ATT: NEWS EDITOR/ CHIEF OF STAFF

NEWS RELEASE: 3:00PM THURSDAY 31ST DECEMBER 1987

FROM: GARY FOLEY, MEDIA CO-ORDINATOR
ABORIGINAL ANTI-BICENTENNIAL GROUPS

ABORIGINAL ACTIONS AGAINST THE BICENTENNIAL BEGIN ON NEW YEARS DAY
AT 2:00PM WHEN ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND THEIR SUPPORTERS ASSEMBLE AT
YARRA BAY HOUSE AT LA PEROUSE IN SYDNEY, TO HOLD A SPECIAL MOURNING
CEREMONY IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ABORIGINAL
PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED, AND ARE STILL DYING AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE
INVASION OF THE ABORIGINAL NATIONS IN 1788.

ORGANISERS OF THIS PARTICULAR ACTION SAY THAT IT WILL BE A SIMILAR
CEREMONY TO THAT WHICH WAS HELD IN 1970 AT LA PERouse WHEN WHITE
AUSTRALIA COMMEMORATED THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF
CAPTAIN COOK. ON THAT OCCASION ABORIGINAL PEOPLE HELD A SOLEMN AND
DIGNIFIED CEREMONY WHICH WAS IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE RATHER SILLY
RE-ENACTMENT OF COOK'S LANDING ACROSS BOTANY BAY AT KURNELL.

WE ARE NOT CERTAIN OF THE NUMBERS WHO MIGHT ATTEND THIS CEREMONY,
BUT WE POINT OUT THAT THE MAJORITY OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE INTEND ON
DEMONSTRATING AGAINST THE BICENTENNIAL WILL NOT BE ARRIVING IN SYDNEY
UNTIL LATER IN JANUARY.

ALSO TOMORROW, THE BICENTENNIAL PROTEST GROUP, WHICH IS A
COMMITTEE OF NON-ABORIGINAL SUPPORTERS, WILL 'ATTEND' THE OFFICIAL
OPENING OF THE BICENTENNIAL PARK AT HOMEBUSH BAY IN SYDNEY. THEIR
'ATTENDANCE' WILL MARK THE BEGINNING OF ACTIONS BY NON-ABORIGINAL
SUPPORT GROUPS WHO ARE WORKING IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH, AND WITH
THE ENDORSEMENT OF, ABORIGINAL ANTI-BICENTENNIAL GROUPS.

FURTHER NEWS RELEASES WILL ADVISE OF OTHER ACTIONS DURING THE
MONTH OF JANUARY. IN THE MEANTIME, FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

KEVIN COOK (02) 660 3444 OR GARY FOLEY (02) 6998895 OR 660 3444 OR
692 9452.

OR BICENTENNIAL PROTEST GROUP; CONTACT:
OFFICE: (02) 560 1842 (IIAM-3PM) OR;
MARILYN (047) 573414
JILLIAN (02) 519 4338
KERRIE (02) 810 0720

END TLX:

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