

CAVANAGH NEAR NEW SHOWDOWN

The dispute between the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh, and the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee is likely to be raised again in Canberra next week.

The NACC will meet all week to complete recommendations to Senator Cavanagh and draft a new constitution.

This is expected to include moves to change the name to the National Aboriginal Congress, to establish formally a council of nine "ministers" and to give the body greater executive power.

Last month the NACC backed down when Senator Cavanagh threatened to withhold delegates' salaries if they tried to change their name to the National Aboriginal Congress.

He said he believed that the NACC had authority only to act in an advisory role to the Government.

Following a meeting with Senator Cavanagh, the NACC agreed not to press its claims until the new constitution was completed.

But a spokesman for the NACC, Mr. Bruce McGuinness, said that if the Government did not accept the new constitution, it would go

ahead without the Government's support.

He said the committee would not agree to accept an advisory role on a permanent basis.

Senator Cavanagh will attend the NACC meeting on Tuesday.

Delegates have complained that so far he has spent a little more than three hours talking to them at previous conferences.

The NACC next week also will consider recommendations from nine sub-committees formed to draft proposals.

They include recommendations on employment, health and education, housing and welfare, language, culture, finance, legal services and land rights.

If they are accepted, the recommendations will be passed on to Senator Cavanagh.

At one stage it was hoped that the Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, would be able to meet NACC delegates.

His office said today that he would be away from Canberra all next week.