

Aborigines issue land challenge

CANBERRA. — The Federal Opposition Leader (Mr. Whitlam) this morning will visit the Aboriginal "tent city" on the lawns opposite Parliament House.

A group of Aborigines last month set up the tents as an "embassy"



Mr. Anderson

Whitlam will go to tent city

From STEPHEN NISBET

from which to protest on land rights.

Mr. Paul Coe, one of 12 resident demonstrators, yesterday challenged Mr. Whitlam to debate their claims.

Mr. Coe, an Aboriginal, is a law student at the University of New South Wales.

He said he doubted whether the Labor Party identified any more closely than the Government with the Aboriginal land rights protest.

"Let Mr. Whitlam debate it with us here. Otherwise they are just as fascist as the McMahon Government," Mr. Coe said.

The demonstrators stood in a line chanting "Land

rights now" and giving the Black Power salute when President Suharto of Indonesia left Parliament House yesterday after an hour-long talk with Mr. McMahon.

They repeated their action when the President visited Parliament House again for a luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister. On neither occasion did the President appear to take any notice.

A spokesman for the Aborigines (Mr. Michael Anderson) said the group had dropped plans to present a petition to President Suharto — who is well guarded by police and his own security men — be-

cause their cause did not directly concern him.

Mr. Anderson said the petition, which seeks \$6 billion initial compensation to Aborigines for all land taken by white men, would be presented to Federal Parliament when it resumes later this month.

Mr. Anderson said the money should be administered by a trust fund composed of Aborigines elected by members of their own race.

He said the plan had been worked out at a weekend meeting of 30 Aboriginal representatives.

The petition calls for the Northern Territory to be granted full State rights under Aboriginal ownership, and for Aborigines to be given mining rights to all other reserves and settlements throughout Australia. All sacred Aboriginal sites in these areas should be preserved.

The petition also seeks "ownership of certain areas of certain cities with all titles to mining and mineral rights".