



Tent 'embassy' falls, but victory claimed

MORE THAN 2000 demonstrators yesterday re-erected the Aboriginal tent "embassy" in Canberra and then allowed police to remove it peacefully after a tense three-hour confrontation.

The Aboriginals then raised a strip of canvas above their heads and marched with it to a line of police standing on the steps outside Parliament House.

They threw it at the feet of the police and marched back to the Australian National University chanting "land rights now."

Restraint by both police and Aboriginal leaders prevented violence.

Only about 60 police were lined up opposite the demonstration but several hundred more were in reserve.

They were not needed.

Aboriginal leaders decided they had a victory over police by keeping the "embassy" up for several hours and could therefore leave and allow the police

waiting for the confrontation to begin when 2000 demonstrators formed a series of circles on the lawns and put up a tent.

Militants taunted the 60 police standing across the street and challenged them to remove the tent. But the police did not move.

After three hours the demonstrators' strategy committee held an urgent meeting and decided to give the "embassy" up.

The committee chairman, Denis Walker, said the committee felt the demonstrators had achieved a victory.

At 3 pm the demonstration