

HISTORIC MEETING OF TWO GREAT PEOPLES

Aboriginal King Honours Canadian Indian Party

An historic meeting of two great peoples took place recently when the 89-year-old Aboriginal King Gwarilk from the Cherbourg community in Queensland, led his warriors in a corroboree of welcome to 89-year-old Chief Walking Buffalo and his delegation of North American Indians. Chief Walking Buffalo, accompanied by Chief David Crowchild of the Sarcees and representatives of the Stoney and Kootenay tribes of Alberta, Canada, is on a world journey of Moral Re-Armament.

Amidst scenes of tribal pageantry never before seen in Australia the Indians in their full regalia advanced towards the aboriginal warriors who were daubed in their traditional white clay markings. The corroboree of chant and miming dance was one of welcome to a Chief returning in honour to his tribe. The Indians responded with a victory war song.

Addressing the whole aboriginal community, one of the largest in Australia, Chief Walking Buffalo said, "It is bitterness against each other, the jealousy, pride and hatred, men's own ways of life, not God's ways, which lead mankind to war. As I travel I have seen the wounds of mankind that make my heart ache. We must get back to the right way, the straight way. Although I had retired yet I felt it was not time to retire. I had to travel on this mission for the world to change every difficult mind and heart. If we change ourselves then conditions shall be changed. Moral Re-Armament leads to eternal life. Materialism and Communism lead to eternal death."

The Indians' visit has evoked heartfelt response from the aboriginal people during three days of celebrations in their honour. An aboriginal sawmill hand said, "At last we feel we are wanted." Princess Lillardia of the Ulupna tribe said, "I always thought my people were a back number but MRA has shown us that we are all equal." An aboriginal grandmother said, "It was really like sunshine coming to Cherbourg."

The community was astounded when Chief Walking Buffalo and his braves in full regalia mounted horses and rode off with hundreds of wildly excited children running behind them. In the midst of the celebrations the Indians were invited to speak at each of the three schools in the neighbourhood including the Convent of the Presentation Sisters.

The festivities which included boomerang and spear-throwing, sports and an official banquet were climaxed by a showing of *Freedom*, in the community theatre. The

local policeman said that everyone but the lame and the sick was squeezed inside the hall. The film was introduced by Tim Powder, well-known aboriginal police tracker whose leading of hundreds of searchers to find a lost boy recently was front page news across the continent. It was on his invitation the Indians visited Cherbourg. Speaking before the film, Mrs. Charles Thompson, mother of the noted Aboriginal tenor, Harold Blair, who was born at Cherbourg, said, "MRA is the only thing that will help us be united. We shall not fight alone. The three colours of mankind will come together."

Speaking for the white Australians included in the party, Melbourne journalist, Christopher Mayor, said, "There is no-one so arrogant and selfish as the white Australian who lives in the big cities and never gets to know the real heart of this land. I want to say how terribly sorry I am for the years of coldness and indifference in a heart like mine that has been part of the problem in this country. MRA gives every Australian, aboriginal or white, a frontline part in the world struggle to put right what is wrong."

Chief Crowchild said, "These meetings will go down in the history of my people also. Through MRA we have found the answer."

Major Kahi Harawira, one of the Maori representatives in the MRA force, said of these meetings, "MRA has established a brand new bridgehead in its policy of total expansion all over the world."

En route to Cherbourg the Indian delegation was received in Brisbane by the Queensland Deputy Premier, Mr. Morris, and the Lord Mayor of Brisbane.

News of their Queensland visit was given nationally by the ABC as well as by Brisbane television and daily newspapers.