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Text of Audrey Hepburn Stamp Dedication - Tuesday 17 June, 2003 UNICEF Remarks by Kul Gautum, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director

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AUDREY HEPBURN STAMP DEDICATION ®

Tuesday, 17 June, 11.00 a.m.

James P. Grant Plaza

Notes for Kul Gautam

- First, I would like to congratulate and thank the US Postal Service for its decision to include Audrey Hepburn in its Legends of Hollywood Series of stamps.
- It is a great honour for Audrey and also for UNICEF that this morning the James P. Grant Plaza will become a temporary post office called the Audrey Hepburn UNICEF House station.
- We can all feel the the presence of Audrey today – not only because of her likeness on the stamp which you will have the opportunity to purchase and have cancelled here shortly but also through the posters and photos around the plaza and, of course, the wonderful sculpture created by John Kennedy called “The Spirit of Audrey”.
- This stamp is a wonderful tribute to Audrey who was not only a star in the Hollywood sense but also a “star humanitarian”.
- Audrey served as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador from 1988 to her untimely passing in 1993. The role of UNICEF ambassador was her second – and perhaps her greatest career. And, what a career it was and what a difference she made!
- Her commitment to the UNICEF cause was a very personal one which was rooted in her own childhood. As a malnourished child in Europe during post-war years , she was a direct beneficiary of UNICEF assistance – a fact that she never forgot. On her appointment as Goodwill Ambassador she said “I can testify to what UNICEF means to children - I’ve known UNICEF all my life”.
- Her first field visit was to drought-stricken Ethiopia in 1989. After that mission she did media and fundraising work in England, Canada, Finland, Germany, Italy and the United States.
- Over the next four years, she was to cross and recross the globe on behalf of children. Among the countries she visited were Bangladesh, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Mexico, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela and Vietnam. Her last and most courageous mission was to Somalia in 1992.

- Audrey was deeply touched by what she saw and learned about poverty and the needs of children during her travels with UNICEF. Later, she would speak to everybody who could make a difference – to presidents, kings, prime ministers, senators, the media and general public. In the US, she spoke to Members of Congress and testified to the House Select Sub Committee on Hunger.
- Audrey had a wonderful way with children and she made a lasting impression on everybody she met.....

KUL _ PERSONAL RECOLLECTION??

- Audrey was always modest about her achievements but her impact was without doubt - immense. She was persuasive, cajoling and completely irresistible in her mission to help children in need.
- She successfully encouraged her fellow actors to become involved in the work of UNICEF. Indeed, it was she who brought Roger Moore on board and he is today one of our most hardworking and dedicated Goodwill Ambassadors. In recognition of his humanitarian work with UNICEF, Roger was knighted by the Queen of England this past Saturday. In a BBC interview on Sunday he spoke of Audrey - her beauty, her talent, her kindness, compassion and commitment to children. He also spoke of how her dedication to children inspired him and enriched his life.
- Audrey was always an inspiration – as a fashion icon, as a major movie star and humanitarian. Through her natural beauty, elegance, grace, intelligence and talent she transcended many boundaries - gender, cultural, age and national. She touched the lives and hearts of so many and brought worldwide attention to the needs of children.
- Audrey Hepburn is a true legend. Her legacy lives on in the wonderful global network of UNICEF Ambassadors with whom we have the honour to work. The stamp being issued here today confirms that status and her place in history not only as a Hollywood Legend but also a Humanitarian Legend.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The United States Postal Services consider a stamp dedication to be a historical event. It sponsors free to the public – special first day of issue celebrations for the majority of newly issued stamps. Stamps are usually issued at a location related in some way to the subject being honoured.

The Audrey Hepburn stamp is the ninth in the Legends of Hollywood Series. Other honorees appearing in this series include: Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, Humphrey Bogart, Alfred Hitchcock, James Cagney, Edward G. Robinson, Lucille Ball and Cary Grant.

The stamp was designed by Michael J. Deas of Brooklyn Heights, New York and is based on Audrey's appearance in the movie Sabrina.

On 11 June the first day of issue of the Audrey (37 cent) stamp took place at the Childrens Hospital in Los Angeles. Robert Wolders, Audrey's son Sean Ferrar and Jennifer Love Hewitt (who played Audrey in a documentary) participated. The event received major media coverage.

UNICEF House event - for this, the USPS issued a Postal Bulletin, UNICEF and the US Fund have issued a Media Advisory. Stamp events usually attract cable television and some specialized media outlets. Given that the first day of issue has already taken place, only local media is expected on 17 June. The event is free and open to the public.

JPG Plaza will become a temporary post office called the Audrey Hepburn UNICEF House Station. A table will be set up to facilitate the sale by postal employees of the special cancellation postmark and the featured stamp. There will be a specially designed UNICEF/US FUND (black and white with colour logo) envelope on sale for \$5 – to benefit the US Fund. The Gift Shop will also be open.

Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda is comprised of 18 children aged 6 to 14. They will sing in both English and Swahili. They are part of the Watoto Child Care Ministries which aims to meet the essential needs of parentless children and place them in families rather than in institutional orphanages. The Choir is on a tour of the US, Canada and Great Britain and is accompanied by four adults. They sang at the White House last week. After the event at UNICEF House, they will proceed to the UN where they will perform in the Visitors Lobby from 1.00 to 2.00 p.m.

Note for Alfred

OPENING

- Welcome everybody - US Postal Services employees, UNICEF colleagues including Chip Lyons, the President of the US Fund for UNICEF, and members of the general public, many of whom are stamp collectors. Also extend warm welcome to the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda and their guardians
- References to Audrey - beauty and elegance, plus a dedication to humanitarian causes, best describe the magnificence of Audrey Hepburn.
- She was a legend on the screen and stage who represented both UNICEF and the entertainment industry with such dignity and style. She will never be forgotten by her fans.
- We at UNICEF are honoured that she served as our Goodwill Ambassador and that so many of you have come here today to celebrate the issue of the Audrey Hepburn stamp.

Programme –

INTRODUCTION OF WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR

- Without further ado, I would like to start the programme by inviting the children from Watoto Children's Choir to sing. We are delighted that this group of young, talented children from Uganda could be with us today. They and their guardians are on a tour of the US and they performed in the White House last week.

I believe they will sing in both English and Swahili???? CHECK

INTRODUCTION OF KUL GAUTAM, Deputy Executive Director

- Pleased to introduce our Deputy Executive Director, Kul Gautam, who is one of the finest and most respected of our senior colleagues.

INTRODUCE - Mr. PETER FONTANA, Manager of Customer Relations, US Postal Services

For the first time ever, the James P . Grant Plaza, here at UNICEF House, is temporarily an official U.S. Post Office and will commemorate the Audrey Hepburn Legends of Hollywood Stamp with a special envelope and pictorial cancellation. Pleased to hand you over to Mr. Peter Fontana, Manager of Customer Relations,USPS.

INTRODUCTION OF ISABELLA ROSSELINI, Special Representative of the US Fund for UNICEF

Actress Isabella Rosselini has supported UNICEF for over 10 years. Throughout that time she has worked with UNICEF by raising awareness of the many pressing issues concerning children through her media interviews, personal connections and participation in high profile campaigns and events. She most recently attended the Audrey Hepburn: Beauty of Compassion event at Sothebys, which benefitted UNICEF education programmes in the developing world.

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