

9 Aborigines in Peking

PEKING, Mon.—Nine Australian Aborigines who are in Peking as guests of the Chinese said today that they were being treated like human beings for the first time in their lives.

Among the group, which arrived a week ago for a month-long visit, is a Perth man, Mr Ken Winder. He is secretary of the W.A. Aboriginal Advancement Council.

Today, as the group stood before a giant portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-tung at the Gate of Heavenly Peace, Terry Wilders, a student teacher from Armidale, New South Wales, read a prepared statement. It said that the warmth and friendship of the Chinese people had been a tremendous inspiration.

The group is scheduled to leave Peking tomorrow for Inner Mongolia to study conditions among Mongolians, a national minority group in China.

RARE VISIT

Few visitors to China have been able to visit Inner Mongolia.

The Chinese will provide special warm clothing for the trip to the area, where winter has begun.

Mr Charles Dixon of Sydney is the leader of the group. He said that the object of their visit was a cultural exchange.

"We are specially interested in national minority peoples," he said.

The main difference between the national minorities in China and Aborigines is that they are accepted here but we are not in Australia."

LAND RIGHTS

The Aborigines, who said that they belonged to no political party, wore red and black badges bearing the words "Land rights now." Some members of the group wore blue cotton Mao suits.

Members of the group said they had been taking every opportunity to tell the Chinese about the plight of Aborigines.

Miss Lilla Watson, from Brisbane said: "This is my first trip out of Australia and it makes you realise what a racist country Australia is."—A.A.P.-Reuters.