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Aborigines harassed — Keefe

CANBERRA — Police have harassed Aborigines in Melbourne as part of security plans for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, it was claimed yesterday.

Labor Senator Jim Keefe said two police had visited the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Fitzroy last Friday afternoon.

He said they "heavied" a member of the service, Mr Gary Foley, "which didn't create a very good impression".

Senator Keefe said police

also carried out surveillance on the director of the National Aboriginal and Islander Health Organisation (Mr B. McGinness).

"Every time he turns sideways, there seems to be a couple of cops watching," he said.

"I think their overreacting. As far as the blacks are

concerned, it's personal harassment."

Senator Keefe said that the aim of such action was to stop Aborigines seeing representatives from black African nations attending C.H.O.G.M.

He condemned the treatment of Aborigines by the Federal Government, some of the state governments and the Northern Territory.

He said the Prime Minister (Mr Fraser) Premiers Court and Bjelke Petersen, and Northern Territory Chief Minister Everingham were ashamed of their record.

"I think their so called security measures are urging a confrontation," Senator Keefe said.

"They're employing extreme measures and the whole thing is provocative.

"They're handling the whole thing like a bunch of amateurs".

Earlier, Senator Keefe raised the matter in Parliament and questioned the identity of the police who interviewed Mr Foley.

He said one of them had identified himself as Det. Sgt Fisher, of the Victorian Police Force.

Yet as far as he could ascertain, no Det. Fisher was a regular member of the Victorian Police, Senator Keefe said.

He asked the Attorney-General (Senator Durak) whether Det. Fisher was a member of the Federal Police seconded to the Victorian force.

He described the practice of swearing in Federal Police as Victorian officers to give them equivalent powers as "an extreme measure".

"Can the Minister also advise whether members of ASIO and other security organisations have been sworn in as Victorian security officers during C.H.O.G.M.?" he said.

Senator Durack said he would "take note of and give consideration to" the question on ASIO involvement in C.H.O.G.M. security.