

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANNY KAYE TO RECEIVE UNICEF AWARD

Danny Kaye will receive the UNICEF Award for Distinguished Service at the International Level at the United Nations Headquarters on Tuesday April 26.

The ceremony will take place in the office of the Secretary-General on the 38th floor of the UN building. Present at the ceremony will be Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, UNICEF Executive Director Henry R. Labouisse, and US Ambassador Andrew Young.

Kaye's relationship with UNICEF began in 1953. In 24 years he has made films about children and the work of UNICEF, undertaken information and promotion tours and acted as Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF (see attached for more details). The UNICEF Award was instituted last December to mark its 30th anniversary and is awarded for distinguished volunteer service to UNICEF.

The award, a golden statuette showing an adult with a child locking arms, was designed by the late Kurt Plowitz, an American artist of Czechoslovakian descent. The design was named "Father of the Man", symbolizing the eternal concern of adults for children.

25 April 1977



DANNY KAYE

Danny Kaye was born David Daniel Kaminsky in Brooklyn, the son of an immigrant Ukranian tailor. As a young man just out of the New York public school system, he held a variety of uninteresting jobs before discovering his gift of making others laugh - the touchstone of what was to become a smashing success of a career.

One of the luminaries of show business, Danny Kaye has starred on Broadway, in motion pictures, on radio and in television. He has been a box-office smash on the one-man concert stage, a successful recording artist, an acclaimed symphony orchestra director, and a record-breaking supper club entertainer.

In 1941, Kaye married Sylvia Fine, a talented pianist and lyricist in her own right, who wrote all of his material for many years. Their daughter Dena is a graduate of Stanford University, and at present a successful free-lance journalist in New York City.

A recipient of numerous distinguished awards, Kaye has a wide variety of interests - Chinese cooking, golf, table tennis, baseball, and his current passion, flying - in all of which he is expert.

There is furthermore, another very important facet to Danny Kaye - the side of him best summed up in his official title of Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF. Perhaps, more than any other single individual in the world today, Danny Kaye's name is synonymous with UNICEF.

His intensely personal relationship with UNICEF began in 1953, the result of a random encounter, during a trans-Atlantic plane trip, with Maurice Pate, UNICEF's first Executive Director.

His first step was a filmed trip around the world, carrying UNICEF's message to children of all nationalities. The result was Paramount's award-winning documentary "Assignment Children," seen by millions the world over. A year later, he made the unique film "The Secret Life of Danny Kaye," narrated by the late Edward P. Murrow and aired on his prestigious television show "See It Now." Kaye has not stopped since.

He has made several whirlwind fund-raising tours world-wide (one of such monumental proportions that it is included in the Guinness Book of Records), raising millions of dollars for UNICEF's work, and raising, furthermore, the world's consciousness on the subject of the continuing need of millions of children in the developing countries.