

# 'WE'LL BE HERE FOR NIGLA ANA'

Members of the Aboriginal Embassy expect to be "in residence" on the lawns facing Parliament House when the "Nigla Ana" black moratorium is held on July 14.

It is unlikely the Department of the Interior will enforce the new clauses of the Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance and evict the black ambassadors before or during the SEATO conference, which begins in Canberra on Wednesday.

"We have not heard anything more and we really don't expect to", embassy spokesman Mr John Newfong said today.

"Before the Advisory Council meeting last Monday the Minister was saying we would be moved before the conference. He said later that we would be moved before the election.

(The ACT Advisory Council's last meeting decided to oppose amendments to the ordinance proposed by the department).

"The decision taken by the Advisory Council would seem to be much

more representative of public opinion in Australia that the performance of the Federal Government since the 1967 referendum", Mr Newfong said.

"I hope the Government has finally realised how unpolitic it would be for them to have a headlong confrontation with us".

In spite of the "side issue" of eviction, the embassy attracts hundreds of inquiries.

It is now making tentative plans for "home nights".

"We hope to start coffee nights where Canberra people can come and drink coffee, play guitars and listen to music, and where the Aboriginal Embassy can disseminate literature", Mr Newfong said.

The embassy also will be a focal point for the black moratorium to be held on National Aborigines' Day, July 14. Its cry will be "Nigla Ana", an Arunta expression meaning, "We are hungry for our land".

Until then it appears the only trouble facing the embassy staff will be to keep Canberra's icy winter at bay. The present formula, according to John Newfong, is one heater per tent "and lots and lots of blankets".

## Embassy will stay for talks

The Aboriginal Embassy will remain on the lawns of Parliament House until at least the conclusion of the SEATO conference in Canberra on June 28.

This became clear today as delegates to the SEATO defence advisers meeting began to arrive.

Indications are that action will not be taken to remove the embassy until the last of the SEATO delegates leaves at the end of the month.

Today, the Minister for the Interior's office said a time had not been set for the implementation of the relevant legislation, the Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance.

The timing of the gazettal of the ordinance would depend on the progress of the legislation through the procedural channels.

A spokesman for Mr Hunt said the SEATO conference had never been taken in to account when the legislation was framed.

Any decision to remove



Garry Rochford (left) of Port Pirie, South Australia, and Ambrose Brown, of Jervis Bay, huddle beside a heater at the "embassy" in below freezing temperatures.

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