

May return MBE, says native leader

Aboriginal leader and poet, Mrs. K. Walker, yesterday threatened to give back her MBE.

She said she wanted the Government to implement the demands of the National Tribal Council.

If the Government refused and "things got tough" she could always write to the Queen, said Mrs. Walker.

"I could enclose my MBE and a five-page report telling her why I don't want it," she said.

Mrs. Walker, who was addressing the inaugural meeting of the National

Tribal Council in Melbourne yesterday, referring to her MBE, said she had accepted two Aboriginal awards and did not want to be accused of being "racist."

Mrs. Walker, who lives in Brisbane, said the police in all States were picking up Aborigines "just to show they are doing their job."

The meeting, attended by about 40 Aborigines and descendants of Aborigines, unanimously passed a resolution calling for pastor-

alists and miners to pay tax "to the Aborigines they dispossessed."

Mrs. Walker told the meeting: "If we had Aboriginal tax we'd have enough money to build our own houses instead of begging for them."

The resolution, which it was stated would be presented by a deputation to the Prime Minister, calls for payment of rent to Aborigines, and "not having Aborigines paying rent for their own land."