

# NT POLICE ASK FOR TEARGAS

From KIM LOCKWOOD

**DARWIN.** — The Northern Territory Police Association wants teargas issued to police stations on aboriginal settlements and on construction townsites.

The association president, Sgt. John Ascoli, said today the police wanted teargas as a "precautionary" measure.

The recommendation was made after a disturbance by aboriginals at Papunya settlement, 150 miles west of Alice Springs, on May 6.

Constable Basil Smith was hit on the head with an iron bar and the police house and vehicle were badly damaged during the incident.

Constable Smith has since resigned from the NT police.

Sgt. Ascoli said the only guns at Papunya on May 6 were owned privately by the two constables based there.

He said the station should have had at least the one-man station issue — a .303 rifle, a .22 rifle and a service revolver.

Sgt. Ascoli said out-back police stations should be surrounded with security fences which could close off the station in an emergency.

Communications with isolated stations should be improved, and stations should be provided with emergency electricity generators, he said.

The recommendations will now go to the NT Commissioner of Police, Mr Bill McLaren.

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