

New Larrakia sitdown

DARWIN. A group of the Larrakia tribe of Aborigines again sat down on Bagot Road, a main road leading into Darwin, on Monday November 22, to halt in-going commuter traffic in support of their claims for traditional land at Kulaluk where they are at present squatting (see background story in Tribune, November 17).

Traffic was disrupted for more than 20 minutes and promised to delay government workers in getting to their offices.

Police threatened to arrest the Larrakias who blocked the road, but it was only after several minutes that they moved on. The police took the names of those in the demonstration and later arrested their leader, Mr. Bobby Secretary, for an unpaid fine arising from an earlier protest. The fine was paid from bail money already in police hands.

The Larrakias carried placards with slogans such as "Who killed 1000 Larrakias?", "Our children are dying," "March for justice," "I am a Larrakia and proud of it," etc.

The Larrakias are planning further demonstrations.

Meanwhile, the lengthy campaign for Aboriginal land rights has gained its first major success with the proposed granting of 1,500,000 acres of pastoral land on the Roper River mission to the Yugul Cattle Company Pty. Ltd., a company representative of all Aboriginal groups in the Roper River area.

Reports indicate that the Federal Cabinet was pretty well split on the land rights issue. The real test will come however with the Gurindji land claims which involve not missions or reserves, but land privately leased by Vestey's.





Members of the Larrakia tribe in their most recent land rights sitdown in Bagot Road, Darwin. See story this page.