New Spain.

303. To the three-hundred-third question he replied that he repeats what he has already declared, and thus it is public and notorious among the people who have heard of it. He said that he reaffirmed and ratified it; and again he said he would repeat it if it were necessary because he said that such was the truth, in keeping with the oath he had taken. After having it read to him he signed it with his name. This witness said that, as he has said, he had given testimony in the secret inquiry in the presence of Miguel López, *escribano* of it; and that what he has declared in the said secret investigation was and is true and he ratifies himself and wishes to point out that what he testified

111. Mendoza had installed *cabildos* with *alcaldes*, *alguaciles* and elected *regidores* in the Indian towns to protect the native workers from oppression by their Indian overlords, all such towns being crown towns and all offices held in viceregal approval. In the succeeding question he states that regular *visitas* and *residencias* were required in all these town offices. The balance of the question dealt with his treatment of the natives. In particular, cases could be appealed from the local Indian justices to the *audiencia* by laws he instituted.

before me, the said Pedro de Salazar, *escribano*, is likewise true. That it should be understood that one declaration is not to contradict the other or viceversa, because this witness as a Christian, fearing God our Lord, has had as his aim and will to tell the truth, as he has done, in regard to what he has been asked in both testimonies he has given. That if per chance anything should be found contradictory it should not be blamed on him, inasmuch as he has asked for his testimony in order to see it and correct himself and they refused to show it to him; and with the understanding he has stated he signed it with his name.

He was charged under the terms of his oath with the secrecy of his testimony; that he should not tell or disclose it to anyone until he is ordered to do so. He said that he would do so and would comply with it, and signed it with his name.

FRANCISCO VAZQUEZ DE CORÓNADO
(rubicado)

Given before me, Pedro de Salazar, *escribano* of His Majesty,
(rubicado)

Mexico City, January 18. 1547.