

PLANS SPEEDING UP FOR ABORIGINAL PARLIAMENT

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh, is speeding up plans to form Australia's first "Aboriginal" Parliament.

It will comprise 41 Aborigines elected by 30,000 Aborigines throughout Australia to advise Senator Cavanagh and the Government on their affairs.

An organisation to be called the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee will represent the "Parliament" which is to be drawn from 41 Aboriginal electorates newly mapped.

Senator Cavanagh said yesterday he would ask Federal Cabinet next Monday, to approve the establishment of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee.

With Cabinet's agreement it was planned to set up by November 10 the first polling booths for the election of the 41 Aboriginal members of the Consultative Committee.

Senator Cavanagh said the Committee would keep the Government closely in touch with aboriginal needs.

It would advise the Government but would not have executive authority to carry out decisions involving Government expenditure.

He said it was essential that Parliament and not the Aboriginal community should have the final say-so on expenditure.