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87-12-31 1339 ST
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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 INTENT 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 FUTHER 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 (11AM-3PM) OR,
MARILYN (047) 573414
JILLIAN (02) 519 4338
KERRIE (02) 810 0720

END TLX:

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