

Black guerrilla

protest warning

'EMBASSY' RIOT AFTERMATH

From WALLACE BROWN

P. 3

CANBERRA.—Aboriginal leaders warned of a hardened black power attitude towards the white man's authority, following yesterday's police-enforced closure of the aboriginal "embassy" here.

They predicted a black-white confrontation would be forced upon them, and that aboriginal guerrilla movements would receive increased support.

Aboriginal leader Mr. John Newfong said he believed angry aboriginals would now turn to guerrilla movements operating in Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne to air their protests about aboriginal rights.

Mr. Newfong said: "It is a bloody disgrace that we should have to resort to these tactics, but we have to."

The secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders (Mrs. Faith Handler) said the council would urge aboriginals to close ranks and fight on common ground.

"If the Government continues to ignore the requests and wishes of aboriginals we will sit down and talk action with African nations and learn from them," she said.

The time had come when guerrilla action "ought to be discussed."

In Charters Towers, aboriginal Senator N. Bonner last night predicted that yesterday's Canberra riot would lead to an upsurge of black-

power violence in Australia.

He said: "I just can't see how it can be avoided now."

"There are people in our community who will seize on this opportunity to use the aboriginals for their own political gain."

The aboriginal leaders spoke after violent scenes in which 60 uniformed A.C.T. police broke through a cordon of 70 aboriginals and university students on the lawns outside Parliament House and tore down the six-tent "embassy" village.

During the 10-minute riot several knives and one spear were used. Some students were thrown to the ground bleeding from the mouth.

One aboriginal, Gary Foley, was treated at Canberra Hospital.

Eight people, including five aboriginals, were arrested, and will appear in

the Canberra Magistrate's Court next week.

Seven police were injured — two with broken fingers, one with a broken wrist, one from a kick in the groin, and three badly bitten.

Police moves followed gazetting of a Government ordinance making trespassing on Commonwealth land illegal. This appeared in the Commonwealth Gazette yesterday morning.

The fight ended when a Labor M.H.R., Mr. Enderby, a lawyer, warned the police over a loud hailer that the tent had been removed and that they were exceeding their duty.

Another Labor M.P., Mr. Bryant, was also involved in the incident.

The "embassy" had been in existence for almost seven months — since Australia Day, January 26 — to focus attention on claims for aboriginal land rights.

Bitter

Labor M.P.s. last night bitterly criticised the Government action and the Federal Opposition Leader (Mr. Whitlam) said the Federal Government had completely disregarded its obligation to Parliament.

Mr. Whitlam said: "The men and women who established the 'embassy' are to be congratulated on their initiative and discipline."

"I suppose the Corporation of Commissioners who proposed the site of the embassy showed contempt for our aboriginals, in contrast to its innocence in the face of travel swindlers, international gamblers, Fascist honours and tax racketeers."

Unfortunate

The Labor Party Senate Leader (Senator Murphy) said that as soon as the Parliament resumed on August 15 he would move for the disallowance of the ordinance. He lodged a notice of motion yesterday.

The Minister for the Interior (Mr. Hunt) described the violence of yesterday as a "most unfortunate accident."

He said that it had been brought about mostly "by people from outside who had stirred up the trouble."

He said that until early yesterday morning the aboriginals had told the police they would go quietly.

Mr. Hunt said the ordinance would not stop peaceful demonstrations for political purposes by aboriginals or anyone else. He admitted that the aboriginals "had a case."

Sought right

Senator Bonner who was in Charters Towers on a "meet the people" tour of Queensland, criticised the Federal Government for enforcing the ordinance under which the police acted.

He said he had been assured by Government colleagues that nothing would happen while Parliament was in recess.

"They knew my feelings on the matter," he said.

"I wanted the right to have this ordinance debated in Parliament."

"I agree that Executive Council has the right to make certain decisions during recess."

"However, in this instance, the Executive Council should not have exercised its authority."

Senator Bonner denounced the Government of Queensland for delaying the ordinance before debate could take place.

He added: "I say categorically that I am disappointed with the Government to the point of being disgusted with its action in this issue."

Despicable

In a telegram to the Prime Minister (Mr. McMahon), A.L.P. Senator Keeffe said: "Your action in allowing the removal of the Aboriginal 'embassy' is one of the most despicable and racist attitudes ever adopted by the prime minister of any country."

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