

# From Captain Cook to the Commonwealth Games Nothing has changed

Before the white man, all of the continent Australia was occupied by the indigenous Aboriginal people. Australia was divided into some 500 tribal areas or states and each tribe or state exercised full sovereign powers within its clearly defined domain.

Although language and dialect varied from tribe to tribe, there was a universal code of communication, so enabling all tribes to communicate and trade the length and breadth of the continent. Each tribe was so organised that there was no family holding any hereditary rights over the rest of the population. The boundaries, encompassing each tribal area, had been established from the beginning of time for all time and there could be no wars of conquest or taking of another tribe's domain.

Aboriginal people were independent, self-sufficient and had their own self-determination by virtue of their sovereignty. Since the invasion by the white-Australian settler population, much of that, in practice, has changed.

The colonial settler state now claims sovereignty which has never been ceded by the indigenous Aboriginal people.

Dispossession began in 1770 when British explorer James Cook wrote "I hoisted the English colours, and in the name of His Majesty King George III, took possession of the whole Easter coast."

Cook's instructions were: "You are with the consent of the natives to take possession of convenient situations in the country in the name of the King of England; or, if you find the country uninhabited take possession for His Majesty by setting up proper marks and inscriptions as first discoverers and possessors."

Cook's actions were seemingly in defiance of his instructions and showed from the outset that the British regarded the indigenous Aboriginal people as a people without any rights to their lands.

In 1788, the First Fleet arrived, led by Governor Phillip, who established a colony at Botany Bay and claimed possession of all the continent Australia in the name of King George III. All done illegally and without the consent of the indigenous Aboriginal people.

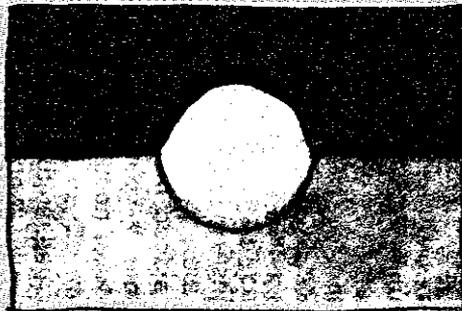
His explicit instructions were, "You are to endeavour by every possible means to open an intercourse with the Natives, and to conciliate their affections, enjoining

*all our subjects to live in amity and kindness with them."*

That the indigenous Aboriginal people occupied the continent first, gave them a higher claim to sovereignty and self-determination than any settler.

History shows that the settlers refused to come to terms with the rights of the indigenous Aboriginal people. Despite all the hoo-ha, fancy words and proclamations, the British committed an act of aggression against the indigenous Aboriginal people. This state of war will continue until such time as the immigrant settler population in Australia, and its descendants, recognise that sovereignty over Australia rests with the indigenous Aboriginal people.

These acts of aggression by the British were committed around the globe and indigenous peoples throughout the world suffered the same fate as the indigenous Aboriginal people of Australia. The British refer to these illegally seized lands all over the world as the British Empire or the Commonwealth.



*Black represents the indigenous Aboriginal people  
Red represents the land and the blood shed in its defence  
Yellow represents the sun, the giver of all life*

# The Commonwealth Games Act Life's great in the police state

It is a far cry from the Olympic Games because only those countries with allegiance to Britain can participate.

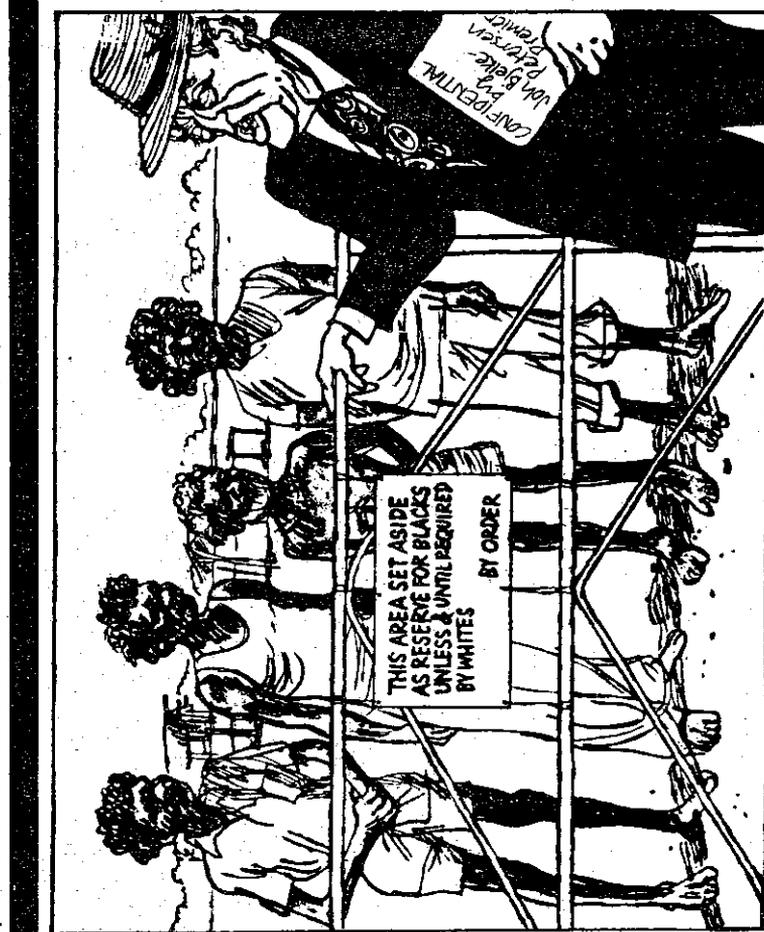
The 1982 Commonwealth Games will be held on illegally seized lands, without the consent of indigenous Aboriginal people. The Games will be staged in Queensland, a state which openly practises racism. Queensland's racist Aboriginal Act was used for 10 years as the fore-runner to South Africa's apartheid laws. The Act denies indigenous Aboriginal people outright, self-determination and rights to land.

But what has the Federal government done to at least relieve this oppression? Not a thing, despite Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser's record abroad as 'the champion of indigenous peoples' rights.

For some unknown reason, the Federal government is very reluctant to intervene in Queensland. It would prefer Aborigines to believe that the Queensland government will honour its unwritten promises. The Federal government says to Aborigines in Queensland "give us time, let us coax them into doing the right thing by your people, be patient, don't rock the boat."

While the Federal government pursues this angle, Aboriginal health worsens. More than a third of Aboriginal families are homeless. More and more land is being taken from Aboriginal people. Aboriginal life expectancy is now 52 years and

The Commonwealth Games is not just a sporting event. To all indigenous peoples throughout the world who have had contact with the British settler-state, the Commonwealth Games is a 'political extravaganza', commemorating the illegal seizure of indigenous peoples' lands throughout the world. It is a show of the unity and the power of British influence.



or demonstrations. So the Queensland police drafted the 'Commonwealth Games Bill' which was introduced into Queensland parliament in November 1981 and became law in early 1982. The Queensland government claims the Bill is aimed at countering 'terrorist activities'. But this is a Federal, not State

'offenders' detained by police or private security employees. The clause which declares the Bill void on completion of the Games does not oblige police to destroy any information they obtain if an 'offender' is subsequently acquitted by the courts. The Bill protects police and private security employees from

Brisbane in defiance of the State government.

Section 16 of the Bill empowers police to stop or arrest anybody holding a placard or handing out leaflets anywhere up to sixteen kilometres from a Games venue. This section also empowers police to seize any 'prohibited item' in or near a 'notified area' but fails to describe what either a 'prohibited item' or 'notified area' is.

Section 18 makes it an offence to sell anything within one kilometre of a Games venue or security area, including the 42 kilometre marathon route and the highways of Queensland which could very possibly be declared 'security areas'.

Section 20 gives police power to enter and search buildings within a notified area but again fails to describe what a 'notified area' is.

Section 28 gives security guards and/or Games officials power to prevent any person/s from entering any notified area without explanation, even if the person has paid for an official pass/ticket.

Section 36 empowers "any authorised person/s who is not a police officer" to arrest people under any section of the Bill using "such force as is necessary". But there can be no subsequent court action against unnecessary and/or excessive force.

Section 42 gives "police officers and others" complete immunity against liability for any action they take "in good faith and purporting to be done for the purposes of the Bill".

destroying, genocidal policies continue to increase their toll on Aboriginal people. Alcoholism appears a way out of this hopeless situation but, in fact, seals the lid on the coffin. Thirty percent of Queensland's male prison population is Aboriginal and seventy percent of its female prison population is Aboriginal. Why? To suppress our determination to struggle in defence of our rights!

In the meantime, the Queensland government has launched a further offensive against the indigenous Aboriginal people. It must have anticipated that we would use the Commonwealth Games as a "Forum for Justice" months before we mentioned anything about boycotts

indigenous Aboriginal people know the bill is indicative of the Queensland government's determination to crush our attempts to focus international attention on our struggle.

The Commonwealth Games Bill gives police unprecedented powers to arrest, without stating the nature of the charge, any person they suspect of being a protestor and then fine that person \$2000 and/or 2 years' imprisonment.

In addition, the Bill gives the Queensland police power to use a whole new range of information gathering techniques including the taking of fingerprints, toeprints, footprints, voiceprints and handwriting specimens of

exploitation of the laws and places no restriction on the degree of force used in the arrest of 'offenders'.

The Bill also gives police extremely wide powers to declare states of emergency and once an area is declared an emergency area, only police can alter it. Not even the Police Minister, the Parliament or the Governor can over-rule a police declaration. Police Minister Russell Hinze said recently,

"When I became Police Minister, people said I would turn Queensland into a police state. It couldn't happen and it hasn't happened. How can I alone turn this into a police state?"

Under the Commonwealth Games Bill, the police can control the city of

a legitimate ticket holder the defence would simply be 'acting in good faith'. Worse still, it provides police and 'others' with a legal means of killing Aboriginal protestors. The same section also indemnifies the Crown and the Police Minister against any subsequent action.

Some months after the Bill was in the pipeline — being drafted by police — the first public statement was made by an Aborigine about demonstrations at the Games.

There had also been extremely irresponsible claims by the Queensland press that armed Maoris were training Aborigines in the jungles of North Queensland.

*Continued next page*

# Genocide to assimilation Change the name, but not the aim

Sunday afternoon manhunts, when white settlers would murder in cold blood, as many Aborigines as they could locate, were regular features of everyday life. An award was presented to the settler who returned with the most 'ears' of murdered Aborigines. Waterholes and food were laced with arsenic. Wildlife was slaughtered.

Aboriginal women were raped and killer diseases like syphilis were unleashed on unknowing Aboriginal people, who had no resistance because they were totally alien to them.

The pre-historian, Rhys Jones, wrote: "One's gorge rises at this sorry tale of psychopathic sadism, of punitive parties and concentration camps, of Sunday afternoon

When Aborigines killed whites — in defence of their land and rights — it was called 'murder'. When whites killed Aborigines it was "unavoidably killed in consequence of their not having surrendered".

*man-hunts of sexual mutilation, of cutting flesh off living bodies and feeding it to dogs, of burying babies up to their necks in sand and kicking their heads off in front of their mothers, and tying the severed head of a husband around the neck of a raped spouse."*

Though whole tribes were wiped out indigenous Aboriginal people continued to resist the white invaders. The British Governor Lachlan Macquarie, in furthering the illegal seizure of Aboriginal land and the destruction of Aboriginal lifestyle declared, "I earnestly

Assimilation and annihilation were the order of the day. Those who disobeyed the Governor's orders were murdered or driven away by armed force.

Aboriginal children were forcibly taken from their mothers and flogged for speaking traditional language. Aboriginal men and women were hung, murdered or flogged for practising and teaching children their culture.

These are but some of the acts committed against indigenous Aboriginal people. Some of the more 'wanton barbaric' acts continued into the 1930s and floggings for observing cultural practices are, to this very day, still carried out in Queensland.

Assimilation — cultural genocide — is still the order of the day.

# The Act

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The Queensland government exploited these opportunities to fuel public fears of trouble at the Games in order to create a state of hysteria to allow the quiet passage of the Bill. The North Queensland Land Council said of protests at the Games: "We will be going to Brisbane to defend our rights. Any action taken by indigenous Aboriginal people will be in defence of our rights. If violence erupts, it will be the violence of the racist settler state in a further offensive against indigenous Aboriginal people."

So Aboriginal people going to Brisbane to protest at the Games are very much aware of the violence of the racist settler State and realise that there is a 50 percent chance of being killed, a 90 percent chance of being beaten up and every chance of being arrested and thrown in jail. But this has not deterred our determination to continue our struggle for what is rightfully ours.

The offensive which will be launched against us will be an offensive by the racist settler state, which is the same violence used against indigenous people throughout the world. We need your support for our actions since we do have a common oppressor.

Your support for a boycott of the Commonwealth Games will undoubtedly be heralded as a clear rejection of the racism practised by the Queensland State. It will do much to show both the Queensland State government and the Australian Federal government that indigenous people throughout the world will not condone racism and are concerned that the rights of

The racist Queensland settler state, by means of genocide and assimilation, has from the beginning robbed indigenous Aboriginal people of their heritage. It will now use the Commonwealth Games to further dispossess Aboriginal people. No wonder Aboriginal people from all over Australia are saying, "No land rights, no games".

The war waged by the settlers against Aborigines in Botany Bay extended the length and breadth of this continent. By the time the war spread to areas now known as Queensland, Aborigines were aware of this threat. There were many battles and many Aborigines died in defence of their country and their rights.

When the Queensland state was established it had a program of extermination and "whatever means necessary" were used against Aboriginal people who dared to oppose the State. The State, however found great difficulty in carrying out the program. And because of some liberal influences in the British Parliament, it changed its tactics — but not its purpose — and set up penal settlements for Aboriginal people. This was done through an act of Parliament which is now known as the Aboriginal Act.

Aborigines were rounded up from all parts of Queensland and herded on to these penal settlements or reserves because they were seen as an obstacle to the State's development. Those who resisted were slaughtered on the spot. These settlements were established in areas the settlers regarded as useless wastelands. Aboriginal people from all the different tribal groups or Aboriginal States were thrown together with total disregard for their rights and customs and with no concern for their survival.

The spread of alien diseases like syphilis and leprosy by the settlers in the early days of colonisation had catastrophic effects on Aboriginal

This seriously affected the entire Aboriginal community. Children would be classed illegitimate and taken from their parents by the State and placed in an institution. Arguments and fights would result on the return of the first husband, leading to splits in the community.

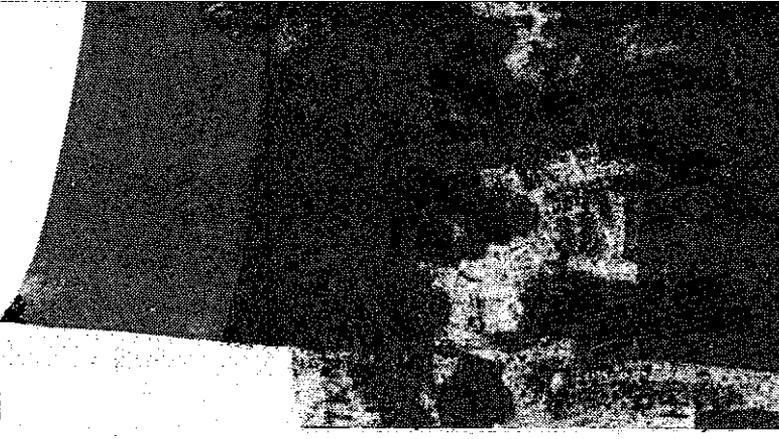
The physical and spiritual needs of Aborigines were blatantly suppressed, as they were forced to adapt to the ways of the white man. Facilities on reserves were grossly inadequate and in most instances non-existent. The traditional diet was replaced by a European one. Malnutrition and the introduction of alien diseases took their toll on the population. By genocide, dehumanisation, assimilation and dispossession, the Aboriginal population of Queensland had in a relatively short period of time been reduced to one-third its original strength. And it appeared the churches and the State had no intention of reversing the trend.

Today the Aboriginal population is steadily growing through its own efforts but is still well below the number when the white settlers first set foot on this continent.

These days the State of Queensland is controlled by a racist dictatorship which holds only 27% of the vote. The present Queensland government, under the leadership of Joh Bjeike-Petersen, vehemently opposes Aboriginal rights.

The Queensland government is the only State government in Australia which retains a separate act of parliament for the control of

# It's all in Que (unless)



bills anywhere in the reserve area without the permission...

6. A person shall not engage in any trade or business anywhere in the reserve area without the permission of...

The director or a person authorised by him can detain any Aborigine without formal charge.

Australia are not recognised. There will be between 20,000 and 30,000 indigenous Aboriginal people taking part in protest actions at and during the Commonwealth Games.

This gathering could be more significant if it was not for the Commonwealth Games Bill which empowers police to declare roads, airports, railway stations and so on as 'security areas' and on which Aboriginals will not be allowed without police escort.

Still the sheer number of indigenous Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal supporters protesting cannot be easily dismissed by the governments who would deny our rights.



prisoners when they were imprisoned on these reserves. The State provided no medication or treatment and as a result, thousands of Aboriginals died under shocking circumstances.

The establishment of reserves completely and utterly disrupted the Aboriginal way of life. Tens of thousands of Aboriginals were confined to very small and inadequate areas of land and forced to drastically alter their lifestyle if they were to survive.

As the State expanded and christianity spread, the control of many of these reserves was handed to religious groups, who considered the Aboriginal people to be a heathen race.

Unfortunately, the sole concern of the churches was to convert Aboriginals, without any regard for their rights. Those churches controlling reserves decreed that Aboriginal culture was heathen and its practice would be met with severe physical and psychological punishment. Even to this day, Aboriginals on church-controlled reserves in Queensland are punished for carrying out any cultural activities proper to their lifestyles.

No attempt was made by either the church or the State to understand Aboriginal law and lifestyle. Aboriginal men were separated from their wives and children for long periods of time as punishment for trivial complaints which arose in the main from Aboriginal rejection of the State's assimilation program. The men would be sent to another reserve for long periods of time and under Aboriginal law a mother whose husband had left for an even lesser period of time was to take another husband.

Act', is administered by the State's Department of Aboriginal and Islander Advancement. (We call it the Department of Aggression, Inhumanity and Apartheid). It is controlled by a white director who has complete control over Aboriginals on reserves in Queensland. He appoints all white managers to reserves and sanctions church control of reserves.

The director can veto any decision or wish of the Aboriginal people on reserves and any decision of the white managers he appoints to monitor those reserves. He can forbid any person from visiting or living on a reserve; he can stop Aboriginals from leaving a reserve; he can say how many houses Aboriginal people can have; he controls the type of industry allowed; and he can sack or employ any Aboriginal person over the age of 15 years in any capacity on a reserve.

Here are some examples of the powers of the director:

1. A person shall not leave open a gate or entrance capable of being closed without permission.
2. All able-bodied persons (Aboriginal) over the age of 15 years residing within the reserve shall, unless otherwise determined, perform such work as is directed...
3. A person swimming or bathing shall be dressed in a manner approved by the Director or Manager.
4. A person shall not use any electrical goods other than a hot water jug, electric radio, iron or razor unless permission is first obtained from an authorised person.
5. A person shall not exhibit advertisements or distribute hand

person employed on a reserve usually well below the award rate and about one-third of the Australian average weekly wage.

When an Aboriginal man from Yarrabah challenged the director of the Industrial Court on the question of award wages, the Court ruled that Aboriginal people on reserves were entitled to award wages. This ruling was made some three years ago and yet Aboriginal people on reserves are still paid token wages for the work they do.

The director's excuse is that all Aboriginals employed on reserves are categorised as trainees. This claim is ludicrous as Aboriginal people on reserves have been mechanics, carpenters, plumbers and so on for more than 25 years. If the person was white s/he would have been classified a skilled tradesperson after a four or five year apprenticeship and would receive full award wages.

The director can stop Aboriginals from withdrawing money from their

# Uranium st

**Aboriginal people of Australia vehemently oppose uranium mining.**

There are many reasons for this. For uranium to be mined indigenous people are dispossessed of their lands. From there uranium is processed and refined for use as fuel in nuclear reactors, to produce nuclear energy.

Nuclear reactors not only produce electricity, but also materials for nuclear weapons. The effects of nuclear explosions need little comment. We are all aware of the incredible damage they can inflict on people, wildlife, land, flora

# Queensland and free you're black)

other Aborigines entertaining similar ideas. One example is the maximum sentence given to Percy Neal, ex-Chairman of the Yarrabah Community Council. Percy spat at a departmental officer and was initially sentenced to two months imprisonment. He appealed to the Queensland High Court and was subsequently sentenced to six months imprisonment — the maximum penalty for minor assault in Queensland — because the High Court felt the two month sentence was "manifestly inadequate". Since Percy was sentenced, a white person, charged with spitting on a police officer, was fined \$100.

Obviously, Percy Neal was a victim of political interference in the legal system. This treatment of prominent Aborigines by the courts is not uncommon and has two obvious objectives: to put Aboriginal spokespeople behind bars and to deter other Aborigines from opposing the State.

## Reserve Status

All Aboriginal reserve lands in Queensland are deemed by the State as belonging to the Crown.

Aborigines have no rights of title to land in Queensland and attempts to change this situation have been met with a resounding response from

it, a Deed of Grant is similar to jumping from the frying pan into the fire. The Deed of Grant in Trust does not provide any security of tenure because it states that the term of a lease is for a maximum period of 28 days and that an extension of that lease must have the approval of the Minister for Lands.

The Minister can at any time reduce the area of land in a Deed of Grant in Trust if he thinks that the area of land is too large for its purpose.

He can alienate areas for public purposes within the Deed of Grant, which would most likely include access roads, hospitals, beach areas and all non-residential buildings.

He can revoke, at any time, a Deed of Grant in Trust if he feels that it is not being used for the purposes provided in the Land Act.

These are but a few of the totally unacceptable conditions in the Deed. Aboriginal people all over Queensland have rejected it.

However, Aboriginal people will be forced to accept the unacceptable if proper steps are not taken by the Federal government to secure our rights.

The Federal government will only take these steps if sufficient pressure is applied. We, the indigenous Aboriginal people, have done everything in our power to try to have the government meet our demands. Pressure has to be applied from outside Australia to force the Federal government to recognise in real terms, the rights of indigenous Aboriginal people.

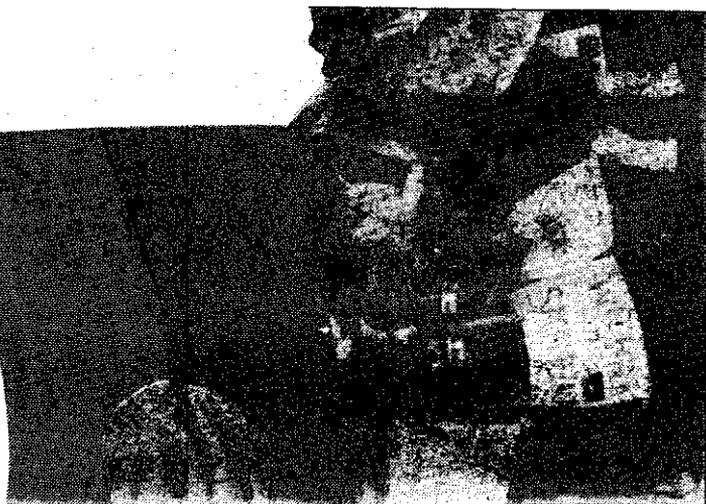
under "Freehold Title" must form the subject of negotiation with the Aboriginal people. The needs of the Aboriginal people will determine what portion of those illegally alienated lands may continue to rest under non-Aboriginal ownership and for the amount of reparations payable for dispossession.

7. Reparations for dispossession of Aboriginal lands. These lands have provided the basis for the white Australian economy. The rate of reparations is negotiable and will be determined according to Aboriginal needs.

It would appear these demands will not be met by either the racist Queensland or Federal governments. The struggle for land rights in Queensland is by far the most serious challenge so far faced by the racist Queensland government. The Queensland government tries to dismiss the demands of the Aboriginal community as the ravings of mad black fellows who are only interested in personal gain. This is not so, as the land rights struggle in Queensland is becoming more organised by the Aboriginal people themselves and is a demand expressed by Aboriginal people right throughout the state and the whole of Australia.

saving accounts. He is responsible for communication networks on reserves — telephone and mail services — which are set up in such a way that any and all forms of communication are received firstly by the director's departmental officers on the reserves.

So, as you can see, this lone white



Mining companies operating in Queensland refuse to negotiate with the indigenous Aboriginal people with regard to mining. Their excuse is that the land is Crown land vested in the State and that the

Queensland.

In the same Act which gives this director all this power, there is a provision of Aboriginal people on each reserve to elect a five-person community council. Each council is controlled by the regulations in the Act making it virtually useless when it comes to controlling the reserve's affairs. However, there have been a number of these elected community councils who have seen their role as representing the needs of the people, as opposed to the regulations of the Act under which they are established. These councils have, in the interests of their communities, waged long and hard battles against the State and have made significant advances in publicising the plight of reserve Aborigines.

As a result, the State has increased police numbers on Aboriginal reserves and victimised the more prominent and outspoken Aborigines, hoping this would deter

## Wells disaster for land rights

water and everything that makes up the earth.

The world is presently oversupplied with mined uranium, and endangered by the stock-piling of nuclear weapons and by the construction of reactors.

From the moment uranium is taken from the ground to its final destination, the earth's environment suffers because of contamination. This situation is just not acceptable.

The struggle of Aboriginal people in Australia is similar to that of other indigenous people in the Pacific. Many Pacific peoples have faced the same colonial invasion, the same

physical and cultural destruction. Many still face that oppression. We are all struggling for our land.

Nuclear weapons testing has threatened not only the people of Micronesia and Polynesia, but Aboriginal people in Australia.

Indigenous Aboriginal people of Australia ask you to support their struggle to attain inalienable land rights and full self-determination as a means of curbing this madness.

Let us state categorically that indigenous Aboriginal people will stop all mining of uranium on lands belonging to us.

Aboriginal people but no response has so far been forthcoming.

However, the Commonwealth Games to be staged in Brisbane, Queensland later this year provide an excellent opportunity to expose and embarrass both the Queensland and Federal governments into securing for all time the rights of the indigenous Aboriginal people.

The threat of protests at the Games and a possible boycott by sympathetic Commonwealth countries has prompted the Queensland government to study a number of alternatives to the present status of Aboriginal reserve land in Queensland.

Initially the State suggested 50 year leases, but this was unanimously rejected by the Aboriginal community. This sent the Queensland government back to the drawing board. The government then floated a couple of proposals, one for perpetual leases and the other for limited freehold title. Neither of these was acceptable to the Aboriginal community so the government came up with a deed of grant in trust.

The parliament passed legislation enabling the government to establish Deeds of Grant in Trust for Aboriginal and Islander reserve communities without any consultations whatsoever with the Aboriginal Islander community or its organisations.

So now the stage is set for the government to again change the status of Aboriginal reserve lands and so force Aboriginal communities to accept the Deeds of Grant in Trust which will be subject to the control of the Minister for Lands.

What does the Deed of Grant in Trust offer? The way Aboriginal people and their legal advisers see

being responsible for any and all mining activities.

So, we have the State and the mining companies both holding the same contempt and disregard for Aboriginal rights. To top this off, the Queensland government is promoting and encourages it at every opportunity.

As mentioned earlier, Aboriginal reserves were set up in areas regarded as useless wasteland. Today, just about every mining company operating in Australia has mining leases over those reserve lands or is trying to buy its way into those mining leases.

How does mining affect the lives of Aboriginal people? First of all for mining to go ahead Aboriginal people need to be dispossessed of their land. In most instances the Aboriginal people have refused to be removed from their traditional lands and as a result shanty towns or small reserve communities like Weipa were established.

When mining companies operate in isolated areas, like the Cape York Peninsula, they need to provide an attractive environment for European bosses and workers. This means access roads, motels, shops, hotels, recreational areas, offices, houses and so on, all of which are all alien and disruptive to traditional Aboriginal lifestyles and values. Aboriginal people are forced to cope with a strange, hostile and insensitive environment, over which they have no control. The effects of this are devastating. In short, cultural genocide.

In the main, the attitude of white Queenslanders is appallingly apathetic. However, there is a

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Queensland to come to terms with the reality of those rights.

The apathetic section of white Queensland usually retorts "Don't involve me in politics, I'm not interested", yet it is these same people who cry loudest when they are directly and personally affected by the actions of big business and the government.

Queensland is a stronghold for anti-Aboriginal attitudes and welcomes with open arms the likes of Lang Hancock, the racist mining magnate from Western Australia, and ex-mercenaries who were enlisted by the Ian Smith regime in opposing the indigenous Zimbabwean people.

From all this, it is very likely the Queensland police will enlist the services of many anti-Aboriginal civilians during the Commonwealth Games in an effort to keep Aboriginal people from bringing their plight to the outside world.

# Federation of Land Councils

Federation gave top priority to ratifying the Aboriginal Self-Determination Fund. It sees this Fund as vital to maintaining the dignity of Aboriginal groups in Australia, who, at the moment, spend a lot of time and effort in fund-raising.

The Federation of Land Councils asks you to donate to the Aboriginal Self-Determination Fund, P.O. Box 2061, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, 5750, Australia and encourages those who can afford it to do so by way of the enclosed bankers order.

This will provide Aboriginal struggle groups with guaranteed funding and allow them to take action when and where they see necessary.

The Federation of Land Councils also asks churches, unions and other organisations to collect \$1 from each member on each and every National Aboriginal Day, made payable to the Aboriginal Self-Determination Fund.

National Aboriginal Day is always the second Friday of July each year.

# Queensland

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minority who support the demands of the Aboriginal community. But they are outnumbered by an even larger minority who violently oppose Aboriginal demands. This has been seen in the formation of a number of extreme racist organisations, like the National Front, the Queensland Branch of the Equal Rights for Whites Association, all of which have in their memberships prominent white businessmen and politicians. Some of these organisations say they support equal rights and that Aboriginal people should become Queenslanders like themselves.

In response, Aborigines throughout Queensland have pointed out that it is not a question of equal rights but is in fact a question of indigenous peoples' rights and that the onus is on

The struggle for land rights began when the white man first set foot on this continent. In the last decade in particular, the struggle for land rights has become more intense and Aboriginal communities have seen the need to become more organised. Land Councils have been established throughout the country, representing more than 200,000 Aborigines. All, except one, have come together to form the Federation of Land Councils.

The Federation of Land Councils is a dynamic notion. It is the indigenous Aboriginal people, the land, the trees, the sky, the clouds, the rivers, the wind, the spirit. It is the ideology, the fundamentals of indigenous Aboriginal people.

It is real and it cannot be owned or grasped. It has no formal structure and cannot be got at nor be bought. The very existence of the Federation makes it an omnipotent force confronting governments, mining companies and multi-nationals.

After developing its ideology, the

# How you can help

- Boycott trade and sporting links with Australia
- Send letters and petitions of protest to the Australian Federal government and Queensland State government
- Stage protests outside Australian embassies, tourist bureaus, mining company offices with interests in Australia
- Raise funds to enable Aboriginal delegates to address rallies and conferences in your country
- Donate to the Aboriginal Self-determination Fund

(Ensure that copies are sent to the Federation of Land Councils, P.O. Box 2061, Alice Springs, 5750 Australia.)

- Get as much publicity of your actions as is possible, especially from the Australian media.

## People in Australia can

- Give physical support to Aboriginal demands by attending rallies and marches
- Donate to the Aboriginal Self-determination Fund
- Send letters and petitions in support of Aboriginal demands to Federal and State governments, politicians, Councilors in your local area and the media, with copies to the Federation of Land Councils
- Get your union, church or organisation to take up the demands of indigenous Aboriginal people and act on them.

# Whodunnit

This broadsheet was produced for the Pacific Concerns Resource Center, P.O. Box 27692 Honolulu Hawaii 96827, Cable: Nuclreepac, Honolulu ph: 808-538 3522, as a contribution towards furthering support for Aboriginal land rights and self-determination.

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Authorised by Beverley Symons.