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Page 1
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Radio | UNITED NATIONS
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S C O P E

No. 864

CONTENTS:	UNICEF SALUTES DANNY KAYE	8'15"
	THE PEOPLE AND WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS -- PART II	5'00"

Written/Produced/Narrated by: Geraldine Harris
Supervised by: Sylvester Rowe
Chief of Radio: Erik N. Valters

Duration: 13'15" minutes
May 1983

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S C O P E

No. 864

MUSIC: HOLD - FADE UNDER

ANNOUNCER: United Nations Radio presents SCOPE -- a programme which explores the world-wide work of the United Nations and its related agencies.

NARRATOR: In this programme: UNICEF salutes Danny Kaye; and Part II in our mini-series on the people and the work of the United Nations.

Goodwill Ambassador Extraordinaire is what he's been called. Danny Kaye, internationally-known entertainer and the original Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, was honoured this year for 30 years of dedicated service to the world's children through the promotion of the ideals of UNICEF. The long-standing relationship between Danny Kaye and UNICEF began when Mr. Kaye met Maurice Pate, UNICEF's first Executive Director, on an airplane in 1953. Elfi Lunkenheimer-Maclay, former Information Officer with UNICEF, explains:

LUNKENHEIMER-MACLAY: It just happened by coincidence that he was sitting in a plane (UN Radio Interview July 1983.) with the founder and Executive Director of UNICEF, Maurice Pate, in 1953, when one engine fell out and the two men were talking to each other and Danny Kaye said, "If we can get down safely from here, I will help you make UNICEF famous" -- UNICEF wasn't known at that time at all -- so Danny Kaye, who was then at the very height of his Hollywood career, went on long field trips to convince or educate himself of the needs of children in the poorest countries and he put all of this on film and two films, "Assignment Children" and "The Pied Piper" were made in the course of the next five years.

NARRATOR: In addition to making films, Danny Kaye has travelled extensively, entertaining children and raising funds for UNICEF. After several decades of slow but significant improvement in their well-being, children of the world are now facing increasing hard times as a result of the world's economic situation. Some 40,000 children die **each** day, for example, and that rate is likely to increase over the next decade. At a recent meeting of UNICEF's Executive Board, Danny Kaye was honoured for the invaluable role he has played in making the world aware of the vulnerability and plight of needy children. Representing the National Committees for UNICEF at that meeting was Mr. Arne Stinus:

STINUS: It was a landmark in the history of UNICEF when Maurice Pate (579th Meeting UNICEF Executive Board 9 May 1983.) and Danny Kaye casually met each other on board that plane from London to New York 30 years ago. Danny Kaye really became a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador but first and foremost, he became the Ambassador of the children of the world in a way that only Danny Kaye could and still can do it. Children die quietly because they have no political force and no voice to present before the world, said Danny Kaye. UNICEF becomes their voice. Yes, and Danny Kaye became their voice. Let me tell you how popular, how loved Danny Kaye has been where he has been to assist the National Committees for UNICEF, to promote UNICEF and to raise funds for UNICEF, whether meeting children in the well-to-do countries, performing, conducting symphony orchestras to the benefit of children in developing countries.

Members of the Royal Danish Symphony Orchestra were skeptical when it was arranged that they should perform with Danny Kaye.

STINUS:
(Cont'd.)

But their skepticism turned to respect and admiration when they met Danny Kaye and when he conducted them. Danny Kaye has also travelled in developing countries, meeting the less fortunate children of the world and making them laugh. Children in the developing countries, children in the rich countries of the world remember Danny Kaye, the man who made them laugh, their Ambassador. He might even in them have placed the germ to a new attitude towards their fellow human beings, which is the beginning of a new world. To see such children actually flower before your eyes is one of the most rewarding things I have ever seen or felt in my life, he says. That is what UNICEF is about in a nutshell.

NARRATOR: The ceremony honouring Danny Kaye included the viewing of a film he has made on behalf of the world's children and the presentation of a special award by UNICEF's Executive Director, Mr. James Grant. Mr. Kaye was able to participate in the ceremony via telephone:

GRANT/KAYE:

GRANT: Danny? We're all waiting to hear a few remarks from you at this assembly but before I turn it over to you, I must say personally how much we all value what you have done and we have here a very handsome 18 inch brass award and it's a mother in a rather modernistic form with a baby that it's holding. The mother has a striking face, its profile is very much like yours, and I think it's one which will be one that you will value and put in a prominent place in your home. We've been talking about the miseries and the fact that several million more children were likely to die in the 1980's than we had thought just three years ago and how do we turn this one around. But this movie of you, of seeing you, your capacity to bring joy to people, to take a child and make him smile, to make the most of what we have, is something that is so much a part of UNICEF. Each person in this hall has a little bit of Danny Kaye in them and when we saw that movie and reacted to it, we could feel you in ourselves. And with that, we thank you very deeply from the bottom of our hearts. We would love to hear from you.

KAYE: Let me explain something to you and to all the people present in the hall. It can be done. However discouraging it may look at any particular time or any given year, or through any particular disaster, it can be done when people of goodwill ~~stand together~~ and strive for the best. It can be done. Now with this incredible programme that is happening now, with the oral rehydration programme, there will be many many thousands of kids whose lives will be spared, many thousands of young people that all of you have worked to save their lives, you will all now be rewarded and I say it is one of the most remarkable jobs I have ever seen of any organization anywhere in the world who have lasted this long and to have accomplished that much and in the relatively short years that it has been in existence is a tribute to mankind and to the superior will of man and the fact that climbing mountains is not impossible.

NARRATOR: Danny Kaye, Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund.

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NARRATOR: And now we turn to the second in our series on the work and the people of the United Nations Secretariat. In this edition, we take a look at United Nations employees. They can be found servicing United Nations meetings, writing reports, keeping the world's statistics, fighting disease or monitoring space activities. Approximately 45,000 people in some 600 duty stations around the world work for the organizations of the United Nations system. Of that number, about 16,000 belong to the United Nations Secretariat in New York. UN employees are recruited from all parts of the world, as Randy Cline-Thomas of the Department of Public Information explains:

CLINE-THOMAS:
(UN Radio
recording.)

To achieve high levels of competence, along with a fair geographic balance, the United Nations recruits globally. For each country belonging to the United Nations, a so-called "desirable range" of posts, or positions, is calculated. A country's desirable range is based on its population, its membership in the United Nations and its contribution to the regular budget. When the number of nationals of a country who are employed in the Secretariat is within that range, the country is considered to be appropriately represented.

About 19 per cent of United Nations Secretariat posts fall under the quota system, that is they're subject to geographical distribution. These posts are professional in nature -- they're occupied by economists, administrators, social experts, information officers -- and they are considered to be the core of the Secretariat. In selecting people to fill these posts, the United Nations pays special attention to those countries which are insufficiently represented among the staff. The principal determinant, however, is competence. If two candidates of roughly the same competence are being considered for the same position, the United Nations will usually choose the one from the under-represented nationality, the object, of course, being to reflect, as fully as possible, the international character of the organization.

Positions within the Secretariat that are not subject to geographical distribution are those of secretaries, clerks, security officers, manual workers and others who in most cases are hired locally in the countries where the United Nations offices are located.

NARRATOR: What do United Nations staff members do?

CLINE-THOMAS:
(Ibid.)

UN personnel perform a variety of tasks which fall into several categories. In the professional category are the economists, doctors, lawyers, administrators and also the translators, interpreters and other linguists who make it possible for people who speak different languages to communicate with each other. A general service category of staff performs the clerical, secretarial and related functions essential to the work of any organization. Such staff make up about 60 per cent of all United Nations personnel.

CLINE-THOMAS:
(Cont'd.)

Then there's a group of staff called field service, who handle communications and specialized maintenance tasks for United Nations peace-keeping missions. They are always ready to serve with any peace-keeping operation that may be set up on short notice. And finally, there are military observers who watch over armed forces movements where countries have consented to a peace-keeping operation. They are not staff members, but they do perform duties assigned to them by the United Nations. These people are paid by their own governments but given a daily allowance by the United Nations.

NARRATOR: Are any special legal privileges granted to the international civil servants who work for the United Nations?

CLINE-THOMAS:
(Ibid.)

Well legally, the staff of the Organization enjoy the privileges and immunities which are necessary for them to independently carry out their functions. A Convention on the privileges and immunities of the United Nations was adopted in 1946, and it has been accepted by most UN Member States.

Under the Convention, the United Nations staff normally have what's known as functional immunity -- that is, they're protected from legal action in any country with respect to the work they do on behalf of the United Nations. They also have the right of access to offices of the United Nations and the right to live in the countries where these offices are located. Otherwise, for the most part, staff members have no other privileges and they are subject to all the laws of the country in which they live, although in some countries, normal diplomatic privileges such as tax-free importation of goods, are allowed as a courtesy. The Secretary-General and high level staff members enjoy the same privileges and immunities as diplomatic envoys.

NARRATOR: Randy Cline-Thomas of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations.

ANNOUNCER: You have just listened to SCOPE -- a United Nations programme written and produced by the international staff of United Nations Radio in New York.