

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

PRESS CONFERENCE NOTICE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON, D.C.
FEBRUARY 16, 1973

Dr. Armand Hammer, art collector and businessman with 50 years of close contact with the Soviet Union is returning to the United States for the first time after arranging the first loan exhibition of Western paintings to the U.S. from Soviet museums. He will be available to meet and talk with press at the National Gallery of Art at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 21, in the Founder's Room (main floor - use either Constitution Avenue or Mall entrances).

The exhibition, "Impressionist and Post-impressionist Paintings from the U.S.S.R.," will premiere at the National Gallery of Art between March 31 and April 29. It will then travel to New York City to be on view at M. Knoedler & Co., Inc., from May 3 through May 26.

The exhibition and related educational materials will be partially supported at the National Gallery of Art with a grant of up to \$100,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities under a new program of aid to museum exhibitions.

Negotiations for the loan to the U.S. were effected by Dr. Hammer, chairman of the Armand Hammer Foundation and chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Los Angeles. Dr. Hammer's personal collection has been on view at the Hermitage State Museum in Leningrad and the Pushkin Museum in Moscow for the last several months and drew crowds in both cities.

The 41 paintings coming to the United States, which include seven Matisses, seven Gauguins, six Picassos, five Cézannes, and three van Goghs, are being lent from the collections of the Hermitage and the Pushkin.

END

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., 20565, area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 224.