

**William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to the Minister for the Interior, John McEwen, 30 December 1938, National Archives of Australia, A659, 1940/1/858**

The following is forwarded to you, not because of any application as it affects the aborigines in your charge, but because it reaffirms the policy of the league and is very confirmatory of the wisdom of the policy we are looking for very shortly and which has been forecast in the press:—

“That this meeting of the Australian Aborigines' League, on behalf of the aborigines of Australia, strongly criticises the attack on missionaries made by Mr Kitson.

While recognizing that regrettable episodes have occurred on some missions at various times, the league has intimate knowledge of the good work being done by the missionaries of all branches of the Christian church.

It is of the opinion that without the protection of missionaries our people would be much worse off, if not completely exterminated.

We therefore call on the Governments of Australia, particularly of Western Australia, to give greater moral and financial support to the missions of all denominations, thus enabling them to carry out constructive work for our people in cooperation with the Governments.”

Perhaps you would care to note this in connection with the proposed conference of the States which we understand will be held in the New Year.