

**William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to the Minister for the Interior, Thomas Paterson, 11 March 1936, National Archives of Australia, A659, 1940/1/858**

I note with great delight in the press that the Commonwealth Government are contemplating action will seek to develop the civilised aboriginal of [the] Northern Territory in that he will be given the opportunity of cultivating cotton and copra on land set apart for his use.

I would be glad to receive from you details of the proposal which I trust will be followed by other governments, for the Dark man is appealing for the opportunity to cultivate enough of the soil of the country inhabited for centuries by his forefathers to enable him to win an honest independent livelihood.

If the proposals are definite I, in the name of the League, congratulate you on the action taken and thank you and the Government of which you are a member.