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## Mansell will seek trade sanctions from Libyans

The Tasmanian Aboriginal activist Mr Michael Mansell said yesterday that the 14-member delegation that leaves for Libya today would push for trade sanctions against Australia.

Mr Mansell said the trip was aimed at giving new direction to the Aboriginal movement. Trade sanctions were one way of drawing the world's attention to the plight of Aborigines and it was inconsistent for any government that supported black rights to trade with Australia.

Mr Mansell said the delegates wanted to discuss several matters with the Libyans in an attempt to promote the Aboriginal struggle. "What we will be doing is a matter for negotiation, not demand. It has to be done diplomatically."

The delegation of Aborigines and two Maoris will seek talks with the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, and officials from other countries that Mr Mansell has refused to name.

Another delegate, Mr Jim Everett, a producer for the ABC Aboriginal program unit, said delegates also had individual reasons for the trip. He hoped to push for funding of a community-based regional media network.

Other issues the delegation hopes to raise with Colonel Gaddafi include support for land rights and help in publicising the Aboriginal cause around the world.

The delegation was to leave in



Members of the delegation to Libya (from left): Sid Jackson, Michael Mansell, Jim Everett, Doug Milera, Alan Loysen and Deirdre Nehra (centre).

April, but the trip was deferred until 4 June because of the difficulties in meeting Libyan officials during the religious festival of Ramadan. Mr Mansell said the delegation's departure was again postponed because of the ALP national conference in Hobart.

"The real reason for concealment of the departure date was to give the Hawke Government's conference in Hobart the opportu-

nity to announce a program which would lead to recognition of the Aboriginal people as a nation independent of white Australia, or interim measures aimed at significantly reducing poverty and social disadvantage for Aboriginal families and prevention of imprisonment of too many Aboriginal people. Instead, the Prime Minister was long on rhetoric and short on substance."