

## NATIONAL ABORIGINES DAY

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# A little United Nations.... Maori, Eskimo, and Indian meet Aborigines

"We're here to try to establish a line of communication between people who have similar problems," a visiting Cree Indian from Canada told a reporter from *The Australian* early in July.

"We need to know that we are not alone in our struggle for equality and higher standards of living."

Mrs Mary Lavalee was speaking of American Indians, Maoris, Eskimos and Aborigines.

A representative of each of these indigenous races took part in the celebrations surrounding National Aborigines Day—Friday, 12th July.

At Sydney Airport on their arrival, the four admitted they knew little about each other's races, but thought their problems were probably similar and agreed they would have an exciting time finding out.

*The Chief Secretary, Mr E. A. Willis, presents Mrs Lavalee (right) with a toy koala; behind them are (left to right) Mr Darcy, Mrs Ruhe, and Mr Allen*



As Mrs Roimata Ruhe, a Maori from Ohaeawai, in New Zealand, said: "Sharing your problems is a big thing . . . a problem is not so big when you share it with someone."

The international visitors discussed with Aborigines what could be learnt from the experience of overseas indigenous communities.

The Eskimo representative is Mr Victor Allen, of Inuvik in Canada's North West Territories.

### Living Conditions

They are accompanied by Mr Les Darcy, a 35-year-old Aborigine who runs the bakery and local taxi service in Goodooga, N.S.W.

The four were chosen to represent their races by their own people. They are all active in community affairs.

*Mrs Roimata Ruhe rubs noses with Mr Willis in the traditional Maori greeting. Representatives of press, radio, and TV met the visitors on the top of the new 46-storey Park Regis building in Sydney*

