

# End immigration of coloureds: Perkins

By PETER SEKULESS

Immigration into Australia of coloured people, South Africans and "racially prejudiced" Americans should be stopped, an assistant secretary in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Charles Perkins, said yesterday.

Speaking in Canberra after returning from an overseas study tour, Mr Perkins said the immigration of coloured people should cease until the problems between Aborigines and white Australians had been "straightened out".

Immigration of coloured people had been a problem all over the world, and indigenous people, particularly

in Fiji and Hawaii, had been seriously disadvantaged.

Mr Perkins said that the Woodward Commission, which recommended the granting of land rights to Aborigines in the Northern Territory, must be extended into urban areas like Sydney, and large country towns.

## Whites 'phased out'

He said also that the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, "must become a statutory body outside the scope of politics", similar to the US Bureau of Native Affairs, but more responsive to Aborigines.

White people should be phased out of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, but the trend was in the opposite direction.

"We can't rely on white people any longer", he said.

The National Aboriginal Congress should have a significant role to play, similar to the commissioners of the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

Mr Perkins said he would be proceeding with appeals against the provisional promotions of two officers to first assistant secretary, and lodging a complaint against the appointment of a third, who was appointed from outside the Public Service, "as a matter of principle".

The department needed people with understanding of Aborigines' problems, and he knew more about Aboriginal matters than the three men combined, Mr Perkins said.