

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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HOLD FOR RELEASE: Sunday Papers
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MONA LISA EXHIBITION IN WASHINGTON EXTENDED NATIONAL GALLERY ANNOUNCES SPECIAL HOURS

Washington, D.C., Sunday, January 6, 1963. John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that the French Government has authorized the Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci to remain on loan to the Gallery through Sunday, February 3rd. This extends by nearly a week the original three-week loan announced in Paris.

Mr. Walker also announced that during the week from Thursday, January 10, through January 17, the Gallery will be open to those wishing to see Mona Lisa for an additional four hours a day, making the new hours of the Gallery for that week as follows:

January 10 through 12	-	10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 13	-	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
January 14 through 17	-	10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

These extended hours may be continued during the remaining period of the exhibition, Mr. Walker said; if so, a release to that effect will be sent out.

In addition, the Gallery will open specially during the entire exhibition on Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., to

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children organized in school groups. For group appointments, application should be made to Miss Margaret Bouton of the Gallery staff, RE 7-4215, extension 272.

As before, the Gallery will be open every day of the week, and entrance to the Gallery as well as to the Mona Lisa will be free of charge.

During the time that the Gallery's hours are extended, the Cafeteria will serve supper on weekdays and lunch on Sundays. The new Cafeteria hours will be:

11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. weekdays
12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. Sundays

In agreement with the French Government and the National Gallery of Art, the Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Mr. James J. Rorimer, announces that the Mona Lisa will be exhibited at the Metropolitan from February 7 through March 4. The Mona Lisa will then return to France aboard the S. S. United States, departing New York March 7.

This will be the first time that the National Gallery will be open daily in the evening.

A private exhibition of the Mona Lisa for the President, the Cabinet, the Supreme Court, and the Congress will take place on Tuesday evening, January 8, at 9:45. All arrangements for admission to the Gallery for press coverage of this event are being handled by the White House. The picture goes on view to the public on Wednesday, January 9, at 10:00 a.m.

End

Further information through J. Carter Brown, REpublic 7-4215, ext. 248.