

'Mecca' for Aborigines sought

An Aboriginal leader said last night that the Northern Territory could become to the Aborigines what Israel is to the Jews.

Mr Paul Coe, a law student and a founder of the Aboriginal legal service in Sydney, was speaking on the ABC television program 'Monday Conference'.

He said the Northern Territory should be under Aboriginal control. It would then draw Aborigines from all over Australia, just as Israel drew Jews from all over the world, he said.

"The Northern Territory could become the Aborigine's sort of Mecca", he said.

The Northern Territory should also become a full State of Australia, he said. But it should be controlled by Aborigines because "the blacks up there outnumber the Europeans to an extent of seven to one".

If the Northern Territory became a State under white control it would be a "Rhodesian type of set-up".