

# Yes, Black Power— but not violent

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**Black Power — with the violent trappings it brought to the American scene — is not alive and kicking in Victoria.**

But there is a strong move among Aborigines, especially young people with education, to become a more forceful pressure group.

A rush three-day visit to Victoria this week by Mr. Roosevelt Brown, leader of the Black Power movement in the Caribbean and Latin America, stirred fears that attempts might be made to foster a militant group among Victorian Aborigines.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Meagher) yesterday called for trust and patience among Aborigines and whites so that both groups could move towards the "desirable goal of total equality for all members of this community."

"Domination of the community by any racial or ideological group is contrary to the dignity of man and will not be tolerated by free men in a free society," he said.

A survey of people attending a weekly dance organised at Northcote by the Aborigines Advancement League last night showed that none favored violence.

But they all used "Black Power" as a suitable label for the need they saw for Aborigines to press for better conditions.

## Non-violence

The league's liaison officer, Mr. Bruce McGuinness — the man who invited Roosevelt Brown to Australia — said he was against violence.

But he said Black Power was already operating in Victoria in a less militant form.

"To us, the Aboriginal Tribal Council of Victoria is a Black Power movement," he said.

"No whites are allowed into our meetings and no whites may influence our decisions."

He said many Aborigines were planning to organise themselves as a stronger nation-wide group.

"If needs be, we will conduct demonstrations," he said. "But we do not want violence."

Most young Aborigines at last night's dance were critical of the violence the Black Power has brought to America.

The chairman of the All Aboriginal Tribal Council of Victoria (Mr. Eric Onus) thought that Black Power was acceptable in some ways. Mr. Onus, who is in his 50s, believed it should be non-violent.

"We should have Black Power as far as making our own policies and presenting a unified front" he said.

Mr. Onus said: "When the white man hears of Black Power, he shudders — just think what black people have been through all those years under white power."