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Day of Mourning and Protest 70th Anniversary AIATSIS Library launches new online exhibition

The story of Aboriginal mourning amidst non-Indigenous celebrations of the coming of the First Fleet is revealed today in a new online exhibition commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Day of Mourning and Protest.

Produced by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra, the exhibition marks the 26th January as the day when 70 years ago, Aboriginal civil-rights protestors met at Australian Hall, Sydney to draw attention to their plight.

The conference made a statement that marked the “150th anniversary of the seizure of our country” and appealed to Australians to “raise our people to full citizen status and equality within the community”.

The Day of Mourning and Protest is an important day in our history which laid the path for future events such as Survival Day and NAIDOC week.

In 1957, with support and cooperation from Federal and State governments, the churches and major Indigenous organisations, a National Aborigines Day Observance Committee (NADOC) was formed, which continues to this day as NAIDOC.

26th January 1988 fifty years after the Day of Mourning was a day for Aboriginal people to celebrate their survival.

The exhibition contains something for everyone, as it features primary sources such as archival letters, newspaper articles and pamphlets as well as interesting photographs and artworks about the Day. It also contains a reading list and links to other sources of online information. To view the online exhibition, go to

http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/DOM/DOM_intro.htm

Media contact:

Chris Ryan

AIATSIS Media and Communications 02 6261 4225 or 0408 688 026

chris.ryan@aiatsis.gov.au