

Govt. to review NACC pay

CANBERRA: The Government will review in May salaries paid to the 41 members of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh, said he would propose some increase in the \$6000-a-year salaries to compensate for inflation.

He said that Cabinet would not agree to increase the allowances paid to the delegates, ranging from \$2000 to \$3000 a year.

But he said expenses above this figure would be reimbursed if they could be documented.

Senator Cavanagh also told the delegates today that the Government had agreed to provide office space and part-time secretaries for them.

He would also discuss with the Treasurer, Mr.

Crean, more favorable terms for helping the delegates buy cars.

In other moves today, Senator Cavanagh agreed to consider submissions by the NACC for a budget of nearly \$900,000 a year to establish a central secretariat and other administrative assistance for the delegates.

But he warned them that this year's Federal Budget would be tighter, and he asked the delegates to more fully spell out their arguments for the proposed secretariat.

The submission from the NACC proposed capital and running expenses of about \$70,000.

It said that office space and transport for all 41 members would cost about \$358,000 a year.

A Queensland delegate to the NACC, Mr. Ted Loban, told Senator Cavanagh that the NACC did not want to take over responsibility for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs' \$117 million budget.

Senator Cavanagh said he was not opposed to the NACC controlling the expenditure of its own budget.

Senator Cavanagh also urged the committee to get rid of the tent embassy on the lawns in front of Parliament House.

He said that the embassy re-erected last October, was damaging the Aboriginal cause and was not helping the fight to improve relationships with Aborigines.