

Blacks ask for union support

By NEILL MITCHELL, our Industrial Reporter

The ACTU and the trade union movement were yesterday accused of "paying only lip service" to the problems of Aborigines.

The accusation followed a meeting of Aboriginal leaders from all over Australia with the ACTU president (Mr. Hawke) and members of the ACTU Aboriginal Affairs Committee.

But an Aboriginal delegate said the party had a sympathetic hearing at the meeting.

During the meeting the Aboriginal delegation urged the ACTU to "update" union policies on Aborigines at the ACTU Congress next week.

Mr. Hawke said later certain recommendations would be put to congress on the issue, but he would not disclose their details.

One of the delegation, Mr. Jack Davis, said the delegation thought the ACTU should do more to persuade unions to try to encourage Aboriginal involvement.

He said the ACTU could use its influence with the new Government in areas such as Aboriginal employment, housing and training.

Mr. Davis, who is editor of the Aboriginal magazine **Identity**, said he was disappointed that the ACTU had placed bans against South Africa during the Springbok rugby tour, but had not become more involved in Australian problems.

"The work force of about 75,000 Aborigines generally has poor conditions and in some cases not even equal pay with whites," he said.

"Most of the workers come under the Australian Workers' Union, and they in particular have done very little.

"There are large numbers of Aborigines completely ignored by the unions."