

STUDENT ACTION FOR ABORIGINES

A party of 35 students from Sydney University, plus 4 aborigines, will leave Sydney on Friday 12th February, 1965.

They will visit a number of towns in north-western New South Wales.

The party, known as S.A.F.A. (Student Action for Aborigines), plans to see first-hand the conditions in which aboriginal people of New South Wales are living.

One of the leaders, a part aborigine at the University of Sydney, is Mr Charles Perkins. The team will also make protests in certain towns in which it is felt that there is discrimination against the aboriginal people. The team has been largely patterned on the concept of the Freedom Riders who were involved in programmes of integration in the United States. In the main, however, the young people are taking the initiative in an attempt to grapple with one of Australia's most difficult social problems.

An intensive survey involving questionnaires in such matters as housing, health and population will be made by the students during the trip and the results of this survey will probably result in further investigation in areas of special need.

The Rev. Ted Noffs who is associated with the direction of the survey stated that it is significant that at a time when young people are being criticised for their lack of social concern a group of university students should go away for two weeks of their vacation to involve themselves in a dramatic way in one of Australia's most critical problems.

University students are often under fire for their activities but this is an occasion when the whole of Australia should support and encourage the initiative of the Sydney University students concerned.

A chartered bus will take the students to such towns as Walgett, Moree, Kempsey and Warwick (Queensland).

Funds for the expedition were obtained by the students themselves from folk and jazz concerts, dances, Christmas cards and badges. The entire cost of the trip will be approximately £800.

The students will be accommodated during their trip by church organisations in their local halls.

(For further information please 'phone: 351010 or 323668 )