

NACC criticises Hiatt report

By BRUCE JUDDERY

A spokesman for the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee denounced recommendations of the Hiatt report into the committee's operations yesterday as perpetuating "Australian domestic colonialisation at a time when Aboriginal self-management is most urgently required".

A lengthy statement from Mr David Anderson, the NACC's executive member for information and communications, suggests that the Government may be on a collision course with the advisory body, set up by the Whitlam Government in 1973.

The "colonialisation" attack was directed at the proposal that a National Aboriginal Development Committee be set up under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

The proposal was one of

several in the report of the inquiry into the role of the NACC, conducted by Dr Les Hiatt.

Proposed structural changes in the department, to be made by 1980, were inadequate, Mr Anderson said: "Aborigines need a speedier transition of power for Aboriginal self-management, to begin by the end of 1977".

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The Hiatt report was "unfairly over-critical" of the NACC in concluding that its advice had been inadequate.

"If we have failed in the last seven months it is because the present Government and ministers have not permitted the full NACC, or full NACC executive, to meet to give advice", he said.

Earlier ministers, excepting Mr Gordon Bryant, had failed to procure the co-operation of senior public servants or to provide facilities and resources.

Mr Anderson urged the Government to set up a National Aboriginal Congress, which should meet at least four times yearly.