

ATT: News Editor/ Chief of Staff

NEWS RELEASE: 3:00PM Tues. 15th Dec. 1987

ABORIGINAL GROUPS CONDEMN COMMITTEE TO DEFEND BLACK RIGHTS

We, the undersigned, representing major Aboriginal community organisations from throughout Australia, wish to dissociate our groups and the people they represent from yesterday's disgraceful actions by people associated with the Sydney-based Committee to Defend Black Rights (C.D.B.R.) when they demonstrated at the Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody.

We want the Australian Public to be aware of the following:-

1) The Committee to Defend Black Rights is NOT an Aboriginal organisation.

2) The C.D.B.R. is in fact a 'front' organisation controlled and manipulated by the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), and as such does not speak on behalf of the Aboriginal community.

3) We, and the organisations we represent are extremely angry at events in Canberra yesterday, particularly the totally unwarranted personal attack on Aboriginal counsel assisting the Royal Commission, Mr. Bob Bellear.

We want it known that Mr Bellear has a far longer and more distinguished record as an active fighter for Aboriginal rights than any of the 'blow-ins' and 'loudmouths' who yesterday attacked him.

We have absolute faith in the integrity of Mr Bellear as Aboriginal counsel assisting the Commission.

4) Aboriginal organisations from all over Australia are today demanding that the C.D.B.R. apologise to Mr Bellear, and that they desist in their actions which are not supported by the vast majority of Aboriginal people.

S165085

64 FOURIE ST

NEUTDUN

XMAS EVE

9pm.