

SAYS WE SHOULD BE BARRED

Melbourne. — "It should be kicked out — Australia is not fit to be a member of the United Nations."

This was stated yesterday by Mr. Stewart Murray, State convener of the National Tribal Council at the council's inaugural meeting.

Mr. Murray demanded that the United Nations ban Australia as a member because of its Aboriginal land and human rights policies.

"On a recent visit to Western Australia I discovered that people were being dictated to on where they should live" said Mr. Murray.

"There are 25,000 Aborigines in that State and most of them are living in what the Government terms 'reserves' but they are more like concentration camps," he added.

"To make things worse the camps are on their own tribal grounds," he said.

Mr. Murray deplored the State and Federal governments' for their

lack of assistance in most fields, particularly human rights.

He referred to some Aborigines as having to apply to courts before they were allowed to go into a hotel.

A similar call for the United Nations to intercede came at the weekend from the director-administrative officer of the Aborigines' Advancement League of Victoria, Mr. Bruce McGuinness.

He claims that Australia is the one country in the world which has not recognised land rights.

Mr. McGuinness said it was vitally essential that the Australian Government be subjected to outside pressure on this aspect.

He said the Federal Government was trying to defraud the Aborigines' inalienable right to the land by granting it to them on a lease basis.

In Australia, only 11 per cent. existed below the breadline.

"Yet the Aborigine, who makes up only one per cent. of the entire population, has a poverty rate of 95 per cent.," he added.

"Our infant mortality rate is as high as 260 out of every 1000.

"Leprosy is at epidemic proportions in North-western Australia," said Mr. McGuinness.

He claimed the Aborigines had been dispossessed of their land, their dignity, culture, human rights and in many instances, their right to live.

"We want just compensation for the land stolen from us."

Mr. McGuinness said the Aborigine had been neglected by the Australian people and governments had allowed them to rot.

He said his plea was backed by all state tribal councils and a number of national organisations.