

# Aboriginals say Black Power need not be violent

Black Power was not a single style of action and did not necessarily mean violence or black supremacy, the Aborigines Advancement League decided at the weekend.

At its annual general meeting in Melbourne, the league passed by 19 votes to 4, a statement defining Black Power.

The statement said: "Since the end of World War II, many of the colored peoples who lived under white colonial rule have gained their independence, and colored minorities in multi-racial nations are claiming the right to determine the course of their own affairs in contradiction to the inferior state under which they have lived.

"That is Black Power."

"Although in some expressions Black Power has used violence and sought black supremacy, those expressions have gained publicity because of their dramatic nature," it said.

"The Aborigines Advancement League supports the principle of Black Power without necessarily condoning all the ways by which it expresses itself in various parts of the world or, indeed, in Australia.

"It is inevitable and healthy that there will be differences in the ways Aboriginal people understand Black Power and in the methods which they are prepared to use to obtain their ends," the statement said.

Speaking in support of the statement, the director of the Aborigines Advancement League, the Reverend B. W. Silverwood, said: "Black Power does not mean violence at all.

"Violence means resistance to Black Power."

The treasurer of the league, Mr P. Mountain, said: "Immediately you have force you divide society.

"We would condemn any group that would use force to achieve its own ends," he added.