

## NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE

Reference:—

Crime

DIVISION

Special Branch STATION

TO:— COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

20 December, 1971.

REPORT OF— Detective Sergeant 2/c. D.F. Alexander, Reg. No. 127.

SUBJECT:— ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS - DARWIN.

I have to report that I have carried out some enquiries in relation to a front page newspaper article in the Northern Territory News dated 17.12.1971, which referred to alleged threats by 'aboriginals to damage P.M.G. telephone lines in the Northern Territory unless they were granted 'land rights'. The threats were apparently stated in a letter to the Editor of the Northern Territory News Service, Darwin.

2. At approximately 9 a.m. 17.12.71 I interviewed the Manager of the Northern Territory News Service, Brian YOUNG, at his office. He stated that he did not have any prior knowledge of the threats or the alleged letter, and had first known about it when he had read the newspaper. He stated that he would attempt to locate the letter.

3. At approximately 4 p.m. 17.12.71 I interviewed the Editor of the Northern Territory News Service, James Frederick BOWDITCH, who stated that he had not been present at the News Office when the article had been published, but he had later sighted the letter, which had been returned to a person whom he did not wish to name, but stated that he was well known to Police and was the organizer. He also stated that he knew that the original letter had been destroyed but would not give any details. BOWDITCH later handed me a typed sheet which he stated was a copy of the letter, with the exception that it had been addressed to the Editor N.T. News.

4. At approximately 5 p.m. 17.12.71 Constable CHASE and I interviewed William Bartlett DAY, at his home at Flat 60 Carinyah Flats, Mitchell street. DAY stated that he was the organizer of the local Darwin aboriginals who were attempting to gain 'land rights', but he was not the sole organizer as the aboriginals themselves held meetings and he assisted them to carry out the decisions they made. He stated that on numerous occasions he had suggested many ways they could draw attention to themselves, but they had declined to do them. He also stated that the aboriginals themselves had made the decision to threaten to cut the telephone wires, but he was not sure if they would in actual fact carry out their threats as this depended on them being granted their wishes, and if the telephone wires were cut it could be done anywhere in the Northern Territory, not necessarily in the Darwin area. If DAY had prior knowledge that an offence of this nature was going to be carried out he stated that he would not advise the Police. He was very strongly cautioned regarding his current actions and possible offences that could be committed by him.

  
D.F. Alexander.

Det. Sgt. 2/C. No. 127.



## NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE

Reference:—

Crime ..... DIVISION

Special Branch STATION

TO:— COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

21 December, 1971.

REPORT OF:— Detective Sergeant 2/C J.B. Tiernan, Reg. No. 12.

SUBJECT:— ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS - DARWIN.

I have to report, with reference to Det. Sgt Alexander's report of 20th December, 1971, that statements have been obtained from the following Aborigines.

Bobby SECRETARY.

Leo JACKABOY.

Albert MAREGO.

Harry ADAM.

Clancy CAHILL.

Paddy ARBUCKLE.

2. It can be seen from ARBUCKLE's statement, written in his own handwriting, that he also signed the letter on behalf of Roy WOMBO, Nugget MANJAR and Johnny MALER. It has been ascertained that these people were present when ARBUCKLE signed for them but it is thought they did not know the contents of the letter.

3. On 21st December, 1971, Leo JACKABOY informed the investigating officers that he was very upset by the manner in which the signatures had been obtained by DAY and that he intended to have a "showdown" with him. He also requested the officers to assist him but was informed that this would not be possible.

  
J.B. Tiernan.Detective Sergeant 2/C Reg. No. 12.  
OFFICER IN CHARGE, SPECIAL BRANCH.

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE

## STATEMENT

PLACE

DATE

(3B)

NAME	SECRETARY. (Surname in Capitals)	BOBBY (Christian Names)
ADDRESS	NIGHTCLIFF	
OCCUPATION	UNEMPLOYED.	

## STATES—

Last week, I don't know what day, but Bill DAY come here. He was alone. He had paper and I see writing on it. I can't read. Bill then say names of falla's at 10 mile on the paper Bill, then say "Put your name on it." I said "Why I got to sign my name." He said, "Them boys want you about the telephone line." I said, "No." He said, "They need you." I then say "O.K. but I not have nothing to do with telephone line." I then signed the paper "Bobby" Bill told me all those people want to cut the telephone line. I don't like this, my affair is here at Kalaluk. Bill then went away with the paper. Later the same day two men come from the newspaper office. They take me to the newspaper office to see Jim, I think he the boss. Jim ask me about cutting the telephone line. I say that's bad it's no good to cut telephone line. When I talk Jim write. He then say "O.K." One of the newspaper men then give me \$2 to get taxi home. I then come back to Kalaluk. BOBBY.

Statement taken and read over to Bobby Secretary between  
9.10 am and 9.25 am 21.12.71 at Nightcliff.

S. H. CHASE P.C.C. 430

Witness

(Signature)



NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE

## STATEMENT

PLACE 9 mile, Berrimah

DATE 20th December, 1971

(3B)

NAME	JACKABOY (Surname in Capitals)	Leo (Christian Name)	Francis (b. 1935 River)
ADDRESS	9 MILE CAMP, BERRIMAH.		
OCCUPATION	UNEMPLOYED.		

## STATES—

One day last week after the train business Bill DAY come to the camp. He come himself. Some other mob and Brinkin boys were there, Bill DAY talk about cutting the telephone line. I was a bit drunk and I say "Yes." I went to sleep. The next day I see Bill at the pub. He had a man with him from the television. Bill told me about cutting the telephone line again. I say I don't want to do that because maybe I go gaol. Bill said, "We won't really cut the telephone, just try to get the people worried. I say I don't want to do it. I never write any letter to the newspaper and I never signed any letter to be sent to the newspaper. That's all about it and I never see any letter.

LEO JACKABOY

S. H. CHASE P.C.C. 430 11.40 am 20.12.71

Witness

(Signature)

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE

## STATEMENT

PLACE 9 mile Camp, Berrimah.DATE 21st December, 1971.

(3B)

NAME	<u>CAHILL</u> (Surname in Capitals) / <u>Clancy</u> (Christian Name)
ADDRESS	<u>Oenpellie Mission, N.T. ( On holiday at 9 mile Camp, Berrimah)</u>
OCCUPATION	<u>Buffalo Catcher.</u>

STATES—

I first met Bill Day the week before last at the Dolphin. He was with Bobby Secretary who introduced him to me. That was on a Sunday I believe, the day before we were supposed to stop the train. I had nothing to do with that and didn't come to Berrimah for that. Bill and Bobby both asked me to help them with the train but I say, "No". I have not seen Bill Day since then. Nobody has shown me any letter about cutting any telephone line and I have never signed my name on any letter like that or on any paper. Last Friday I went in to the Hospital because I was sick. I came out of the Hospital today.

(Signed) Clancy Cahill.

Someone else might sign my name but I don't know who.

(Signed) Clancy Cahill.

Statement taken and read over to Clancy Cahill between 1.45pm and 2pm, 21.12.71. at Berrimah.

(Signed) S.H. Chase. P.C.C. Reg. No. 430.

Witness

(Signature)





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## COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 63, Darwin 5794

Telephone No. 2121

DARWIN

Reference No.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

14 December, 1971.

*WAD 1. 26*  
*(2) A/H 17 18/12*  
HIS HONOUR THE ADMINISTRATORDEMONSTRATION BY ABORIGINES - 9 MILE AREA  
STUART HIGHWAY - 13 DECEMBER 1971

Attached is a report on the demonstration at the 9 mile area on Monday 13 December, 1971.

At about 9.30pm, Sunday 12 December, 1971, the Assistant Administrator (W) advised me he had received information that a group of aborigines intended to stop a train in the Berrimah area on Monday 13.12.71.

As a result of this information a list of train movement for 13.12.71 were obtained from the Commonwealth Railways. Members of the Special Branch reported for duty at 5.00am, 13.12.71 and in association with uniform patrols commenced inquiries and patrols in the area.

A quiet demonstration took place at approximately 8.45am.

There was no suggestion of violence by the demonstrators. It was apparent that William Bartlett DAY was the organizer of the group, and once he had been effectively isolated from the group by police, the aborigines readily obeyed police instructions.

Section 113 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act and Ordinance 1876-1968 creates an offence to wilfully obstruct a railway engine - penalty, imprisonment for any term not exceeding four years.

No arrests were made during the demonstration.

*Roger I. Textor*  
(ROGER I. TEXTOR)A/COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

Asst. Administrator (W)

The previously unidentified Aborigine in the top photograph (2) has now been identified as Ray Kelly.

*JP 6/1*  
*Thank you. H. 6/1.*



CONFIDENTIAL

FORM N.T.A. 93B

FORM 4

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE

Reference:— SB. 20/102/1.

Crime ..... DIVISION

Special Branch STATION

TO:— Officer in Charge,  
SPECIAL BRANCH.

30th August, 1972.

REPORT OF:— P.C. Constable 1/c F. Saunders. Reg.No.190.

SUBJECT:— DEMONSTRATION BY ABORIGINALS ON THE DARWIN IRON ORE WHARF 29.8.72.

I have to report having attended at the Iron Ore wharf, with P.C. Constable HIGGINS at about 11-30am, 29.8.72 while Aborigines and European supporters, of 'Gwalwa Daraniki' demonstrated against ore being sent to Japan.

2. Uniform Police who were present prior to our arrival, had witnessed one of the European supporters, a Robert David SIMPSON apparently stop the conveyer loading belt, while they were atop the ore stockpile. SIMPSON is new on the scene in Darwin, having previously been resident in Queensland, Canberra, and New Zealand. He is not known to Police in those States by a name check. He is described as born 29.7.49 in either England or Canada, 6'6", 185 lbs, and is residing behind Bob RANDALL's at 16 Queen Street, Stuart Park. According to his employment records he has spent some time in Canada. The demonstration dispersed at about 12-20pm, with no further incidents noted, and SIMPSON was warned by Senior Constable BROWNING regarding his interference with the machinery.

3. Europeans present were William Bartlett DAY, John Francis PHILLIPS, Robert David SIMPSON, an unidentified bearded male, and two young females also unidentified at present, but are believed to be residing with PHILLIPS at the corner of McMinn and Manton Streets.

4. Aborigines present included :- Bobby SECRETARY, VIOLET, Freddy DAGWOOD, Roy MUDPOOL, Maggie MUDPOOL, Norman HARRIS, Johnny BANIELE, Roy KELLY, William OWEN, and Elsie ONE. There were a number of unknown Aborigines also present, from the 9 mile camps.

5. Wording on the placards displayed were as follows :- 'IRONIC ISNT IT, 'GVALWA DARANIKI, 'DONT SELL OUR DREAMING, 'THIS IS OUR LAND, 'OUR DREAMING = YOUR \$, 'WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SHIPMENT OF BEADS FOR FRANCES CREEK ABORIGINES, 'FRANCES CREEK USED TO BE FREE NOW ITS GOING CHEAP, 'Black Power salutes were given by some of the demonstrators.

6. At about 2pm, several of the Aboriginal participants were spoken to at the Japanese beach camp. These persons with the exception of Freddy DAGWOOD, stated that they had no real reason for participating, other than the fact that Bill DAY had asked them to take part. Freddy DAGWOOD became very agitated, and a notable comment was, 'this used to be a good country before you white bastards come, it was nice and quiet then.' When asked why the demonstration had taken place, he replied, "Because its our bloody land." He appears to have been well versed by someone.

CONFIDENTIAL



NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE

## STATEMENT

PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

(3B)

NAME	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>ADAM (Surname in Capitals)</span> <span>HARRY (Christian Names)</span> </div>
ADDRESS	NIGHTCLIFF
OCCUPATION	UNEMPLOYED.

## STATES—

Last week, one day I see Bill DAY down at Coconut Grove. He talk about cutting the telephone line to worry the Government and people.

Bobby was not there. I tell Bill DAY we can't do it. Bill DAY not show me any paper or read anything to me. I never sign any paper at all.

If my name on paper someone else must put it there. I don't know who, I can't read and I can only write my first name.

Harry.

Statement taken and read over to Harry ADAM at 9 mile Berrimah between 10am and 10.10am 21.12.71.

S.H. CHASE P.C.C.430

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_



NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE

## STATEMENT

(3B)

PLACE 9 mile camp

Darwin

DATE 20-12-71

NAME	ARBuckle / Paddy (Surname in Capitals) (Christian Names)
ADDRESS	9 mile camp, Stuart Highway, Darwin.
OCCUPATION	Stockman

## STATES—

My names Paddy Arbuckle I live at 9 mile. Bill DAY come out with a letter which we didnt no for, so we just sign it, that was couple of days ago, he didnt read to, or I never read too, I also sign for Roy Womho, Nugget Manjar, Johnny Maler, they didnt sign at all. Bill Day already had the paper when he come.

F. Saunders.

PADDY ARBUCKLE

Const. 1/C. Ref No. 190.

( signed ) Paddy Arbuckle

Witnessed 20-12-71 at 9 mile camp, Stuart Highway, Darwin, at 11-50am.

NOTE: The statement was written by Paddy ARBUCKLE, on his request.

Witness

(Signature)

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE

## STATEMENT

PLACE 9 mile Stuart HighwayDATE 21-12-71

(3b)

NAME	<u>MAREGO</u> (Surname in Capitals) / <u>ALBERT</u> (Christian Name)
ADDRESS	<u>Bagot Reserve, Darwin.</u>
OCCUPATION	<u>Assistant Scoutmaster, Snake Bay.</u>

## STATES—

M. name is Albert MAREGO. I am on holiday from Melville Island, and staying here in Darwin at Bagot Reserve. Either on Friday or Thursday last week, I was drinking over at the old piggery at 9 mile, with a few of the blokes camped there. Johnny MAHER and his wife I know, but I don't know all the other blokes. Bill DAY was there in the camp when I walked over with some Posters and wine. I was just drinking. He turned to me then, and he said "Will you sign this paper." I said "Give it to me, I'll sign it." I didn't read it at all, I just signed it. He said "Do you know what you signed." I said "No". Then he started reading it to me, what it was all about. Then I got a shock what it was all about. I didn't say anything more to him, I was just shocked. If he had readed it out to me, before I signed it, I wouldn't sign it. Bill DAY didn't say anything more. After this Bill DAY just kept talking to the other people, and I just kept drinking.

F. Saunders.

(Signed) Albert Marego

Const. 1/C. Reg. No. 190.

2pm on 21-12-71

Witness

(Signature)







