

Boycott of Cook house

SYDNEY. — Aborigines plan to picket Captain Cook's Cottage in Melbourne on April 29, an Aborigines Advancement official said yesterday.

The director of the Aborigines Advancement League in Victoria (Mr. Bruce McGuinness) gave details of Aboriginal plans to boycott the Cook bicentenary celebrations.

The Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders has called for a "day of mourning" among Aborigines on April 29 and for dignified Aboriginal protests "against their present indifferences and humiliation and past wrongs."

Hit back

Mr. McGuinness said Aborigines would probably boycott the Cook Cottage in the Fitzroy Gardens and prevent people from visiting it on that day.

He said Aborigines carrying placards listing injustices they had suffered would surround the cottage and would deny any white people entry to it.

Mr. McGuinness said Aborigines had not received any instructions on how they should stop people

from getting to or from the cottage.

"If people get rough with Aborigines then I certainly can't be responsible for what they do," he said. He thought Aborigines would strike back if they were hit.

However, Mr. McGuinness and another Aboriginal leader Mrs. Kath Walker of Brisbane, stressed that Aborigines intended the April 29, and other protests, to be non-violent.

She said that in Brisbane, Aborigines wearing black would line the river banks and gather at points near the Royal procession to stage a silent, dignified protest.

The protests were not against the Royal family personally. She would like to see her people meet the Queen "to tell her the truth about our lack of land rights".

In New South Wales, Aborigines plan to throw wreaths into Botany Bay when the Queen watches the official re-enactment of Captain Cook's landing.