

NACC at odds with Cavanagh

CANBERRA: The National Aboriginal Consultative Committee last night appeared headed for a confrontation with the Federal Government over its powers and the future of the Aboriginal tent "embassy."

The NACC refused to change its draft constitution and reduce extensive powers which this would give its council of ministers.

It also criticised the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh, for demanding the removal of the tent "embassy" opposite Parliament House.

The NACC communications spokesman, Mr Bruce McGuinness, said last night: "We are not going to be dictated to. We are in disagreement with the Minister."

Mr McGuinness said the proposed constitution did not give too much power to the executive.

'Embassy call'

The 41-member NACC had earlier passed a motion calling on Sena-

helping the Aboriginal cause.

But last night Senator Cavanagh refused to back down. He said: "I have agreed to submit the final constitution to the Cabinet, but in its present form I will not support it."

Questioned about the tent "embassy" he said: "In the interests of the welfare of Aborigines I will not issue a retraction."

Senator Cavanagh told the NACC on Wednesday that he would strongly oppose the draft constitution in Cabinet unless major amendments were made to it.

Without Senator Cavanagh's support the proposed constitution has no chance of being approved by the Cabinet.

Yesterday's decision by the NACC came after a