

# ABORIGINALS' PLEA TO GOVT FOR TREATIES

Aboriginals camping at Kulaluk, behind the Nightcliff drive-in, have called on the Government to sign treaties with all tribes.

The request is contained in a petition sent to the Prime Minister, Mr McMahon.

The petition is signed by five leaders of the Larrakia tribe.

It says the Government should appoint a commission to visit every tribe and work out a treaty to suit each group.

The petition reads:

"When the first settlers

came to the Northern Territory, the tribes fought them with wooden and stone weapons.

"Hundreds of our people were shot.

"The Gwalwa Daraniki is a group of proud blacks who will keep fighting for the land (as our grandparents did) until:

• The Government appoints a Commission to go around to every tribe and work out a treaty

to suit each tribe.

• Each tribe will have legal assistance, and help from anyone else they wish.

• All members of the tribe shall come together to vote and decide if the finished treaty is fair.

## RIGHTS

• If the treaty is rejected, then that tribe will go on fighting for their land rights.

• If the treaty is accepted, then all the tribe will sign it and make it good for all time.

• The treaties will also be signed by the Prime Minister, his Cabinet, and the Governor-General.

"We invite all people of Aboriginal descent to join the tribe of their ancestors.

"These are the demands of the Gwalwa Daraniki, and we shall not stop until the treaties are signed."

The petition is signed by Mr Bobby Secretary, Mr Leo Jackaboy, Mr Harry Adam, Mr K. W. Chulung, and Mr J. Maier.

NT NEWS June 9 1972 p 5

## McMAHON'S 'NO' TO BID FOR TREATIES WITH ABORIGINALS

The Prime Minister, Mr McMahon, has rejected a call for a commission to negotiate land treaties with Aboriginal tribes throughout Australia.

He said it was not appropriate to negotiate with Aboriginals as though they were foreign powers when they had been British subjects for almost 200 years.

Treaties had never been negotiated with Aboriginals, partly because of the difficulty of identifying the people and groups with which to negotiate.

The call for the land commission was made in March by Aboriginal rights workers, Mr Bill Day.

### "DISAPPOINTING"

He said Mr McMahon's reply was disappointing but not surprising.

Mr Day said: "I would have thought it would have been a way to solve the land rights question for all time.

"Now, it is back to the battling

grounds for the tribes and more confrontation.

"They will have to get a little bit here and a bit there, like the Government has decided to do with the Gibb Committee report."

He said that while Mr McMahon thought of the Aboriginals as British subjects for 200 years, they had been Australian citizens only since 1963.

He suggested the Aboriginals might feel as if they are dealing with a foreign power which had moved in and taken their land without the formalities of international law.

Mr Day said he would send the Prime Minister's reply to the Aboriginal "Embassy" in Canberra, because they were interested in the case.

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March 30, 1972  
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16 Sept 1972  
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# ABORIGINALS PLAN PRINCESS PETITION

Aboriginal rights groups are organising a petition to be presented to Princess Margaret when she visits Darwin next month.

20 Oct. 1972 NT News

## LAND PLEA TO QUEEN—IN PIECES

The 1000-signature Aboriginal land rights petition was sent to the Queen yesterday with a letter apologising for the condition of the document.

About 70 Aboriginals camped outside Government House overnight while Princess Margaret was in Darwin, hoping she would accept the petition to pass on to the Queen.

But she left without the petition, which calls for a commission to organise Aboriginal land rights.

The letter sent with the petition was signed by five Aboriginals — Mr Bobby Secretary, Mr Fred Fogarty, Mr David Daniels, Mr Peter Mundine and Mr Harry Adam.

They said there had been no reply to a note they gave to an aide with the Royal couple, and their last hope was to try

to break through the police barrier to see Princess Margaret.

The letter said: "This attempt failed. At the same time the petition became torn with a large section missing.

"This happened in the scuffle with police.

"We are sorry to send the petition in this condition.

"We hoped and planned to present it personally to Princess Margaret."

They also plan to camp outside Government House on the night of Princess Margaret's stay.

The annual meeting of the Aboriginal Development Foundation on Thursday night endorsed a proposal for the petition put forward by another rights group, the Gwalwa Daraniki.

Members of the Larra-kia tribe will attempt to present the finished petition to Princess Margaret at Government House.

Petition forms, now being circulated in Darwin, appeal to the Queen to help Aboriginals gain land rights.

"The British settlers took our land," says the petition.

"No treaties were signed with the tribes.

### REFUGEES

"Today we are refugees.

"Refugees in the country of our ancestors.

"We live in refugee camps without land, without employment, without justice.

"The British Crown signed treaties with the

Maoris in New Zealand and the Indians in North America.

"We appeal to the Queen to help us, the Aboriginal people of Australia.

"We need land rights and political representation now."

A letter accompanying the forms, signed by Mr Johnny Fejo, says the purpose of the petition is to ensure Princess Margaret learns the "truth about the Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory."

### CAMPING

It invites people to send the signed forms to PO Box 4751 Darwin by October 8, and concludes: "As well as presenting the finished petition, the tribes and many white friends will be camping overnight outside Government House.

"Join us if you can for a peaceful night of singing and comradeship."

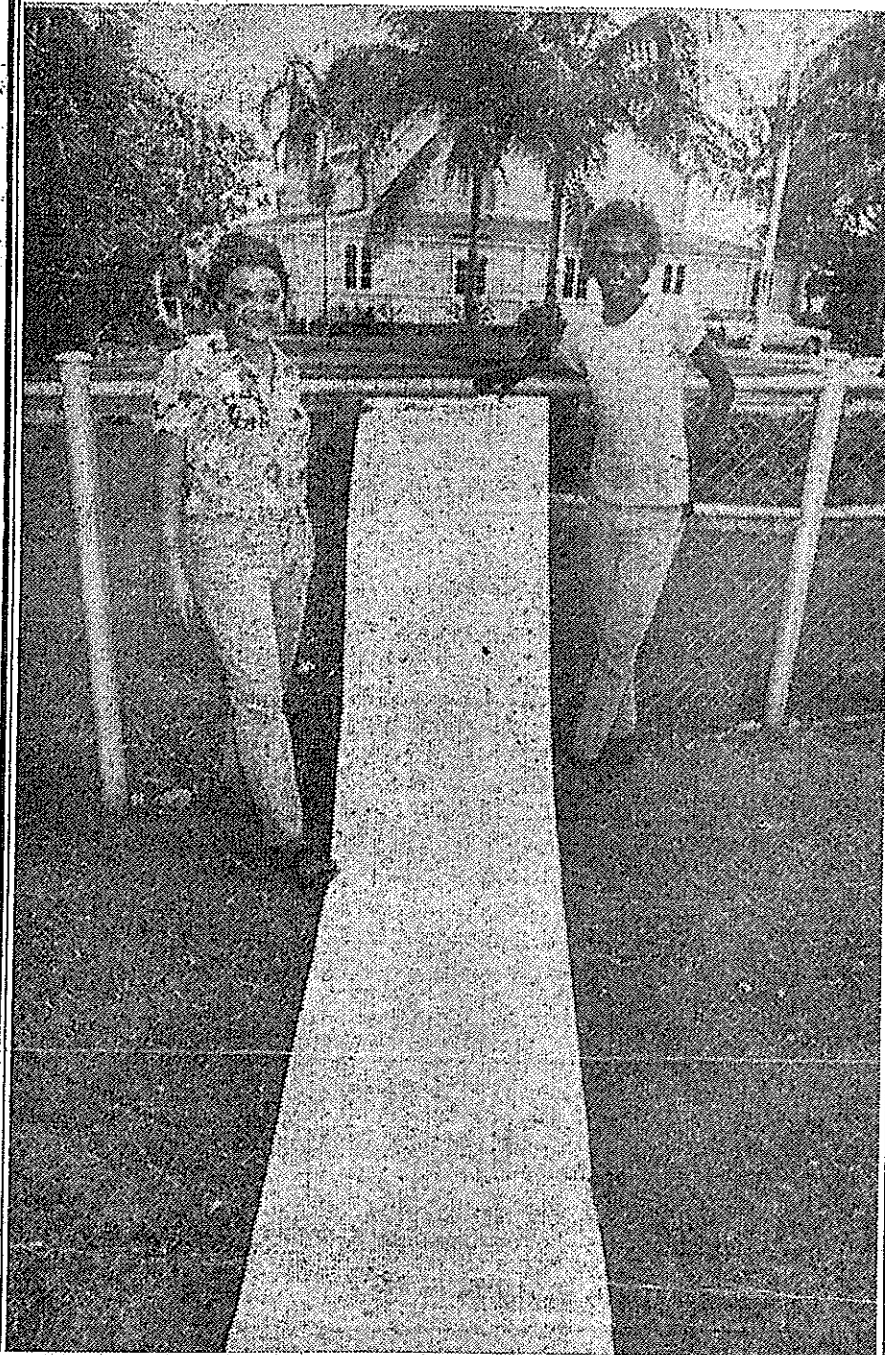
Princess Margaret is due in Darwin for a one night stop on October 15.

Her brief itinerary includes a visit to Kormilda College and a broadcast over the outpost radio.



MR SECRETARY

# A 'Royal petition'



Attempts will be made to hand this petition, signed by 1000 supporters of Aboriginal land rights, to Princess Margaret soon after she arrives in Darwin this afternoon.

Tessa Ferguson and Edwin Jangarros took the yards-long petition to Government House yesterday for a trial run.

Several hundred Aboriginals plan to camp outside Government House all night in a peaceful demonstration in support of the land rights issue.

They will sing Aboriginal songs to didgeridoo accompaniment, and dance corroborees.

A supporter said yesterday the Aboriginals would come from Bagot Reserve, Delisaville Settlement and camps at Berrimah, Kulaluk and Japanese Beach.

They would "take up residence" outside Government House at about 5 p.m.

Princess Margaret and her husband, Lord Snowdon, are due there at

5.30 p.m. after a welcome at the airport.

It is likely the Aboriginals will seek opportunity to present the petition as Princess Margaret arrives.

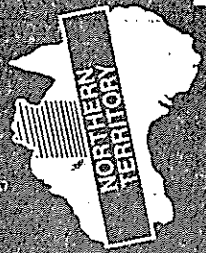
Aboriginal leader, Mr Phillip Roberts has been invited to the reception at Government House tomorrow morning.

It is understood he has declined the invitation and will not attend.

Apart from the reception, tomorrow's program for the Royal couple includes an early morning broadcast, a visit to Kormilda College, and drives through city and suburban streets.

The Governor-General, Sir Paul Hasluck, will arrive this afternoon in time to officially farewell Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon before they leave for England at the end of their Australian visit.

# The News



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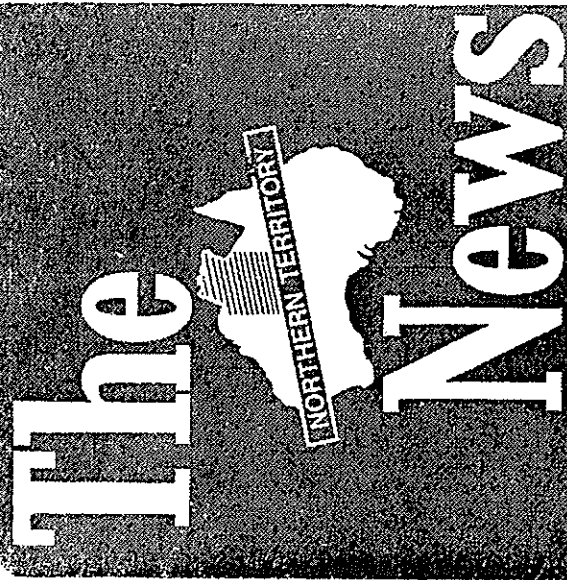
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## DIDN'T SEE PRINCES

Early this morning 70 Aborigines were still camped outside Darwin's Government House — waiting for a chance to present their 1000 signature land rights petition to Princess Margaret.

They set up their own "Government House" across the road from the century - old real building on land they claimed belonged to them.

Early in the night about 300 Aborigines and their supporters converged on the area and staged an impromptu concert, singing to the accompaniment of several didgeridoos.



Princess Margaret arriving at the RAAF base to start her visit to Darwin yesterday.

granting a pastoral lease to his people.

The royal couple had a noisy welcome to Darwin.

Guns at the RAAF base were positioned upwind to fire a 21 shot salute and the noise and smoke from the firing deafened the official reception party and about 100 spectators.

But despite the deafening noise and the irritating smoke Princess Margaret, accompanied by Lord Snowdon, showed no sign of annoyance and maintained an apparent

Many of them set up camp for their overnight vigil.

There was no sign of violence, but a strong squad of uniformed police stood guard in front of Government House, just in case.

At one stage they turned back surging protesters as they tried to cross the road.

But police made no effort to remove the Aborigines.

They said they were there only to keep the peace.

While the Aborigines sang outside the royal couple was having dinner with a few invited guests.

They could not see from the dining room, placards with slogans such as "We

