

# Native 'embassy' pulled down again

From MICHELLE GRATTAN

CANBERRA. — Police pulled down the "Aboriginal Embassy" opposite Parliament House for the third time yesterday afternoon — but there was no violence.

About 2000 people re-established the "embassy" for three hours.

About 3.40 p.m. police moved in and removed it after six people had been left in charge of the newly-erected tent and most of the demonstrators had marched back to the Australian National University. No one was arrested at yesterday's demonstration.

When police first tore down the "embassy" on July 20 eight people were arrested and several injured.

On Sunday week 250 police fought with about 200 protesters in wild scenes when an attempt was made to put up a tent. Eighteen people were arrested.

The six-months-old "embassy" was removed after the Government gazetted an ordinance to prevent camping on unleased Commonwealth land in the Australian Capital Territory.

About 1000 people, including 200-250 Aborigines, marched yesterday from the Australian National University to Parliament House. Before the march started, Aborigines asked demonstrators to leave any weapons behind.

The demonstrators assembled on the lawns opposite Parliament House soon after midday and immediately pitched their green tent. A large crowd of sightseers watched.

Across the road, ranged along in front of Parliament House, were about 60 police. Another 200 police reinforcements were behind Parliament House, but they were not used.

The demonstrators listened to speeches and watched a symbolic protest dance.

About 3 p.m. Black Power leader Mr. Dennis Walker called for volunteers to staff the "embassy." "We know the 'embassy' will probably be pulled down some time when the pigs have got the guts to," he told the crowd.

Mr. Bruce McGuinness said: "When they tear it down we'll rebuild it with 5000 blacks for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference."

## Power salutes

After most of the demonstrators had formed ranks and marched off, eight police moved in and lifted the tent off its occupants. There was no resistance. Police were met by Black Power salutes.

The Aborigines then seized a piece of canvas, and held it over their heads. Flanked by more than 100 supporters, they marched across the road and threw the canvas at the feet of the row of police. The remaining demonstrators then dispersed.

In a last-minute effort to prevent a violent demonstration, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Howson), the Minister for the Interior (Mr. Hunt), the Minister for Education and Science (Mr. Fraser) and the chairman of the Commonwealth Council for Aboriginal Affairs (Dr. H. C. Coombs) met a group of Aborigines for discussions lasting two hours on Saturday afternoon.

The Ministers told the Aborigines that the question of a permanent Aboriginal centre in Canberra would be placed before the national conference of Aboriginal Advisory Councillors to State and Federal Governments on August 10-11.

Mr. Hunt said it would be premature to decide about such premises until after this national conference.

The Aborigines at the meeting argued that this conference was not representative of Aborigines.

The Ministers said the Aborigines they should present to Mr. Howson their proposals for widening the representation at the national conference and their proposals for a national centre, and any other matter. These views would be passed on to the national conference and the Government itself would consider them.

## Opposed

In MELBOURNE, Mr. McMahon, addressing the Liberal Party State council on Saturday, said Aborigines in the north of Australia were opposed to "unrest and violence" among Aborigines in the south.

Mr. McMahon said some groups were "behaving in a way which is inimical to the Aborigines themselves."

Mr. McMahon said he had visited northern Australia recently and "I could not help but think what a kindly, lovable person the Aborigine is."



Aborigines and their supporters put up the "embassy" — a tent.



Police move in to remove the tent from the lawn in front of Parliament House.

Age 31st July 1972