

## Australia Dossier by Robert Barwick

### Land Rights Threaten Sovereignty

*The "reconciliation" movement is pushing for a "treaty" with Aboriginal Australians.*

The long-standing goal of the Aboriginal land-rights movement to splinter Australia into separate nations, has been pushed closer to realization as a result of the May 28 "Corroboree 2000" event, when an estimated 150-250,000 people walked across the Sydney Harbor Bridge in support of "reconciliation" between Australia's 250,000 Aborigines and the other 19 million Australians. "The tide has turned in favor of national reconciliation," Australian Democrats leader Meg Lees said at the march.

Aborigines have indeed suffered injustices, but Corroboree 2000 was no attempt to help them in real terms, but rather the culmination of a social engineering project, over the past several decades, which claims that the only way to make amends for the past, is to make a treaty, and "give the Aborigines back their land." Such a cynical ploy would do nothing to give Aboriginal Australians the possibility of a better future.

Take the issue of health, for example. Aborigines have a life expectancy 20 years below that of white Australians, and are twice as likely to be admitted to a hospital as the rest of the population, usually for kidney or respiratory disease or injury. However, attempts to address the Aboriginal health crisis have been an abject failure, mainly because globalist-dictated budget cuts have crippled Australia's entire health industry over the past two decades.

Instead of implementing policies that would raise the health and living standards and job prospects of Aborigines (and of the 2 million other Australians who officially live in poverty),

the reconciliation movement has focussed on virtual reality, such as insisting that a national apology be delivered by the Prime Minister, on behalf of the nation, to Aborigines, followed by a treaty.

A formal treaty was first proposed by Prime Minister Bob Hawke in 1988, but the idea originated in 1924, when the blueblood-controlled Communist Party of Australia, in its *Worker's Weekly* newspaper, called for Aboriginal land rights, involving the handing back of large tracts of land to Aborigines to enable them to form separate "states or republics," "independent of Australia," with "the right to make treaties with foreign powers, including Australia."

The land rights movement really geared up in 1963, when Prince Philip founded the Australian Conservation Foundation with funding from global mining giant Rio Tinto, whose largest shareholder is his wife, the Queen. Philip founded the ACF to do what his World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and its Primitive People's Fund were doing worldwide: sponsoring indigenous insurgencies in order to split up sovereign nation-states, with the included intent of grabbing precious raw materials deposits. The ACF continued the treaty push: ACF president and former Australian central bank head Nugget Coombs, the "father of Aboriginal land rights," was also the longtime chairman of the Aboriginal Treaty Committee.

Two years after Hawke's 1988 call, his government founded the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. Among other pro-separatist figures, the Council included as its dep-

uty chairman, then-Rio Tinto director Sir Gustav Nossal, and Robert Champion de Crespigny, the chief of Normandy Mining, one of the world's largest gold-mining companies, and a front for the Oppenheims' Anglo American Corp., which are the leading sponsors of the WWF in South Africa. The Council's just-issued Reconciliation Declaration calls for "the right to self-determination."

Prime Minister John Howard has rejected the treaty. "A nation, an undivided united nation, does not make a treaty with itself," he told Sydney Radio 2UE on May 29. "I mean, to talk about one part of Australia making a treaty with another part is to accept that we are in effect two nations."

While accurate, Howard's statement comes less from principles, than from sniffing the political wind. In 1997, Lyndon LaRouche's Australian co-thinkers in the Citizens Electoral Council, issued a groundbreaking exposé entitled "Aboriginal Land Rights: Prince Philip's Racist Plot To Splinter Australia," which shaped the anti-land-rights movement, which gave birth to the One Nation party of former Member of Parliament Pauline Hanson. One Nation exploded into prominence in 1997-98, and drew over 1 million votes in the October 1998 federal election, many from voters usually aligned with Howard's ruling coalition.

Howard has been attacked by self-proclaimed spokesmen for Aborigines, such as Geoff Clark, the chairman of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, and Michael Mansell, the deputy chairman and secretary, respectively, of an unofficial Aboriginal "state," the Aboriginal Provisional Government. They don't hide their agenda: "It is two nations. It always has been," Mansell said on May 29. "A treaty has to be the end product of the reconciliation process."