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The Director of the Aboriginal Arts Board, Mr Gary Foley, today launched a strong attack against the Aust. Mining Industry Council on their announced campaign against land rights.

Mr Foley said that if the West Australian campaign recently conducted by mining groups was anything to judge by, then "we can expect a racist propaganda campaign similar in nature to Joseph Goebbels Nazi programs against the Jews in Germany in the 1930's".

He said that it was no exaggeration to describe the campaign in this way as the W.A. campaign was a vicious and racist one which fed the public a range of distorted facts, misinformation and, at times, blatant lies. The end result in that State was a major racist backlash against Aboriginal people.

"When one considers the enormous resources available to the vested interests conducting this campaign, it can be seen as a classic David and Goliath battle" Mr Foley said, "Aboriginal people have no hope of being able to get our side of the story to the Australian people, so we can expect further deterioration in relations between our two communities".

Mr Foley went on to say that it is scandalous that the Federal government is prepared to sit back and (in the words of Mr Clyde Holding) "monitor" the situation. He said that if a comparable racist public relations campaign were conducted against the Jewish Community, "I have no doubt that Holding, Hawke, and half the ALP would be up in arms and no expense would be spared in countering it".



However, because it is only "Boongs" (as half of Federal Cabinet calls us), the Government is content to sit back and merely "monitor". He said that the Government had a responsibility to support Aborigines as it was primarily Clyd Holding's "Bull in a China Shop" approach to Aboriginal Affairs which had created a climate conjusive to the racist backlash. "And, as always, we, not the politicians are the ones to suffer", he said.

Mr Foley concluded by saying that he wondered whether Holding, Hawke et al would still be simply "monitoring" when the Right Wing in Australia started building gas chambers for blacks. This after all was the end result of similar campaign conducted in another place at another time.

For further Information, contact G. Foley (02) 9233448.