

CAMPAIGN GROWS FOR INDEPENDENT PROBE INTO UNIVERSITY TROUBLES

By NATION Reporter

THE CALL for an inquiry into the recent student unrest at Nairobi University gained increasing support yesterday.

New support for an inquiry came from an Assistant Minister for Tourism and Wildlife, Mr. J.M. Kariuki, the Kenya Makerere University Students' Union and a "Caretaker Committee In Exile" of Nairobi students.

It has already been suggested by 28 members of the University staff, Kanu branches and trade unions.

The University Council is

due to meet today to discuss the disturbances.

Mr. Kariuki said yesterday that it was time the Government examined the whole university administration set-up with a view to reorganisation.

He deplored the use of force in dispersing students from the campus and suggested that a committee "chaired by someone responsible to the public" be set up.

He said the University should be reopened immediately and once the commission is set up the matter should be handled by the Ministry of Education and the University Council,

without outside interference.

A statement issued by the Kenya Makerere Students Union also called for the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry and called on the Government to reopen the university and readmit all students, without victimisation or preconditions.

The "Caretaker Committee In Exile" of Nairobi University students attacked a statement by the Registrar, Mr. S. Karanja, in which he claimed there had been continuous dialogue between the administration and students before Monday's disturbances.

Mr. Karanja also denied

claims that many students had been injured. But the committee suggested that a commission of inquiry be instituted "to establish the truth about the whole incident."

The Architectural Students Association yesterday refuted statistics and claims made by the University authorities on the pass rate and the organisation of the Faculty of Architecture, which was at the root of the recent troubles.

The association said figures presented distorted the issue by concentrating on short periods.

Tracing the progress of the 1969/70 student intake, the

ASA claimed that, of 26 students in the first year including 13 Kenya Africans and four Kenya Asians, only 10 students were at present in the fifth year, of which there were four Kenya Asians and two Kenya Africans.

This amounted to 38.3 per cent of the original intake, with 15.3 per cent leaving their studies to work after their third year.

Similarly, of 23 students who joined this course in 1968/69, only eight students remained to take the examinations in their fifth year, of whom five graduated. These graduates included three Kenyans — two Asians and one African.