



Sir Douglas Nicholls and his wife outside Buckingham Palace after he had been knighted by the Queen.

RESPLENDENT PASTOR DOUG GETS HIS KNIGHTHOOD

Daily News Special Service

LONDON, Today: Pastor Sir Douglas Nicholls made history at Buckingham Palace yesterday when he became the first Aboriginal knight.

The diminutive, 66-year-old Aboriginal in front of about 400 people knelt on a crimson cushion to receive the gentle touch of the royal sword.

The Queen towered over Sir Douglas—dapperly dressed in a morning suit for the occasion—as he rose and chatted with her briefly.

Afterwards Sir Douglas said he told the Queen she would shortly be receiving a copy of his published biography Pastor Doug.

He said: "I told her it was about my struggle for dignity and that

I would like her to read it."

Sir Douglas, who is a guest of the Victorian agent-general in London, Sir Murray Porter, admitted he was rather awed by the investiture ceremony.

"It is a great honour. I still cannot really get used to being called sir," he said.

Sir Douglas's wife, Lady Nicholls, attended the investiture. Her husband, Australia's most famous Aboriginal, is a minister of the Church of Christ.

He is also president of the National Aboriginal Tribal Council, chair-

man of the National Aboriginal Sporting Council and public relations officer of the Aborigines' Advancement League.

The Queen, who wore a striking mauve and crimson patterned dress highlighted by a diamond brooch and pearls, dubbed several knights as well as presenting awards to almost 100 people in a ceremony that lasted about one and a half hours.

Sir Douglas said that now the ceremony was over he and Lady Nicholls would do some sightseeing around London.