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NEWS OF THE DAY  
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MONA LISA MAKES U.S. DEBUT

It's Mona Lisa day in Washington! In the West Statuary Hall of the National Gallery of Art, nearly two-thousand "first-nighters," including the First Lady -- stunning in a long pink dress -- see President Kennedy introduce the world's most famous painting to Americans. France's Minister of Cultural Affairs, Andre Malraux and Madame Malraux share the great moment when the four-hundred-and-fifty-year-old masterpiece makes its first public appearance here. The President will pay tribute to French President de Gaulle as a man of vision, but will also spoof him a bit, making obvious reference to France's determination to build up an independent force. NATURAL SOUND ON FILM - PRESIDENT KENNEDY SPEAKING

The lady whose smile baffles -- on furlough from her age-old home in the Louvre -- is covered with thick shatter-proof glass. The painting was loaned to the U.S. despite many forebodings in France ... so the hands-across-the-sea felicitations with the French nation are no less apparent when the ordinary folk begin to view the Mona Lisa the following day. In four weeks she will hold court for some million persons before transfer to New York for exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. While the masterpiece basks in the glory of her first American showing, word comes that another famous lady and a Paris Louvre companion -- Whistler's Mother -- may follow Mona Lisa to the United States.