

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR RELEASE:
THURSDAY A.M.
APRIL 4, 1985

WASHINGTON, D.C. April 3, 1985. Joseph J. Krakora, Special Advisor to The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, has been appointed External Affairs Officer of the National Gallery of Art by the Gallery's Board of Trustees, effective May 3, 1985.

The appointment of Mr. Krakora to this new executive position was announced today by John R. Stevenson, President of the National Gallery. The External Affairs Officer is a new Executive Officer of the National Gallery reporting to the Director, responsible for planning, implementing and overseeing the Gallery's relations with the general public (regional, national and international), the media, officials of government and the corporate and philanthropic communities.

Mr. Krakora comes to this new position with over twenty years' experience in arts administration, education and stimulating private giving to the arts. He first entered Federal government service in 1974 as Director of the Dance Program at the National Endowment for the Arts under Nancy Hanks.

In his role as Special Advisor to The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, he has worked in collaboration with private sector leaders, corporate and foundation executives and government representatives at the federal and state levels in developing initiatives to increase awareness and support of cultural and educational institutions. These have included efforts aimed at strengthening the teaching of the arts and humanities in schools, expanding the resources of public libraries, involving community leaders in assessing the needs

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of their cultural organizations and focusing attention on the conservation programs and needs of museums.

Prior to his appointment as Special Advisor to The President's Committee, he had been general director of the Chicago City Ballet from 1980 to 1982 and executive vice president and director of new programs and media production for the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center from 1976 to 1980.

From 1969 to 1974 he was executive vice president of the City Center Joffrey Ballet. He was associate director of development for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York between 1967 and 1969.

He has been called upon as a consultant for such Federal agencies as the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, various private dance and theatre companies, and universities and state arts councils and commissions. He has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Joint Commission on Dance and Theatre Accreditation, the National Steering Committee for Issues in the Arts of the American Council for the Arts, and the Art in Education Committee of the Alliance of Independent Colleges of Art. He has recently been named a trustee of Bennington College. He has also produced several television programs, including "The Dance Masters" and "Street Songs" with Geraldine Fitzgerald.

Mr. Krakora earned his Bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from Denison University in 1961. He did graduate study in religious drama at Union Theological Seminary between 1964 and 1967.

He and his wife Polly live in the Georgetown area of Washington.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director (Information Officer), Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565 (202) 842-6353.