



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

2202 Roosevelt Avenue

San Antonio, Texas 78210

(210) 229-5701

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D6215

March 23, 1995

Mr. Raymond Hernandez
American Indians in Texas
At the Spanish Colonial Missions
1130 Mission Road
San Antonio, Texas 78210

Dear Mr. Hernandez:

Your hand delivered correspondence, dated February 7, 1995, to National Park Service Director Roger Kennedy was passed to us for addressing the specific issue you raised.

American Indians in Texas - At the Spanish Colonial Missions (AIT-SCM) and the National Park Service appear to have a number of common goals. We are both interested in the protection of the past, present, and future of all indigenous Native American people. In fact, a large percentage of our annual budget is allocated to that end.

We are very cognizant of the role indigenous people performed for hundreds of years prior to establishment of the Spanish Colonial Missions. A very pivotal role indeed.

The National Park Service recognizes AIT-SCM status as an interested organization. We support your efforts to protect the remains and funerary objects of American Indians.

We are pleased to work together in furtherance of our mutual goals. Our area of influence is not all encompassing, and is limited, by agreement to portions of the Spanish Colonial Missions in San Antonio. We agree in principle to the suggestion of identifying the camposantos areas and telling the story of the many contributions of the Mission Indians. To a large extent, this has already been accomplished. We feel we know the general locations of all camposantos and routinely tell of the many contributions made by the Mission Indians. This is evidenced by the exhibit panels installed at Mission Concepcion and the numerous educational presentations made by our interpretive staff at all Mission sites. Plans are well underway to further refine the educational material that will be presented at the new Visitor Center at Mission San Jose, which you have been requested to comment on.