

Native group splits

CANBERRA. — Australia's only national, non-Government Aboriginal Affairs Organisation split apart last night after dead-locking over moves to hand over full control to Aborigines.

The breakaway came at the end of three days of argument at the annual conference here of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

Controversy centred on whether whites should step down from their position on the multi-racial executive committee and Aborigines only should have the right to vote.

When the motion was put to the vote last night delegates, both black and white, divided down the middle 48 for and 48 against.

The Aboriginal president of FCAATSI (Mr. J. McGinness) then adjourned the annual general meeting to a date to be fixed.

New group

Shortly afterwards angry supporters of the motion to give Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders full control of FCAATSI decided at an impromptu meeting to form themselves into a breakaway organisation.

One of the Aboriginal leaders of the breakaway group (Mrs. Kath Walker) announced that she would resign her post as vice-president of FCAATSI.

Another, Mr. Stuart Murray of Melbourne, said he would withdraw his nomination as Victorian secretary of FCAATSI.