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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: City Desks and Assignment Editors

From: Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information

The Museum of Modern Art will open an hour earlier during Christmas week in order to accomodate the record-breaking crowds at THE SCULPTURE OF PICASSO exhibition. The exhibition, seen so far by a quarter of a million people, closes on January 1 when the works will be shipped back to the artist in France. The special holiday hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, December 26 and Wednesday, December 27, and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, December 28. The Museum is closed on Christmas Day.

Since the exhibition opened October 9, the Museum has extended its hours and arranged special viewings. School and adult groups making appointments in advance have been permitted to come into the Picasso galleries an hour earlier. On four Wednesday evenings the show was kept open from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. for friends of the Museum, certain categories of contributing members, and individuals invited by trustees and staff members. A special evening showing was also held for the entire staff of the Museum (451 people) and their families.

The exhibition opened with two previews, one for contributing members, and a 12 hour opening for the regular Museum members, who now number more than 32,155.

THE SCULPTURE OF PICASSO has drawn more people on a single day, almost 10,000, than any previous show in the Museum's history. Admission to the Museum is \$1.25 for adults, 50 cents for children, members admitted free.

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The Museum will close at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24.