

# Bjelke snub for church group study of blacks

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in Melbourne

The Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, has barred any State officials from meeting a World Council of Churches delegation which will visit Australia later this month to investigate the condition of Aborigines.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said he would refuse to meet the delegation and said Aborigines lived in clover compared to the plight of some people in countries represented on the delegation.

The delegation, supported by the Australian Council of Churches, includes representatives from East Germany and African nations.

In other developments on Aboriginal land rights yesterday:

● A Queensland Aboriginal leader announced plans to lead a delegation to South Africa to organise a large-scale boycott of the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games.

● The National Aboriginal Conference executive warned that it would try to embarrass the Federal Government at the United Nations and at the Brisbane Games unless Canberra intervenes to protect blacks from planned Queensland legislation covering reserves.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said of the church mission: "Who do these people represent, anyway?"

"What countries do they come from and what comparisons can we draw between the way they treat their people and the way our Aborigines live?"

"Can they charter aeroplanes and charter taxis and get all the medical aid they need and get free schooling?"

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said it made little difference to him that the Australian Council of Churches had called on all Australian Governments to co-operate with the delegation.

"Our Aborigines live in a paradise compared with the way some people in other countries live," he said.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said that there was no need to co-operate with a foreign delegation because they already should know everything there was to know about the way Queensland treated Aborigines.

He said that he was not interested in meeting any outside delegation which had no responsibilities in Queensland or anywhere else in Australia.

Federal Aboriginal Affairs offi-



Mr Bjelke-Petersen: "Who do these people represent?"

cers said last night that they would meet the delegation in Queensland.

But the officials said that they could see some difficulties in getting the delegation into some Aboriginal reserves if the State Government was determined to obstruct the visit.

The blacks' delegation to South Africa will be sent by the North Queensland Land Council to make known claims of racial discrimination against the Queensland Government. Three people, including the council chairman, Mr Mick Miller, will go. Mr Miller said Queensland Aborigines are demanding freehold title to land on Aboriginal reserves.

Mr Miller said that if the delegation failed to win the support of the black African nations every effort would be made to disrupt the Games, due to begin at the end of September next year.

"It will be very embarrassing for black African athletes to be caught up in events in Brisbane," said Mr Miller, who will head the delegation.

The move by Queensland Aborigines received the support of the National Aboriginal Conference in Canberra yesterday.

The executive said that it would adopt the same tactics used during last year's Noongahbah controversy unless the Federal Government acted.

The NAC warned that it would take the issue to the United Nations Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities as well as set up a forum during the 1982 Games to embarrass the Government.

The NAC, a body established and funded by the Federal Government to advise on Aboriginal issues, represents 36 Aboriginal electorates throughout Australia.

The executive urged the Federal Government to use its constitutional powers to grant Queensland Aborigines self-management and freehold title to reserve lands.