

Labor

attack on 'embassy' removal P.14

THE LEADER of the Opposition, Mr Whitlam, yesterday condemned the Government for forcibly removing the Aboriginal "embassy" from the lawns opposite Parliament House.

Aborigines and their supporters unsuccessfully resisted police attempts to remove the tents and several arrests were made.

"The Commonwealth Government has completely disregarded its obligations to Parliament," Mr Whitlam said.

The Minister for the Interior, Mr Hunt, told Parliament on May 11: "Adequate public notice will be given of the coming into effect of the ordinance.

"Parliament has been circumvented and no public notice was given," Mr Whitlam said.

"Significantly, the Government waited until SEATO ceased its occupation of Parliament House before moving against those occupying its precincts.

"The men and women who established and for seven months manned the embassy are to be congratulated on their initiative and discipline.

"As a result of their effort, thousands of Australians are now aware that the aspirations of a large section of the Aboriginal population can be satisfied only by recognising their right to land.

"I suppose, too, the Commonwealth must be congratulated on the dispatch it showed against our Aborigines in contrast to its impotence in the face of travel swindlers, international gangsters, fascist bombers and tax racketeers," Mr Whitlam said.

The Australian Labor Party will move for the disallowance of the ordinance which was used to remove the embassy.

Senator Lionel Murphy lodged a notice of motion for the disallowance yesterday.