

ADELAIDE CONFERENCE

An Interstate Conference of various Aboriginal Organisations recently took place in Adelaide, from February 14th to 16th. (1958).

This was a very historic occasion, as it is the first time that these Organisations have come together to formulate a united policy and to seek to actively co-operate in the work they have been doing independently for the advancement of the Aboriginal people.

Their aim is to help the Aboriginal people of Australia to become self-reliant, self-supporting members of the community.

The following Organisations sent Delegates to the Conference:-

<u>Associations</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
ABORIGINES' ADVANCEMENT LEAGUE (W.A.)	Mr. Bill Grayden, MP
W.A. NATIVE WELFARE COUNCIL	" "
W.A. NATIVE WELFARE ASSOCIATION	Mrs M. Eadie
ABORIGINES' ADVANCEMENT LEAGUE (VIC.)	(Pastor Doug. Nicholls, M.B.E
COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS (VIC.)	(Mr. Stan Davey
	(Miss S. Andrews
	(Mrs M. Blackburn
ABORIGINES' ADVANCEMENT LEAGUE, Inc. (S.A.)	Dr. C. Duguid)
	Mr Jeff Barnes)
ABORIGINAL-AUSTRALIAN FELLOWSHIP (NSW)	(Mr. Herbert S. Groves, J.P..
	(Mrs Marian Alderdice
ASSOCIATION FOR ASSIMILATION OF ABORIGINES (ARMIDALE, NSW)	Miss E. Moore
UNITED COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL WELFARE (Q'LD)	Miss A. Bromham

ABORIGINAL DELEGATES:-

Pastor DOUG. NICHOLLS, M.B.E. (Field Officer for the Victorian Aborigines' Advancement League and a member of the Victorian Aborigines' Welfare Board)

Mr. HERBERT S. GROVES, J.P. (President of the NSW Aboriginal-Australian Fellowship and a member of the NSW Aborigines' Welfare Board).

Mr. JEFF BARNES (representing the Aborigines' Advancement League, Inc. of South Australia).

Resulting from the Conference a "FEDERAL COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT" was set up and the following officers elected;

PRESIDENT: Dr. C. Duguid (S.A.) SECRETARY: Mr. Stan Davey (Vic.)

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Mr. H.S. Groves, (NSW)
 Mr. W.L. Grayden, (W.A.)
 Miss A. Bromham (Q'ld).

MEMBERS:

Miss S. Andrews (Vic.)
 Mrs M. Blackburn (Vic.)

Discussion at the Conference centred around "equal citizenship rights" for Aborigines, including the need to repeal all legislation which discriminates against them, both State and Federal.

The Council will move for an amendment to the Federal Constitution to give the Commonwealth power to legislate for Aborigines, as for other citizens.

All Aborigines to receive equal pay for equal work and the same industrial protection as other Australians, will also be sought by the Council.

Other principles adopted were a standard of living adequate for health and well-being including food, clothing, housing and medical care - not less than for other Australians.

Aboriginal children born in Australia had less citizenship rights than children of newly arrived migrants, which was difficult to understand.

The "assimilation" policy of the Australian Government in regard to the Aborigines was a European policy, and not in their best interests. It would mean in the long run the disappearance of the aboriginals as a separate cultural group and ultimately their physical absorption by the rest of the community. As the Aboriginal people had something to contribute to our way of living it was felt by the Council that the word "integration" implied a much truer definition of their aims and objects.

Interstate welfare organisation delegates were particularly impressed by a visit to the Aborigines' Advancement League Hostel at Millswood.

A copy of the general principles which were adopted is enclosed.