

Cocktails Ended Protest

Melbourne. — The sit-in protest on land rights by Aborigine Mr. Lin Onus ended abruptly at 4.20 a.m. yesterday when three "Molotov cocktails" set his wooden hut in Sherbrooke Forest on fire.

But the destruction of the protest hut may have

come too late as Mr. Onus has already achieved his object — talks with the Victorian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Meagher) about land rights.

Mr. Onus has been living in the protest hut in Sherbrooke Forest since February 6, protesting for Aboriginal land rights. He and other Aborigines have handed out leaflets and spoken to about 3500 visitors.

Mr. Onus said afterwards he felt lucky to have got away with his life.

It is believed the molotov cocktails were thrown from Monbulk Road, about 30 yards away. At the time Mr. Onus and two friends were asleep in the hut. They awoke to see flames and just managed to seize their clothes and get clear before tar paper on the walls exploded into flames.

"We threw as much out of the hut as we could before we tried to fight the fire, but it was hopeless," he said.

"Once the tar paper caught alight the flames spread too quickly for us to be able to do anything."

One of his friends drove into Belgrave and called the fire brigade, which soon had the fire under control.

Belgrave police, who also attended the fire, found the necks of two smashed milk bottles stuffed with rags in the form of "Molotov cocktails."

The remnants of a third bottle were found nearby.
—A.U.P.