

'Natives

forced to beg'

NO DIGNITY—COUNCIL

ALICE SPRINGS. — **Aboriginals in Central Australia are forced to scavenge for food in rubbish bins and beg in the streets, says a report released today.**

The report, by the newly-formed Central Australian Aboriginal Rights Council, goes on: "Many of our people are treated like animals.

"They are still the victims of squalor and poverty and have been stripped of all human dignity."

The report concludes: "The suppression of aboriginal culture and values in Central Australia is a destructive process which we can no longer tolerate."

Driving force behind the council is rights worker and university student Mr Neville Perkins.

The report, which claims the organisation is not a black power body, is signed by Mr Perkins.

The council has called on the Federal Government to sack some of its

top officers in the Northern Territory, including administrator Mr Fred Chaney.

It also asks Canberra for an initial grant of \$20,000 to start much needed services for aboriginals.

The demands were filed on the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Bryant, during his visit to Alice Springs last weekend.

They call for the removal from office of Mr Chaney, assistant administrator (welfare) Mr Harry Giese, and senior welfare officers Mr Jack Cooke and Mr Jim Wauchope.

The report alleges these

officers have "failed to come to terms with the most pressing aboriginal problems in the territory" and that they have "perpetuated suppressive practices towards aboriginals."

The main points submitted to Mr Bryant include:

- The need for a legal service for aboriginals.

- A clear definition of "aboriginal Australian."

- Assurances on aboriginal health and land rights proposals from the government.

- Help to set up an aboriginal art and artifacts shop.

- More say by aboriginals in running two of the outlying settlements.

- Alleged high prices and profiteering in settlement canteens.

The council's 10-page submission to Mr Bryant says the grant would be spent to establish an office, pay a full-time secretary and field officer and provide a four-wheel drive vehicle.

It alleges police intimidation and brutality as the reasons for a legal service.

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