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Sherbrooke squatters: we'll fight eviction

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Meagher) said yesterday Sherbrooke Forest's Aboriginal squatters would be evicted if they do not move out voluntarily.

But last night the squatters' leader Mr. Lin Onus, 22, said: "I'm not moving. I'll wait for them to come and take me out."

The Aborigines, who have been living since February 6 in a timber roundhouse built by Mr.

Onus, were to leave the forest at the weekend.

But they decided to stay put until they get written assurances from the Government on their case for increased Aboriginal land rights.

Mr. Onus said last night he had refused Government

assistance to build his own home, "mainly because I have no idea where I will be living.

"I would also be losing credibility with Aborigines if I gave up."

He said there would be "passive resistance" if the Government tried to evict him from Sherbrooke Forest.

"They will have to move everything by themselves. I certainly won't be helping them."

Mr. Meagher said yesterday he had expected Mr. Onus to honor an undertaking to end the Sherbrooke sit-in.

"I thought that we had agreed that Mr. Onus had made his point over the land rights issue," he said.

The Government's offer of assistance was "no bribe", he said. It would be in Mr. Onus' own interests to quit the forest.

Mr. Meagher said he did not know whether he would have another meeting with Mr. Onus.



Mr. Meagher