

QUESTION: Mr Fraser, what do you say to Mr Bjelke-Petersen's claim that your Government is pursuing apartheid policies in the Northern Territory?

PRIME MINISTER: I think it is complete nonsense. Everyone in Australia, I am quite certain, knows that it is nonsense. For a long while in the past there were very patronistic policies in relation to the Aborigines. White faces went around saying "This is what is good for you". The Federal Government has long believed that Aboriginal people should have as much right as anyone else to determine their own future - to do it in the manner that they think is best for themselves. That is what it is all about. And the legislation Ian Viner has envisaged would give the Aboriginal people of Araukun and Mornington Island that right.

QUESTION: The Premier says you have tried to divide Queensland into black and white states.

PRIME MINISTER: This is just fanciful. It is nonsense.

QUESTION: Where do you stand now in regard to the Aboriginal reserves in Queensland?

PRIME MINISTER: Exactly where Ian Viner indicated a few days ago. As you know the Uniting Church has been involved in Araukun and Mornington Island for a very very long while, and suddenly the Queensland Government says the Uniting Church is to move out and at the same time the State Department is going to take over. While this was against the wishes of the Church, it was against the wishes of Araukun and Mornington Island. And so we will be using our powers under the Constitution to enable the people to determine their own futures.

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