



Howson raps Aboriginal 'embassy'

'Disturbing note' in land protest

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CANBERRA. — The Minister in charge of Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Howson) said last night there was a disturbing undertone in the use of the term "Aboriginal embassy" by Canberra protesters.

Mr. Howson said this implied another sovereign state or separate development of the Aboriginal race in Australia. This cut across the Government's expressed objection to separate development as a long-term aim and was kindred to apartheid, he said.

Widespread protests throughout Australia before and during the Springboks' tour last year demonstrated a general objection to such a policy in Australia, Mr. Howson said.

He said the present Government policy to lease land to Aborigines treated them as all other Australians except for a desirable discrimination in favor of the Aborigines.

The ultimate goal was to give Aborigines effective and respected places in a single Australian society with the same rights, opportunities and responsibilities as all Australians, he said.

• About 40 Aboriginal women from all over Australia joined in the land rights protest on the lawns opposite Parliament House yesterday.

Three young Aborigines set up the "Aboriginal Embassy" outside Parliament following the Government's decision this week not to grant Aborigines on reserves land rights based on traditional association.

The women are attending the second annual national conference of the National Council of Aboriginal and Island Women in Canberra.