

Aboriginal protest gets more support

A fourth tent has been set up on the lawns outside Parliament House as more Aborigines join the protest for land rights.

The new tent has been set up to accommodate sympathisers who want to stay overnight and the spokesman for the protesters, Mr C. Dixon, said that anyone who wanted to join their protest was "most welcome".

Mr Dixon said their "high commissioner", Mr Michael Anderson, would meet any visiting dignitaries, and they expected between 50 and 60 people at the site before the end of the week.

He said many people had given food gifts but after the "newness" of the protest wore off the protesters would find it hard to manage.

The protesters still claim they are the owners of the land they are camped on, and Mr Dixon stressed that they were there in the cause of justice and would remain on the site indefinitely.

The Minister for the Environment, Aborigines and the Arts, Mr Howson, said on Friday that the ACT was a curious place in which to canvass for ownership of Aboriginal reserves.

He said all land granted in the ACT for any purpose was leasehold with the remaining pockets of freehold land to be acquired by the Government.

In the Northern Territory only about 500 square miles of a total area of some 520,000 square miles were held freehold. The only way an Australian of any origin could obtain land from the Government in either Territory was by lease.

Offering leases

Mr Howson said the Government was offering Aborigines leases on Aboriginal reserves in the Northern Territory on particularly favourable terms.

It was prepared to buy land outside these reserves as it became available for the use of Aboriginal communities.

BRISBANE, Monday. — All men should be allowed to carry guns to protect themselves, the leader of the radical Aboriginal Black Panther Party, Mr Dennis Walker, said today.

Speaking at a conference on racism at Queensland University he said Black Panther members in the US were able to carry guns. This put them at an advantage compared with Australian Black Panther members.