

Government Prepares for Punitive Expedition Against Blacks

EQUIPMENT TO BE RUSHED NORTH

82/9499

Massacre Of Whites In Arnhem Land Feared

'LESSON MUST BE GIVEN'

From Our Special Representative

CANBERRA, Saturday.

Following urgent appeals from the Darwin authorities for special supplies to equip a punitive expedition to Arnhem Land to subdue the Caledon Bay aborigines, the Minister for the Interior has arranged for equipment to be rushed north.

Darwin officials fear there will be a general massacre of missionaries and other whites in Arnhem Land unless action is taken soon to punish the killers of Constable McColl and the five Japanese trepangers.

On Monday, Mr Perkins will discuss the problem with the Prime Minister (Mr Lyons) and later will talk on the long-distance telephone to the permanent head of the Department for the Interior (Mr Brown), who will then be at Mt. Isa. Mr Brown may have to hurry to Darwin to take charge of the expedition.

Police Party Likely To Go

The Minister said today that it had not been finally decided yet whether the expedition would actually be sent out. In any case, because of the absence of supplies, it would be impossible for the expedition to leave before the end of the month. The general impression in Canberra is that the expedition will be authorised.

The Administrator at Darwin (Col. Weddell) strongly urges that a punitive expedition should set out as soon as possible.

MUST TEACH LESSON

It is essential, he says, to teach the Caledon Bay natives a lesson. So far, they are quite unimpressed by the action taken by the Government following the murder of a Japanese party some months ago, and have defiantly threatened to attack any additional police parties sent against them.

The menace has been conveyed to Darwin by friendly tribes. The Minister points out that the threat was put into effect with fatal results when Constable McColl was speared to death. As a result of their success in this attack, the natives have become bolder.

those guilty of the McColl outrage, and to give hostages for future good behavior.

Part of the equipment of the expedition will be a special wireless set. With this the police party could keep in constant touch with the Administration.

MURDER REPORT AT KATHERINE Arrests Made

DARWIN, Saturday.—Police have been advised from Katherine that an aboriginal named Charlie Kong Tommy was murdered yesterday at Knuckey Junction, near Katherine.

No details of the crime have been sent to Darwin yet, but the brief message from Katherine police stated that arrests had been made.