

Aborigines go 'bush' in China

From LACHIE SHAW

PEKING, Feb. 11.—An Australian Aboriginal delegation is now visiting the communes of minority groups in a remote southern province of China.

The 11-man delegation, led by Aboriginal leader Garry Foley, has gone to the Kwangsi Chuang autonomous region on the border with North Vietnam.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said the trip was the last stage of the delegation's visit to China before it leaves for home by way of Canton and Hong Kong on February 17.

The delegation was expected to tour the autonomous region by truck to visit the minority peoples scattered through the mountainous country of Kwangsi.

The area is inhabited mainly by Chunag people but includes other minority groups such as Yao and Miao peoples.

The Chinese claim that the minority peoples, while living commune-style under the control of the central Government, have been able

to preserve their distinctive identities and cultures.

Before leaving Peking, Mr. Foley said the delegation was keen to see whether the experiences of the minority peoples was relevant to the situation of Aborigines in Australia.

The delegation visited Hunan Province on its way to Kwangsi and went to Shao Shan, birthplace of Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

—AAP-Reuter.

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