

'UNSIGHTLY THING'

# Cavanagh asked to retract comment

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh, is to be asked to retract statements in which he described the Aboriginal "embassy" opposite Parliament House as "that unsightly thing".

The National Aboriginal Consultative Committee passed a motion in Canberra yesterday calling on Senator Cavanagh to withdraw the statements.

On Wednesday, Senator Cavanagh told the 41 members of the committee they would have a better chance of obtaining a permanent headquarters building if the tent "embassy" was removed.

The resolution by the committee said the NAC

did not wish to interfere with the action of individual Aboriginal groups.

"We realise we would not be here today if it were not for the actions of these Aboriginal groups", it said.

"There are many organisations that have been working for years in the field of Aboriginal affairs and without these organisations there would be no Aboriginal "embassy" and certainly no National Aboriginal Congress".

The motion was moved by the member representing the Canberra area, Mr Keith Smith.

Mr James (Lab, NSW) told the committee he was against the creation of special Aboriginal electorates.

Mr James, who is Chairman of the Parlia-

mentary Committee on the Northern Territory, was replying to questions from some of the committee.

The Committee on the Northern Territory, which is inquiring into self-government for the Territory, expects to present its report by July this year.