

# AAL SUPPORTS BLACK POWER IN PRINCIPLE

The Aborigines' Advancement League supports the principle of black power without necessarily condoning all the ways in which it expresses itself in various parts of the world, or in Australia.

A statement on "black power" issued by the league recently said that black power was not one single style of action, and did not necessarily mean violence or black supremacy.

"White power" was typified in the statement by Jean-Paul Sartre that "not so long ago, the earth numbered 2000 million inhabitants — 500 million men and 1500 million natives."

In recent years many colored peoples living under white colonial rule had gained their independence.

Colored minorities in multi-racial nations were claiming the right to determine the course of their own affairs in contradiction to the inferior state under which they had lived.

This was black power.

## AS A GROUP

Quoting Dr Barrie Pittock, the statement said: "The black power idea in essence is that black people are more likely to achieve freedom and justice for themselves by working together as a group, pursuing their goals by the same processes of democratic action as any other common-interest pressure group, such as returned servicemen or chambers of commerce.

"Up to this point black power is hardly controversial, and this basic idea is widely accepted among aborigines who are active in their own cause."

Expressions of this kind of black power in which Victorian aborigines were involv-

ed included the take-over of the Easter conference of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders by the aboriginal delegates; also the Victorian Aboriginal Tribal Council and the United Council of Aboriginal Women.

The statement said it was inevitable and healthy that there would be differences in the way aboriginal people understood black power and in the methods used to achieve their ends.

The league, which existed for the benefit of aboriginal people, provided a forum where all views could be discussed.

Its aboriginal members were able to tell the league what it should be and how best to serve their interests.

Non-aboriginal members accepted the decisions and worked in collaboration with aboriginals to put them into effect.