

WE GET NOTHING BUT PROMISES—GURINDJI

By ALISTAIR SMITH

MR MICK RANGIARI, 25, spokesman for the Gurindjis, knows what his tribe wants.

"We want our land back," he said yesterday. "It was taken from us without asking. It is still rightfully ours."

He said he remembered a visit by the Minister for Aboriginal Welfare, Mr Wentworth, to the Gurindji squatters at Wattie Creek on Vestey's Wave Hill station two years ago.

"We got promises then" he said. "Mr Wentworth made promises about our land. But we got nothing but the promises. We still haven't got our land back."

Mr Rangiar hopes to per-

Aboriginals want their own station

sua de the Government to give his tribe land and a loan or a grant to establish a station.

"We want 500 square miles for a cattle station. We know more about running cattle there than the Europeans," he said.

"And we know where to get cattle, too.

"There are cattle which have wandered off the stations, some pretty wild, but we can handle them better than any other man.

"That could be the start of our stock.

"But first we must have horses. If we can get about 10 horses we can round up the brumbies.

Mr Rangiar was chosen by members of his tribe, squatting at Wattie Creek, in the Northern Territory, to put their case for their own station.

Today he will take part in a demonstration outside a shop which the Gurindjis say is controlled by Vestey's.

Next week in Sydney he will meet Australian representatives of British-based Vestey's.

And there will be meetings in Canberra with Federal MPs.

He also hopes to see the Minister for the Interior, Mr Nixon, and Mr Wentworth.

"SUN"

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● GURINDJI tribesman Mick Rangiar in Melbourne yesterday. Portrait by Sun photographer GEORGE BUGDEN.