

From

"AGE"

Melbourne, Vic.

17 JAN 1974

Blacks to tell China

SYDNEY. — A group of Aborigines flew off to China yesterday to "embarrass" the Australian Government as part of its land rights campaign.

Mr. Garry Foley, leader of the 10-member group, said at Sydney airport the Government was "ignoring" Aborigines.

"We have now a situation where we no longer have any reasonable sort of Opposition we can depend upon and the Government is ignoring us," Mr. Foley said.

"So our next strategic move must obviously be to take the entire case of Aboriginal land rights in the international sphere and embarrass Australia that way."

He said the invitation for the five-week, expenses-paid visit was extended to his group by the China

Peoples' Association for Friendship of Foreign Countries

"Generally speaking, most people are under the misconception that Aborigines are extremely better off under the Labor Government.

"Rest assured we don't intend to make any glossy statement in China about the Labor Party.

"We have a Minister at the moment who is extremely paranoid about 'white backlash', and as a result has done very little for Aborigines."

He said his group was taking to China films showing the destruction of the Aboriginal embassy in Canberra and "other evidence of how the Government was treating minority groups in Australia".

Mr. Foley said it was hoped to convince China it should send a delegation to Australia as guests of Aborigines.