



At the "Aboriginal Embassy" outside Parliament House yesterday Mr Mike Anderson (left) Mr Bill Cragie and Mr Kevin Johnston demonstrate in favour of land rights for Aborigines.

Aboriginal women gather for conference

About 50 women arrived in Canberra last night for the second annual national conference of the National Council of Aboriginal and Island Women which begins today.

The council's president, Mrs Geraldine Briggs, said that the conference would work for better conditions for both men and women.

Mrs Briggs, from Shepparton, Victoria, met fellow Aboriginal women from Western Australia, the Northern Territory, South Australia, Queensland, NSW and Thursday Island.

They said they would seek better housing, employment, education and pensions.

The women will submit details of their demands to the Minister for the Environment, Aborigines and the Arts, Mr Howson, "but I feel those Government men are unsympathetic", Mrs Briggs said.

day, three Aborigines who have set up their own "embassy" said they would remain there until the Government withdrew its statement about Aboriginal land rights, reconsidered the issue and consulted Aborigines.

The spokesman for the group, Mr Mike Anderson, 20, of Walgett, NSW, said a fourth man had left for Brisbane and that "a group of blacks will be down here by Monday".

A group of Gurindji and Yirrkala Aborigines is expected to join the vigil within a few weeks.

Mr Anderson, the vice-chairman of the NSW Aborigines Land Board, said he hoped a trust of valuers and economists could be set up to estimate the value of the land taken from the Aborigines and now occupied by Europeans.

The Australian Government should then compensate Aborigines for the land. The compensation money would enable the Aborigines to buy the land back.



An Abscol student, Miss Christine Jennett, of Pilliga, NSW, wore a Black Action badge when she flew into Canberra last night for the second annual conference of the National Council of Aboriginal and Island Women. Miss Jennett is a student at the University of NSW.

On the lawns outside Parliament House yester-