

We'll act for Third World: blacks

# Aborigines propose trade plan

From DAVID BROADBENT

**CANBERRA.** — A national Aboriginal group wants to establish a trading corporation in Canberra to represent Third World countries.

The group wants the Federal Government to finance the purchase of a business site where Aborigines can act as trade agents and, in some cases, diplomatic agents of Third World countries.

The group believes it can present the Government firm agreements from five countries within a month.

A spokesman for the group, Mr. Keith Saunders, who is acting ambassador at the Aboriginal embassy in Canberra, said yesterday offers had come from five countries which wanted Aborigines to represent them in trade deals involving mutton, beef, footwear and clothing.

He said it was too early to name the countries involved but hinted China, Nigeria and India could be involved.

"The deals will be worth millions of dollars but we need Government support to get established.

"We will approach the loans commission of the Aboriginal Affairs Department for finance first," he said.

"In some cases we would have exclusive agency rights and in some cases we would be competing with existing import and export agencies."

Mr. Saunders said the group seeking the finance comprised representatives of the National Aboriginal Congress, the Federal Council of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, and the National Aboriginal Sports Council.

The group had been working on developing contracts with African nations which traded with Australia.

Many of these countries were now using European trade agents.

He said the Government would be asked to finance the purchase of a suitable business premise, a motel or a similar building.

Mr. Saunders said the group would consider borrowing money from Third World countries if the Government did not provide finance.

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