

# Blacks defy Cavanagh over new constitution

CANBERRA. — The National Aboriginal Consultative Committee yesterday defied its Minister over alterations to its proposed constitution — and set the stage for another confrontation with the Government.

The NACC also clashed with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Senator Cavanagh) over his attack on the "unsightly" Aboriginal embassy opposite Parliament House

NACC information officer Mr. Bruce

McGuinness said after yesterday's meeting the Aboriginal body would "not be dictated to" on the terms of its constitution.

On Tuesday Senator Cavanagh told the NACC the draft constitution gave too much power to its "council of Ministers" and could lead to rule by a "junta".

However, Mr. McGuinness said that the only change the NACC had made in the section on ministers was to increase the number of Ministers from nine to 11 or 12.

The new constitution changes the name of the NACC to "National Aboriginal Congress" and widens the role and power of the body.

Senator Cavanagh said last night he had agreed to put the new constitution to Cabinet.

"But in its present form I will not support it," he said.

Yesterday's session — the final one in the week-long NACC meeting — undid the conciliatory relations between the Minister and the NACC which had been a feature of the meeting.