

Apartheid?

THE constitution which the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee has proposed for itself is so far-reaching that it almost represents aboriginal secession from the Australian system of government.

It would result in a form of political apartheid which Australians could not tolerate.

The committee wants to become a National Aboriginal Congress instead of a consultative committee. It wants the power to make policy, apportion expenditure, control natural resources and pass laws affecting aborigines.

In other words, Australia would have a separate aboriginal Parliament with Cabinet Government.

The making of aboriginal policies would be taken out of the hands of the popularly elected Federal and State Governments, and this would be wrong.

Worse than that, aborigines could be separated from the rest of Australians in other areas of government. The congress might decide to make laws on social welfare and health and perhaps even on matters such as crime and punishment.

Two forms of citizenship then would exist in Australia, each under different laws.

With all the goodwill in the world the Australian people could not accept that.