



THE First National Tribal Council of aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, (top) meet at Northcote yesterday.

Tribes meet in council

THE Wallbris, Aruntas, Bindabus — they were all there yesterday at the biggest gathering on record of Australian aboriginals and islanders.

Wearing red head bands figured with tribal motifs and rugged up against Melbourne's cold, they had come from five states and the Northern Territory to attend the First National Tribal Council of Torres Strait Islanders and Aborigines.

MARCH

But this was no traditional corroboree. The meeting got under way with a twentieth century style Rights March.

And then the gathering of more than 300 aboriginals and representatives of white aboriginal advancement organisations got down to business, not squatting in the traditional style, but seated comfortably in the Doug Nicholls Centre, Cunningham St., Northcote.

The high spot of the meeting was a telephone call of support to Victorian State Convener, Stewart Murray, from the African delegation to the World Conference of Black People in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr Murray said there were five aboriginals at

the world conference discussing land rights and the expulsion of Australia from the United Nations for its treatment of aboriginals.

The National Tribal Council will promote aboriginal interests and preserve their culture. In particular they will urge for an indigenous national administration and the immediate land and mineral rights of traditional lands.



Pastor Doug Nicholls (above) wore a headband to portray traditional Aboriginal symbols at the First National Tribal Council meeting.