

black revolt as inevitable

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Australia faces an inevitable black power revolution, the Aboriginal poet, Kath Walker, said yesterday.

"I am an advocate of black power," she said. "When people think of black power one immediately links violence with it. But violence in black power revolutions only comes from the white population."

Any violence in such a revolution in Australia would be initiated by the white community to repress further the country's 100,000 Aboriginals, Mrs Walker said. A revolution was necessary for a radical improvement in social and economic equality.

"Assimilation has done nothing to help the Aboriginal," she told a luncheon at the Journalists' Club in Sydney. "He is being brutalised almost beyond recall.

"The Aboriginal now must take steps to implement a sane policy in his own interest.

"At present, Aboriginals are given the rights to live upon the rubbish dumps of the white society; to live with the rejects of the white society; to drink at second-rate hotels the white man's poison; to rent or buy a house in a white suburb where he is continually watched by, in most cases, hostile, suspicious white neighbors."

The Government's policy of community integration was, from the Aboriginal viewpoint, a failure.

"The only change that has taken place is that the whites have changed the word, assimilation, to integration.

"Integration into the white society cannot work because the white society will not allow it to work for the Aboriginal. Both systems or policies are in the interests of white society."

Mrs Walker advocated separate development for Aboriginals so that they could achieve equality by their own efforts, with government aid. "What has to be done for the Aboriginal must be done by the Aboriginals."

Separate satellite townships should be developed for Aboriginal populations. White Australians should leave their caretaker positions on Aboriginal reservations and mission stations and Aboriginals should be allowed to live in their own way in the satellite township areas — or, if they wished, as equals within the white community.



KATH WALKER, who says the Aboriginal is being brutalised almost beyond recall.

CHURCH ROLE

"Aboriginals don't want white racists to lead them," Mrs Walker said. Christian church-supported mission stations were only enslaving the Aboriginal population.

"Church people are experts in this field of enslaving the Aboriginal. They have convinced themselves they are Christianising the Aboriginal but in truth they continue to brutalise the black man by trying to turn him into a black white man."

Mrs Walker attacked the motives of many white Aboriginal advancement workers.

They took on the job because it was an easy way to earn a high salary.

"They need a cause for living and Aboriginals are a cause worth holding on to," she said. "These do-gooders would be far better off helping the poverty-stricken people of their own race."

To return pride to the Aboriginal community would be an uphill battle, Mrs Walker said. "To get the pride back, the Aboriginal will have to search the white gutters.

"If violence becomes necessary, then the white man will use it and he will say he is using it for the welfare of the black man. This is part of the brutalising process which has left a scar on the black man — and the white man."