

the late sixteenth century prohibited the use of Indians in certain industries considered detrimental to their health, especially sugar processing and cloth production, and ordered their replacement by Negro slaves. African labor was also encouraged for the mines'. The result being: 'It is now fairly certain that in the period 1519-1650 the area [of Mexico] received at least 120,000 slaves, or two thirds of all the Africans imported into the Spanish possessions in America.'⁴⁹

What a terrible, sick irony of history that because of the very success of the 'Apostle of the Indians', Las Casas and his beloved Indian of the sixteenth century should be replaced by St Peter Claver and his beloved Negro in the seventeenth; and how fitting, in a perversely, contradictory Christian way, that the Jesuit 'Apostle of the Negroes' himself should die so poorly tended in Cartagena de las Indias.⁵⁰

⁴⁹David M. Davidson, *op. cit.*, 83.

⁵⁰*Butler's Lives of the Saints*, III (London, 1956), 519-524.



AN APPEAL TO ALL GOVERNMENTS

We should like to express the humble and sincere desire that in this present Holy Year, in accordance with the tradition of previous Jubilees, the proper authorities of the different nations should consider the possibility of wisely granting an amnesty to prisoners, as a witness to clemency and equity, especially to those who have given sufficient proof of moral and civic rehabilitation, or who may have been caught up in political and social upheavals too immense for them to be held fully responsible.

POPE PAUL VI.