

Angry claims by aborigines

CANBERRA.— Nine aboriginal leaders yesterday declared angrily that the Prime Minister (Mr. Whitlam) and the new Aboriginal Affairs Minister (Senator Cavanagh) had given aborigines "the brush-off."

They said the aboriginal movement would have to do "something more effective than sheer demonstrations".

The onus would be on the Government to stop the situation becoming violent.

They said this after a 45-minute meeting with Mr. Whitlam and Senator Cavanagh — which in turn followed Wednesday's emotional "sit-in" on the Parliament House steps by aboriginal demonstrators.

In a second development yesterday, 10 aborigines confronted the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh over land rights as they were leaving Parliament after a luncheon in their honour.

Chanted

Watched closely by a large police contingent they waved placards and chanted "land rights now."

However, there was no violence and when one woman dropped a petition outlining aboriginal claims, a constable picked it up and handed it to the Duke.

The Duke smiled briefly, but neither he nor the Queen spoke as Mr. Whitlam escorted them to their car.

The aborigines met Mr. Whitlam mainly to protest about land rights and Mr. Whitlam's decision to remove Mr. Gordon Bryant from the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio.

Promise

Mr. Whitlam was reported to have told them the Labor Government had done more for aborigines than any other Government, and that it was committed by its election promise.

He pledged that anti-discrimination laws would be passed by Parliament by December 10 — the anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

Senator Cavanagh is understood to have told them there would be an inquiry into delays in legal aid for aborigines.

However, Mr. Paul Coe, the main spokesman for the group, said afterwards: "We have no faith in Whitlam after today's meeting."

"There is so much self-righteous arrogance in the Labor Party. They don't want to listen to us

—r, if they are prepared to listen, they don't want to implement what we say," Mr. Coe said.

"Whitlam doesn't seem to realise the future of aborigines depends on the man who is minister.

fulfil some of the promises made last year."

"They have shown the same prejudice that was in the Liberal Party under Howson (a former Minister for Aborigines) and McMahon (former Prime Minister), he said.

"They may have tripled our budget but most of it goes into white administration."

Another delegate, Mr. Gordon Briscoe, said: "Whitlam dictated to us. He was not prepared to talk about the question of Bryant."

"He is not even prepared to give us a say in whom we think would be the best man for the job."

"It seems to me we have to try some alternative action to force this Labor Government to