

Natives see Hunt about 'embassy'

CANBERRA. — Seven representatives of the former Aboriginal "embassy" had a two-hour talk late yesterday with the Minister for the Interior (Mr. Hunt).

The A.C.T. Police Commissioner (Mr. R. Wilson) and the deputy secretary of the Department of the Interior (Mr. J. Ballard) also took part.

The conference followed two violent demonstrations over the "embassy" after the Government introduced an ordinance to prevent camping on unleased Commonwealth land in the A.C.T.

Eight people were arrested when police tore down the tents last Thursday and 18 were arrested when Aborigines and their supporters tried unsuccessfully to re-erect the "embassy" on Sunday.

Another demonstration is planned for next Sunday. Observers fear it could be

more violent than the previous two.

Students and trade unionists have been asked to support Sunday's protest.

After yesterday's talks a joint press statement was issued saying that both sides had agreed not to release details of the conference until consultations were held with Aboriginal representatives from all States.

These consultations are due later this week.

The seven Aboriginal representatives who took part in yesterday's discussions were Mrs. P. Eatock, Mr. M. Anderson, Mrs. G. Briggs, Mr. T. Bayles, Mr. K. Salmon, Mr. B. Craigie and Miss R. Lawrie.

Earlier Mrs. Eatock sent a telegram to the Minister for Aborigines (Mr. Howson) saying a broad cross-section of Aboriginal opinion gathered in Canberra to protest against the removal of the "embassy" called on Mr. Howson to meet them to discuss various immediate issues "in an effort to prevent bloodshed and violence that will otherwise occur on Sunday."

Mrs. Eatock, secretary treasurer of the "embassy," said the Aborigines wanted "a building of our own in Canberra as our people's place."

This building would be a place from which the rights, feelings, opinions and aspirations of the Aboriginal people could be presented to the Government, the telegram said.

It should have the recognition and status equivalent to an embassy.

In his reply, Mr. Howson stressed the importance of the national conference of Aboriginal advisory counsellors to State and Federal Governments to be held in Canberra on August 10-11.

"I would like to see some kind of permanent machinery set up to assist both the Aboriginal people and the Government to consult effectively," he said.

He would be happy to meet the delegation after he had received the advice of the forthcoming national conference.

"I would strongly urge that in the interim there should be no further demonstrations," he said.

In Canberra petty sessions court yesterday the wife of a man arrested in Sunday's demonstration outside Parliament House called the chief A.C.T. stipendiary magistrate (Mr. K. Dobson) a "bloody idiot."

Mrs. Kay Bellear, of Kogarah, NSW, whose husband, Robert William Bellear, 28, student, faced a charge of assaulting a policeman, called out to Mr. Dobson from the front row of the public gallery: "What are you doing with him you bloody idiot?"

Bellear, a part-Aborigine, had entered the court wearing a black beret-type cap.

Mr. Dobson told him to remove the cap but he refused.

Mr. Dobson said he would not deal with the matter and police moved Bellear towards a door leading to cells below the court house.

Then Mrs. Bellear called out. Later she apologised.

Bellear was brought back into court in the afternoon. Still wearing the cap, he was remanded until September 13 on \$50 bail.

Five others arrested last Sunday were remanded on bail.

age 27th July 1972