NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

Memo to Press-Media

From Katherine Warwick, Information Officer

Advisory on opening events for "Treasures of Tutankhamun" (see attached press release)

Treasures of Tutankhamun opens to the public on Wednesday, November 17 at 10 a.m. (regular daily Gallery opening hour).

There is no admission fee.

The hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12 noon to 9 p.m Sunday.

There will be a <u>press preview</u> on Monday, November 15. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. it will be open to all press and media, with additional time for filming and photography from 1 to 3 p.m. The Egyptian Ambassador, the directors of the National Gallery and the Metropolitan Museum, Egyptian officials from Cairo, and representatives of the U.S. Departments of State and the Navy, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Exxon Corporation will be available informally for questions and interviews. No formal press conference is planned. We will also help to schedule interviews before or after the preview. <u>Press credentials will be necessary</u>.

There will be a reception given by the Trustees of the Gallery that evening for about 800 guests. Prior to this, President of the Gallery and Mrs. Paul Mellon will give a dinner for visiting dignitaries, heads of the participating museums, and members of Congress; about a hundred are expected to attend the dinner. Press coverage of the dinner and reception will be limited to a pool, which will be determined at a later date. The next day, the 16th, there will be an all-day (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.) invitational preview for the Gallery's mailing list; several thousand guests are anticipated. Press coverage (e.g. of the lines, interviewing the public, etc.) will be permitted up to the extent possible.