

Natives form

political

power group

A new radical organisation, based on tribal lines, has been formed to campaign for the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

Membership and control of the National Tribal Council is firmly in the hands of "black Australians".

As the national chairman, Mrs. Kath Walker, put it: "We want the Aborigines and the islanders to look after their own affairs and develop their own sense of racial pride.

"We want to fit them into modern society with pride of race. If you like we have established a black political power group.

Sixty delegates from all States attended the conference.

The council has been given financial assistance from the World Council of Churches.

One of the Council's first actions was to pass a motion registering disgust at the refusal of the Federal

Government to allow civil rights fighter Dick Gregory into Australia.

Gurindjis

Abschol members helping the Gurindji people at Wave Hill, in the Northern Territory, claimed yesterday they had been banned from using the centre's only telephone and store.

They said the white people at the Wave Hill Welfare Centre banned them because they regarded them as "southern stirrers."

A field officer for Abschol (Mr. Stan Davey) made the claim by telephone from Halls Creek to Melbourne Abschol officer Robert Oke.

The phone, owned by the PMG, was in the home of the welfare officer (Mr. Ken Ibbetson), and available to the public during office hours.