

Govt. will close Aboriginal 'embassy'

Age
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From MICHELLE GRATTAN

CANBERRA.—The Aborigines who have camped opposite Parliament House for the past four months are to be moved.

The Minister for the Interior (Mr. Hunt) told Parliament yesterday that the Government would bring in an ordinance making it an offence to camp on unleased Commonwealth land in Canberra.

"The change in the law will of course apply to the areas around Parliament House," Mr. Hunt said.

An "Aboriginal embassy," now has seven tents and nine members, was established on January 26 in protest against the Government's refusal to grant Aboriginal land rights.

Mr. Hunt said adequate public notice would be given when the ordinance came into effect.

He said existing legal provisions were not sufficiently definite about people camping on unleased Commonwealth land in the city.

A spokesman for the Aborigines, (Mr. Ambrose Brown), said yesterday that the Aborigines intended to remain on the lawns until they were carried off.

But Mr. Brown said they would not actively resist attempts to move them.

purpose of communicating a political point of view and informing the Parliament of a grievance they claimed to have.

"It is typical of this Government that they should single out Aborigines, the most underprivileged group in the community, as the group about which to admit their prejudice and their failure."

"There will be no violence," he said.

"But we sure will come back."

Mr. Brown said the Aborigines would hold a mass rally on the lawns after they were moved. Aborigines from all parts of Australia would attend.

The Labor MHR for the Australian Capital Territory, (Mr. Enderby) last night described the decision to move the Aborigines as "appalling."

"The Aborigines are exercising one of the most fundamental ancient rights recognised by British law," Mr. Enderby said.