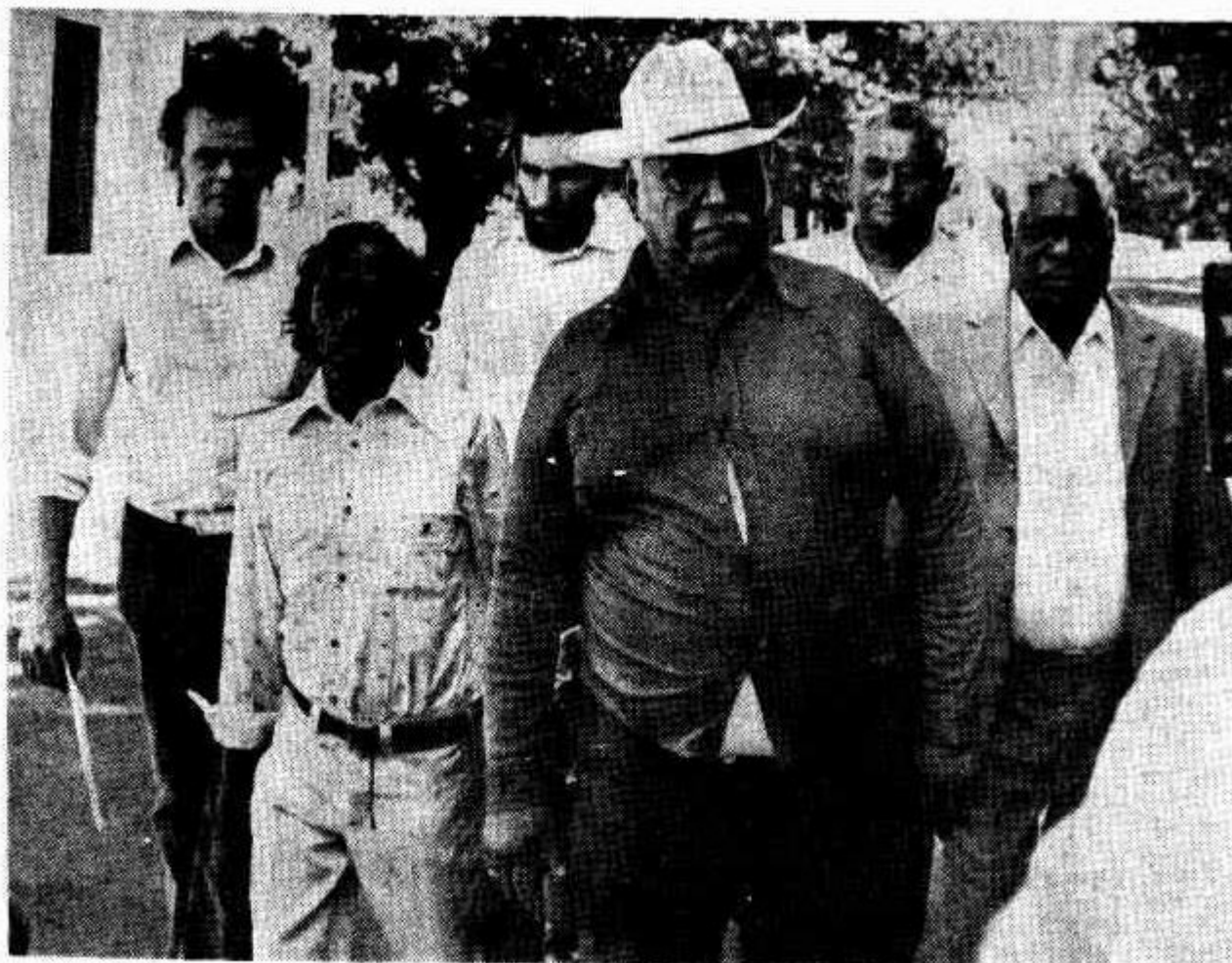


'ALIEN WHITE SOCIETY' 'Political jailing' of Aborigines



The six-member NACC delegation returns to the gates of Government House after presenting a petition to the Governor-General's secretary, Mr David Smith, yesterday.

The National Aboriginal Consultative Committee declared yesterday that all Aboriginal prisoners held in Australian jails were political prisoners.

cal prisoners.

A committee resolution said these prisoners had never been given the opportunity of understanding their position as Aborigines within the total alien white Australian society and that

tion as Aborigines within the total alien white Australian society and that they were victims of that society.

"The refusal of white Australia and its institutions to recognise the basic rights and traditions of black Australians has only managed to produce a view that all black Australians should be assimilated into the total white system, and that their traditions are

meaningless and irrelevant to white aspirations", the resolution said.

A statement issued by the committee last night said committee members drew attention to the seemingly increased activity of police officers toward black political activists in general, and certain NACC members in particular.

The resolution had been brought about by the recent imprisonment of a member of the NACC who had been arrested while assisting a fellow Aboriginal who was being harrassed and man-handled by members of the Western Australian Police Force, it said.

It was decided to petition the Western Australian Minister for Justice seeking an unconditional pardon for the NACC member, Mr Phillip Councillor.

Government House protest

The committee decided to withhold support from the Australian Department of Health's national trachoma program.

Support would be given only if the medical adviser of the NACC, Dr Archie Kalokerinos, was involved in organising and implementing the program, it was decided.

The statement said this resolution was necessary because of the doctor's involvement in Aboriginal health and the failure of the department to recognise the need for preventative medicine programs.

It was felt that prevention of diseases was far more important than the "band-aid" mentality type programs embarked upon by the respective health authorities.

About 30 committee members went to Government House to protest about their rights to the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, early in the afternoon.

A delegation of six was allowed past the gate and the rest waited outside. The Governor-General's secretary, Mr David Smith

accepted a written statement from the delegation.

The statement "claimed" for Aborigines "the right to self-determination as a separate and distinct people, with our own laws and customs, languages culture and heritage, living in our ancient homeland and with the right to a full voice in and influence on our own affairs".

The president of the NACC, Mr Jim Stanley, said at the gate of Government House, "We've been in session for the last four or five days and what has come across to me is we're in a desperate situation".

Investigation planned

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Viner, told the meeting on Friday that the Government would appoint a committee to investigate the NACC, which was established by the Government. Mr Viner also expressed dissatisfaction with the constitution proposed for the NACC by its members. The constitution

includes a proposal to change the NACC's name to the National Aboriginal Congress.

Asked about Mr Viner's statement, Mr Stanley said, "The National Aboriginal Congress has a constitution of its own. It's our property and we are determined to stick by it".

Asked whether he was happy with the NACC's negotiations with Mr Viner, Mr Stanley said, "We're putting . . . Mr Viner to the test; whether he's got our views, the Aboriginal views, and not the views of his so-called Government . . .".

DARWIN, Wednesday. — Between 500 and 1,000 Central Australian Aborigines are expected to take part in a land-rights demonstration in Alice Springs on Friday.

A statement issued by the organisers of the protest said that the protest was in support of the Aboriginal Land Rights Bill and in opposition to Federal cuts in Aboriginal Affairs expenditure. It was hoped similar demonstrations would be held in southern capitals.

Changed executive

The committee decided restructure the NACC executive.

This action was considered necessary for several reasons including the resignation because of ill health of two executive members and the resignation of two others, the recent change of Government, which had had a profound effect on Aboriginal Affairs and made it necessary to streamline the executive.

The members and their sub-committees are: Housing and employment, Mr

Ray Nagas, NSW; education and culture, Mr Ted Loban, Torres Strait Islands; finance and administration, Mr Jim Hagen, Queensland; legal services, Mr Keith Smith, NSW; health and welfare, Mr Ben Mason, Western Australia; land rights, compensation and conservation and natural resources, Mr Milton Liddle, NT; information and communications, Mr David Anderson, Victoria; sports and recreations, Mr Wally Fejo, NT.