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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ART FROM ZAIRE: 100 MASTERWORKS FROM THE NATIONAL COLLECTION. One hundred masterpieces of traditional art from the national collection of the government of Zaire will travel to museums throughout the United States beginning this fall. The exhibition will be shown initially at The African-American Institute (AAI), 833 United Nationns Plaza, New York. It will subsequently travel nationally for approximately two years under the auspices of The American Federation of Arts.

Following its showing in New York, the exhibition will travel to museums throughout the country, beginning with a showing in spring, 1976, at the Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C. Other cities under consideration for the tour include Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, and Los Angeles.

The 100 objects on loan from the Government of Zaire constitute the largest and most important loan of traditional art ever made by an African nation. The pieces (of extraordinarily high quality) have not been shown in the United States before, and only a small number have been exhibited anywhere. None of the pieces has been published previously, with the exception of a few objects illustrated in limited edition materials issued by the Institute of the National Museums of Zaire (IMNZ) in Kinshasa.

The pieces exhibited represent 26 different cultures in Zaire, including the artistically rich cultures of the Hemba, Kongo, Kuba, Luba, Lula, Pende, Teke, and Yaka peoples. Among the truly outstanding objects are pieces from the Kuba royal treasury, Hemba and Yaka ancestor figures, and two Lengola cult figures. A small number of prehistoric objects and antiquities are also included.

Some of the objects to be exhibited are unique. Among the most unusual pieces to be included are a huge painted Yaka basketry and raffia "rattle mask," one of the largest African objects ever