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# We'll publish secret talks, say blacks

From STEPHEN MILLS

CANBERRA. — An Aboriginal group has threatened to publish a recording of a sensitive meeting it had with the Prime Minister and two Government Ministers unless the Government pays for a conference in Townsville this weekend.

The group claims the Government has refused to provide funds because it does not want the contents of the tape recording discussed at the conference.

The contents "affected the future of every Aboriginal health service in Australia", according to a representative of the National Aboriginal and Islander Health Organisation (NAHIO).

Mr Gary Foley said yesterday a meeting in Canberra between

five NAHIO representatives and the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, the Health Minister, Mr Mackellar, and the Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Senator Chaney, was taped last May.

The taping was done openly and the meeting was also recorded by a Government stenographer Mr Foley said.

NAHIO had been asked to keep the conversation secret, and had still not revealed any details, despite its importance, he said.

The Townsville conference would have given an opportunity for NAHIO'S members to hear a report from the people present at the meeting.

But Senator Chaney refused to provide funds for the conference on finding the report was on the agenda, Mr Foley claimed.

He said Senator Chaney was

"freaked out" by the prospect of the tape being published.

NAHIO's national secretary, Mrs Naomi Mayers, said Senator Chaney's action suppressed free debate and contradicted Government policy of Aboriginal self-management.

Senator Chaney was obviously sensitive about details of Aboriginal health becoming public in an election year, Mrs Mayers said.

A member of Senator Chaney's staff last night confirmed that NAHIO had been asked to keep the meeting confidential.

But funding had been refused for the conference because the Government believed it would be better held after the Government had made a decision on three Aboriginal health reports it had before it, the staff member said.