

Aboriginal leaders want 'embassy' back

ABORIGINALS meeting in Canberra at a Commonwealth organised conference yesterday asked the Federal Government to allow the re-establishment of the Aboriginal "embassy" in the capital.

The National Conference of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Advisory Councillors decided it was "impossible to consider a centre of any sort for Canberra until the embassy is re-established."

The motion urged the Government to allow the re-establishment of the embassy "for the peace and goodwill of the entire Australian community."

SPECIAL POLICE

The conference also agreed to ask the Commonwealth to take control of Aboriginal affairs throughout Australia and to abolish all State departments of Aboriginal affairs.

Debating the embassy motion Mrs M. E. Tucker, of Victoria, said the embassy had served its purpose.

"We don't want the young people disobeying any of the white man's laws, because then there will be bloodshed and violence," she said.

Mr J. Lester of Alice Springs told the conference that although tribal Aboriginals appreciated the stand taken by the embassy group, they were peaceful and did not want the tents to go up again. They did not want the embassy people to have to go through the sort of

experience they had seen on television.

The conference called for special Aboriginal police constables to be appointed by Aboriginal communities.

Mr J. Davis from Western Australia said the officers were particularly needed in mining towns in north-west Australia. "White people go up there and they don't have their women with them," he said. "Many of our young girls are being raped. These are not isolated cases."

The conference also passed a motion calling for the Torres Strait Islands to remain part of Australia and not be taken over by Papua New Guinea.

The Minister for Aborigines, Mr Howson, arrived at the end of the conference and said he would examine the resolutions. He refused to comment on them.

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