

Aborigines may seek cash from Peking

The National Aboriginal Consultative Committee may seek money from foreign powers if the Federal Government refuses to finance an Aboriginal body with executive powers.

The chairman of the NACC (Mr. Bruce McGuinness) said last night China was "a strong possibility" for getting money for Aboriginal rights.

Mr. McGuinness said he believed China had already offered money to Aboriginal delegations which had gone to Peking.

Mr. McGuinness said the committee had "to get funded from somewhere."

"If the Government refuses to do it, we might

have to go to the Australian people.

"If that isn't forthcoming, then we'll need to go out of the country. Aboriginal affairs is not a parochial issue.

"We'd accept it from anywhere."

Mr. McGuinness was speaking on the television current affairs programme **This Week**.

The 41-member committee is drawing up a new constitution which seeks executive powers. The constitution is expected to be reviewed by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Senator Cavanagh) in April.

An attempt by the NACC earlier this month to get executive powers resulted in the Federal Government stopping the salaries of the committee members.

Last week, the NACC backed down and decided to stick to an advisory role until it had drawn up a new constitution.