

Aboriginal film in China

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

The film was brought to China by a nine-strong delegation of Australian Aborigines, led by Mr C. Dixon.

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.

From *STEPHEN CLAYPOLE*

The Aborigines, who are on a month-long visit, are being treated like State visitors in Peking.

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

Mr Dixon is being accommodated 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 \$12,000.

Mr Dixon declined to be quoted directly about the aims of the delegation's visit, but he agreed to make a statement,

which, he said, represented the views of the entire delegation.

The statement said 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.

"It's good to get out of that situation to look around.

"The Chinese knew little of us, except that we had made a prolonged stand outside Parliament House.

"What better way for them to learn than for a group to come over to tell them what is going on.

"Up to now, individual Aborigines have gone abroad and said, 'We have no problems — the natives are happy'.

"Australia is an apathetic racist country . . .".

China shows off its firepower. —