

China's red carpet for Aborigines

From STEPHEN CLAYPOLE, in Peking for "The Advertiser."

PEKING, Sunday — A short documentary film showing police breaking up the Aboriginal tent "embassy" in Canberra in July was screened this week-end at a reception in Peking.

The film was brought to China by a delegation of nine Australian Aborigines, led by Mr. "Chika" Dixon, of the Black Caucus.

The screening took place at the Institute of Nationalities, where guests at a reception for the Aboriginal delegation expressed disapproval at the action of the Canberra police and the Commonwealth Government.

"We used this film to illustrate what is going on in Australia and to point out how we are being discriminated against by a racist Government," Mr. Dixon said.

The Aborigines who will be in China for a month, are being treated like State visitors in Peking.

A red carpet was rolled out for them when they arrived on Wednesday and representatives of China's national groups wearing traditional costumes welcomed them at the airport.

Mr. Dixon is in a large suite at the most luxurious

hotel in Peking, the Peking Hotel, and all bills, including air fares, are being paid by China's People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

The visit is likely to cost the authorities \$12,000.

The Aborigines have been entertained at two banquets and have visited Chinese people at their work places and cultural centres.

Mr. Dixon has taken to wearing a Chairman Mao blue boiler suit with a "Land rights now" badge pinned to his lapel.

A delegation statement says in part: "We are just a group of Aborigines who have been invited to China.

"This is historical — we are the first group of blacks out of racist Australia.

"We are being treated like human beings for a change.

"It's good that for four weeks no one is going to call us Jackie or nigger.

"The Chinese are most interested in our cause."

The delegation includes Ruby Hammond, of Adelaide.

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