

Aborigines impressed by China

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From LACHIE SHAW, AAP correspondent

PEKING, Sunday (AAP). — "They've got some of the worst slums I've seen but the people don't look hopeless — that's the difference", said the leader of the second Aboriginal delegation to visit China, Mr Garry Foley, in Peking today.

Mr Foley was sitting in a lounge room at the Peking Hotel explaining why the 11-member delegation was impressed with its first look at China.

"People say you don't see anything in guided tours but you see things in between", he said.

"If you keep your eyes open and your mouth shut you see the bloody lot.

"One thing we notice particularly. You never see an underfed kid".

'They look marvellous'

Miss Evelyn Scott, deputy leader of the delegation, said, "That's right, all the kids look marvellous".

Miss Scott is a leading member of the Federal Council for the Advance-

ment of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

Mr Foley said the things that impressed the delegation most were communes, the children's and workers' cultural palaces of Shanghai and the way the Chinese treated minority groups.

The delegation has been in China about 10 days and visited Shanghai, Wusih and Nanking before arriving in Peking last night.

Members are spending five weeks in China as guests of the Chinese Association of Friendship with Foreign Peoples.

The first Aboriginal delegation to China visited in 1972.

Mr Foley said the aim of the delegation was to promote friendship between the Chinese and Aboriginal people.

Delegation members were a colourful sight as they arrived in Peking, wearing padded blue Chinese clothes and all the men with long curly beards and hair.

Mr Foley said the delegation had been "extremely impressed" with a commune they visited outside Shanghai. "The commune idea could be specifically Aboriginal communities.