

20 Point Petition Fails

The 20 point petition submitted by the Indians occupying the offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs last November has met with little success in Washington, D.C.

Last week a special White House panel issued a 36 page response which rejected most of the demands made by the Indian demonstrators.

Among those requests was one asking White House negotiators Leonard Garment and Frank Garlucci for Indian treaty-making authority and for a review of treaty violations.

"The citizenship relationship with one government and the treaty relationship are mutually exclusive," the White House renunciation of citizenship is implied here, or secession, these

are wholly backward steps, inappropriate for a nation which is a union."

The government position was that treaty violations are now reviewed by the Indian Claims Commission and no other special commission is needed.

Members of the Broken Treaties Caravan said they were very disappointed by the White House report and commented on the "incredible level of incompetence" in Nixon's staff in failing to understand the legal status of Indians.

A spokesman for the Caravan, Adams, said the Indian Claims Commission has never been a forum for discussing Indian sovereign rights and has been barred from taking on new cases since 1951.