

# Native group invited to China

Age 14th February 1972

A group of 20 Aborigines has been invited to visit Communist China in May.

News of the invitation has caught the Government by surprise.

The invitation has been kept secret because a number of Aborigines in the group feared they would not be issued with passports.

However Immigration Department officials indicated last night that passports would be issued unless there were exceptional circumstances in individual cases.

Several members of the group have already received their passports.

The invitation is for a visit of about one month.

The group will visit several cities in China and have speaking engagements.

One Aborigine who has been invited is Mr. John Newfong who is a member of the "Aboriginal Embassy" which is protesting outside Parliament House in Canberra over Aboriginal land rights.

Mr. Newfong was general secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait islanders at the time of the bi-centenary protests in 1970.

He said last night that there was widespread feeling in the Aboriginal movement that if Aboriginal efforts in Australia continued to prove futile then they would have to deal with those Governments outside Australia which were hostile to the McMahon Government.

He said there was a growing feeling that Aborigines as a minority group, should mount an international lobby to achieve their rights.

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