

3 Aboriginal groups seek 'embassy' control

Three Aboriginal groups are seeking control of the Aboriginal "embassy" in Mugga Way, Red Hill.

In a submission made last week to the Minister for the Capital Territory, Mr Staley, made public on Wednesday, Mr John Moloney, who holds the lease on the property, said he had been approached by three groups on the "embassy's" future.

They were the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee, the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginals and Torres Strait islanders, and the vice-president of NACC, Mr Keith Saunders, on behalf of "three unnamed organisations".

The "embassy" opened on April 10

last year, with Mr Moloney giving a 12-month oral licence to the National Aboriginal Congress Inc to use part of his premises during business hours.

Mr Moloney has made public two submissions to Mr Staley, dated October 10 and January 11, because of statements made on Monday by an NACC executive member, Mr Keith Smith.

Mr Smith said he and Mr Saunders had been authorised by the NACC to negotiate an Aboriginal import-export enterprise, and threatened to lead a breakaway group unless the NACC endorsed the arrangements.

He estimated 35 per cent of NACC members would join him and would take legal control of the "embassy".

'Three options open'

In his second submission to Mr Staley, Mr Moloney said there appeared to be three options open to him as leaseholder.

He could extend the existing arrangements, renegotiate a new agreement "with whichever interested party emerges as the main representative of Abo-

property on a "no-profit, no-loss" basis, giving the Aboriginal people first right of refusal to buy for three months. He suggested to Mr Staley that the Government resume his lease, on equitable terms, and "donate the land and house to the Aboriginal and islander people of Australia as a symbol of cultural reconciliation, co-operation and friendship".

emerges as the main representative of Aborigines and islander people", or sell the land and islander people of Australia as a symbol of cultural reconciliation, co-operation and friendship".