

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Administrator: G. Austin
Chair Person: B. McGuinness
Treasurer: A. Brown
Medical Directors: Dr. T. Cutter
Dr. B. Roberts

136 Gertrude Street,
Fitzroy 3065
Phone: 419 3000

MINING COMPANIES PLAN MASSACRE OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE.

Aboriginal people will not exist after the early 2000's if current unfactual irrational and emotivativly based campaign by the Aust. Mining Industry succeeds. The campaign is attempting to pollute the efforts of many sectors of the Australian community seeking to address the needs and human rights of Aboriginal people.

This latest effort on the part of mining companies is nothing more than a revision of the military campaigns of the 1700 and 1800's when another sector of "Australian Industry" the agriculturalists established public campaigns involving use of military and force marches to rid the land of this "native infestation"

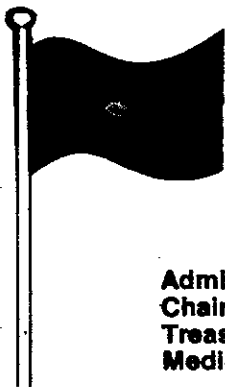
Recent press statements attributed to Mr. James Strong, executive officer of the AUST. MINING INDUSTRY COUNCIL show the lengths these vested interest groups are prepared to go to increase profit and control over this countries resources. They say that Aboriginal Land Rights threatens Australia's long term standard of living by, "locking up sources of mineral wealth" such ill-motivated sensationalism does neither Mr. Strong or the A.M.I.C. any credit. Any unblased examination of the facts shows that the mining industry and Aboriginal people have worked, in many fields with considerable success. What Aboriginal people will not do is give the mining industry carte blanche, to rough ride over the needs of our people and our efforts to protect the land and environment.

In the days when no mechanism was in place to protect the rights of Aboriginal people mining companies lorded over Aboriginal people disregarding totally cultural and community values. Some mining companies introduced alcohol to areas declared dry by the community councils.

The so called economic spin offs that would flow to Aboriginal people are as fleeting as the mining companies concern for the human rights of Aborigines. Aboriginal people are always the last to be employed normally in the least paid positions and the first to be put off with mining companies seeking rather to import labour from other states.

The mining companies are interested in their long term profit margins not the living standards of Australians and certainly not the human rights or living standards of Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal people too are entitled to protection of their fundamental rights and freedoms and to an acceptable standard of living. Aboriginal people are entitled to have their religion respected, their community and social standards and practices left unassailed by the mining industry. Such protections are the rights of all Australians.



VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Administrator: G. Austin
Chair Person: B. McGuinness
Treasurer: A. Brown
Medical Directors: Dr. T. Cutter
Dr. B. Roberts

136 Gertrude Street,
Fitzroy 3065
Phone: 419 3000

- 2 -

The mining council talks about a standard of living, in many cases Aboriginal communities are talking about survival.

At present the standard of living for Aboriginal Australians is far worse than that for wider Australia. The medical journal of Aust. recently showed that Aborigines:

- Live on average 20 years less than non Aboriginal people
- Infant mortality is at least 2-4 times that of non Aboriginal Australians.
- Faltering growth and failure to thrive commencing in Aboriginal babies at age 6-9 months.
- Measureable malnutrition in many Aboriginal communities.
- High levels of chronic infection and infestation.

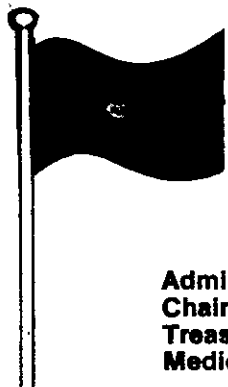
In addition to these figures it is conservatively estimated that between 50,000 to 100,000 Aboriginal people lack access to adequate or appropriate water supplies, that an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 Aboriginal people are without adequate shelter.

In the mining companies drive for increased profit they are prepared to allow these patterns of Aboriginal ill health to continue. They are prepared to let Aboriginal people die so that their foreign debts and owners can be satisfied.

It would be interesting for these so called "Australian companies to disclose how much of there operation are owned by overseas interests or how much foreign capital has been injected into their operations. A recent report from the Australian bureau of statistics shows that 35.9% of Australia's financial institutions are foreign owned.

Its a case of the rest of the world and Australia getting richer and Aboriginal people dying.

Aboriginal people call on the Hawke Labour Government to show some moral committment and fortitude to address this lasts assault on the survival of Aboriginal people. NAIHO calls on the federal Government to block the appointment of Mr. James Strong to T.A.A.'s most senior position. Views attributed to Mr. James Strong have obviously not in keeping with the Governments policy and the appointment of any person that exposes such tripe must be seriously questioned.



VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Administrator: G. Austin
Chair Person: B. McGuinness
Treasurer: A. Brown
Medical Directors: Dr. T. Cutter
Dr. B. Roberts

136 Gertrude Street,
Fitzroy 3065
Phone: 419 3000

- 3 -

It is also a time when the Australian public must show some support for the rights and needs of Aboriginal people. The misinformation being rattled about by the A.M.I.C. and other right wing conservative elements detracts from the considerable support shown by the churches, the trade unions and many other individuals and organisations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shane Houston
National Aboriginal and Islander Health Organisation,
Business phone : (02) 319 1577
After Hours : (02) 699 1126.