

# *A passionate film by a calm man*

By MARIANN HEIMANS

The documentary 'Hungry for our Land', which shows police breaking up the Aboriginal "embassy" opposite Parliament House, is a passionate film made by a dispassionate man.

Slumped in a chair and holding a cigarette in a steady hand, Mr Alessandro Cavadini speaks calmly through a curtain of smoke, recounting the most exciting parts of his film in a matter-of-fact voice.

Director-producer Mr Cavadini says it is a historical film.

"It shows Aboriginal people getting together on a national level, which is something they never did before", he said in Canberra last night.

Mr Cavadini, who came from Italy three years ago, stumbled across his subject by accident. He was collecting material on various radical groups, but felt the problems of Aborigines were not only political, but also social and cultural.

"The white radicals are much better off than the Aborigines. I wanted to make this film for the Aborigines, who obviously want land, but I wanted to show why".

## **Violence**

Apart from the problems of land rights, Mr Cavadini tried to show a new Aboriginal consciousness, which regenerated strong tribal and community traditions.

The film was taken to China last month by nine Aborigines, led by their spokesman, Mr Chicka Dickson. It was screened in Peking.

Mr Cavadini, who lives in Sydney, came to Canberra to make arrangements for sending the film to Africa.

"Black Africa", he emphasised.

Mr Cavadini is a professional film maker. Before coming to Sydney he studied art in Milan.

He followed most of the demonstrations while making the field film and said some of them were violent. But the thought of danger did not enter his head.

"I wasn't scared, I was detached even", he said. "I had a film to think about".

## **No friction**

When Mr Cavadini took the film to Armidale, the Aborigines there disapproved of it.

"They thought the demonstrators were too aggressive, but they identified with the film", Mr Cavadini said.

"I like the way Aborigines try to integrate black culture with the new generation. At a kindergarten in Alexandria, Sydney, Aboriginal mothers work on a roster, looking after their children. But instead of telling them English fairy tales, they tell them Aboriginal stories. That's really good".

Mr Cavadini, 29, hopes to make another film about Aborigines in the Northern Territory.

It will show that the friction between full blood and half-caste Aborigines does not exist to the degree white people say it does, Mr Cavadini said.

The Aboriginal community of Redfern was invited to the opening night.