

# UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Archive: Sir Peter Ustinov

Video B-Roll (November 2003)  
Total Running Time: One hour, 29 minutes and 54 seconds

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## INTRODUCTION

To mark the 50th anniversary of UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors in 2004, UNICEF's Broadcast Unit has researched its film and video archives for original footage of Goodwill Ambassadors visiting UNICEF programmes all over the world. The highlights of this footage have been edited into video B-rolls which are intended to be used by broadcasters to make TV programmes highlighting UNICEF's work. For more information please e mail [broadcast@unicef.org](mailto:broadcast@unicef.org)

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UNICEF appointed **Sir Peter Ustinov** to Goodwill Ambassador in 1969. Sir Peter Ustinov is celebrated worldwide for his accomplishments as actor and producer, novelist, playwright and raconteur. His role as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador has been equally distinguished.

Sir Peter has been a major supporter of UNICEF for more than 30 years. During his filming or other assignments in developing countries he tries to learn first-hand about UNICEF concerns and activities. Sir Peter has represented UNICEF in numerous international television specials over the years and his inimitable style has contributed to several award-winning radio and television commercials. Premieres of several of his films have benefited UNICEF National Committees. Throughout his long career as a Goodwill Ambassador, he has actively supported National Committees by participating in advocacy and fund-raising events and through media interviews.

He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in recognition of his artistic and humanitarian achievements in June 1990.

## 1. Sir Peter Ustinov at the UNICEF Gala (1969)

Sir Peter Ustinov's first event for UNICEF was to host a gala at Paris's Odéon Theatre. He later told the story about how a Polish National Ballet dancer chopped his microphone cord, leaving him to shout at the audience the rest of the evening. The Gala was an evening of music and dancing.

TIMECODE	SHOTLIST
01 00 13	Opening credits
01 01 21	<p>Peter welcomes guests and begins the evening (in French, translated here to English):            “Your Royal Highness, Your Excellence, Ladies and Gentlemen, friends, amici, amigos, adults who once were children, we are here... I have the honour tonight to be the Master of Ceremony for an extraordinary number of great names gathered here, for children. Names which no commercial enterprise could possibly gather, in one single soiree’, in a theatre. It is wonderful that these great talents have come here... It is marvellous but it is not at all surprising because they know very well that even if we live in a world divided by ideologies, the ideal of Man is always the same. And we also know that even if our great Heads of State, men of politics, religious and military leaders, even criminals, are all different, at the age of four weeks they gave their mothers the same problems... this is why we can say that childhood is the very symbol of our equality and our hope. To invest in children is to invest in our own future.”</p> <p>“Before we move on to the intimate medium that is television – where we appear in so many different rooms everywhere because we are picked up by 22 different broadcast stations –before we do this, we need to explain 2 or 3 things. This for example is not because I have lost a dog and it is not because my suit is falling apart. It is a new technique that I am not familiar with and which I am afraid of because I have a friend who sang “Carmen” in Los Angeles at the Hollywood Bowl with this and it broke down and in the middle of the great death scene at the end the radio reports between the Los Angeles Police cars began to transmit to the venue.”</p>

	<p>“To be surrounded by musicians and to be close to them during rehearsals is very exciting for me because I began my life long before UNICEF, long before quality education, and I remember very well some questions at school when I was small. One of these questions was, ‘Who is the greatest composer that has ever lived?’ I put down Mozart and it was not the right answer. The correct answer was Beethoven. I was not happy and I mumbled that I thought that Bach was worthy of second position and they made me write 100 times ‘Beethoven is the greatest composer ever to live’ 100 times.”</p> <p>“Things have changed a lot since that time. Another time I was asked to name a Russian composer. The exact answer was Tchaikowski but I wrote Rimski Korsakov and I lost a point. I wanted to show some goodwill and I studied the flute. I was not very talented and if it is not played well as an instrument, I do not like it. And as nature has gifted me with a prominent upper lip, at the end I succeeded to sometimes hit the right note but never the right octave. Because it is all regulated by - (<i>whistles</i>) - and in the end, cheating a little, I discovered that I could make the sound of the flute better without the flute. So I kept a little distance from my mouth (<i>pretend flute</i>) like this. But not everyone was as talented as I am at playing the flute without the flute and some people like Jean Pierre Rampal must use an instrument. And here he is, at the pulpit of the orchestra Montecarlo, le Rondeau K313 Mozart.”</p>
01 06 14	Musician plays flute

## 2. Sir Peter Ustinov visits Kenya (April 1977)

### THIS FOOTAGE HAS NO AUDIO.

In April of 1977, Sir Peter Ustinov filmed in Kenya and used his time there to visit with children for UNICEF. He also learned about the irrigation system and rode an energy bicycle that powered the water flow.

TIMECODE	SHOTLIST
01 01 06	Kids and teacher, Sir Peter Ustinov in front of school
01 07 11	Exercises
01 07 34	Playing tin-can telephone
01 08 54	Kids dancing, Sir Peter Ustinov does steps
01 09 47	Sir Peter at pump
01 10 02	Sir Peter rides bike to trigger irrigation system

## 3. Reflections: Sir Peter Ustinov Visits Children’s Clubs in Aswan, Egypt (November 1977)

In 1977, Sir Peter visited Aswan, Egypt and compiled a short film which he narrated. This is the film in its entirety. It covers his trips to children’s clubs in the Aswan region of Egypt.. He watched numerous celebrations with dance and music. He ate with the children and watched them play soccer. He attended numerous performances. He joined the children in drawing and writing excercises. He played ping pong with the youth.

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>SHOTLIST</b>
01 11 06	Landscape, villagers with can on heads
01 11 36	Children singing and dancing
01 12 45	More children sing, dance, play music
01 13 10	Sir Peter at table with children
01 13 58	Landscape, boys playing soccer
01 14 20	Kids rushing to get into building
01 15 00	Large group of children, ceremony
01 15 31	Sir Peter sits among children and looks on at performance
01 16 15	Girl gives present, Sir Peter signs book
01 16 40	Drawings, kids at table writing
01 17 13	Sir Peter shakes hands
01 17 20	Sir Peter draws picture
01 18 20	Sir Peter in playground, boys play basketball
01 18 42	Sir Peter plays ping pong
01 18 50	Children dancing

#### **4. Interview with Sir Peter Ustinov (March 27, 1978)**

Sir Peter was interviewed at the United Nations.

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>SHOTLIST</b>
01 19 51	"I think that life is incomplete if you reach a certain point and don't realize that if you have the possibility of talking and being listened to, that it is an enormous privilege. But with that privilege comes the thought of increased responsibility. If you're going to be listened to then what you say has got to be thought out and has to be well considered."
01 20 15	"It seems to me that the governments of the world are frightfully inadequate in their duties towards children. I think they deal with other things much more positively, such as armament. I'm not going to talk about the result; I'm talking about the way they do it. I think the trouble with armaments is that they kill without ever firing a shot, because they're so expensive. A great deal of the famine in the world could be eradicated if these sums were not spent. Whether or not these missiles are fired ever doesn't make any difference. They're already killing."
01 20 56	"And I think that it's a responsibility of anybody that sees what goes on to say what goes on. I feel very much at home also with my mixed blood in an organization which is international. It's very important that if you're in the position in your life to gain quite a lot of money in what you're doing, then to do other things just for nothing at all, just because you love it. After all, you don't exact a fee when you love your children. You do that because it's part of you. And what is this but a regard for a larger family than your own. It's as simple as that."

#### **5. Sir Peter Ustinov Spots (1979) 1:20**

Sir Peter filmed numerous public service announcements in his career with UNICEF. These two are some of the more memorable ones.

The first showed Sir Peter sitting behind a desk, talking about the world's uneven spending on armaments versus children. His voice carries over images of children in need. In English.

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>SHOTLIST</b>
01 21 41	"Did you know that every two hours the nations of this world spent the same amount on armaments as they spend on the children of this world every year? And did you know that the worldwide food shortage that threatens up to five hundred million children could be alleviated at the cost of only one day, only ONE day, of modern warfare. Now if you're as disturbed by these facts as I am, will you join the United Nations Children's Fund in an effort to change these priorities? Please write to UNICEF Builds peace, United Nations, New York, 10017 for information."

The second had Sir Peter as a football coach who is talking a game plan. In English.

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>SHOTLIST</b>
01 22 39	"Look here fellows, it's first and 10 and the ball is in their court. Now, I ask you, how can I help those little UNICEF kids until we can sit down and make a game plan. I tell you, first we talk fundamentals, then maybe we talk money."

## **6. Thoughts about Children (1981) 2:37**

In 1981, Sir Peter made a film that compiled footage from his various trips for UNICEF since being appointed a Goodwill Ambassador. The images are set to his narration of his experiences. Excerpts from the film are included here. They cover Thailand and Kenya.

(Some of the shots from Kenya are the same as in the earlier Kenya section but with sound and colour.)

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>SHOTLIST</b>
01 23 16	Sir Peter watching as children play duck, duck goose
01 23 38	Sir Peter barks at children
01 24 17	Sir Peter with the "angel of the slums"
01 24 38	Sir Peter in school
01 24 47	Kids dance, Sir Peter does steps (same shots as in B&W Kenya footage - #2)
01 24 55	Nursery Centre, kids doing math
01 25 19	Children sing German folk song
01 25 34	Sir Peter playing with tin can phone (same shots as in B&W Kenya footage - #2)

## **7. Sir Peter Ustinov and Maggie Smith Spots (April 1981)**

Actress Maggie Smith joined Sir Peter in Canada to create these spots.

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>SHOTLIST</b>
01 26 00	The Office. Ending with: "Million of children all over the world lack clean drinking water and proper medical care. UNICEF could supply this by 1990 with your help. So please give generously. Excuses won't fill empty stomachs."

01 27 01	Ranger Ricky. Ending with: “Million of children all over the world lack clean drinking water and proper medical care. UNICEF could supply this by 1990 with your help. So please give generously. Excuses won’t fill empty stomachs.”
01 28 02	Cooking Show. Ending with: “Million of children all over the world lack tools and the know how to feed themselves. UNICEF could eliminate malnutrition by the year 2000 with your help. So please give generously. Excuses won’t fill empty stomachs.”

## 8. Sir Peter Ustinov’s Mission to China (September 12 – 24, 1986)

In 1986, Sir Peter went on a mission to China that was filmed for television. The result was an hour long documentary travelogue about China. Directed by John McGreevy, it was narrated by Sir Peter. China had just begun to allow western filming within its borders. Excerpts from the film are included here.

Sir Peter arrived in Beijing on September 13. After numerous stops and activities, including practicing tai chi, Sir Peter left for Lanzhou (Gansu Province) on September 16. He visited the Lanzhou Vaccine and Serum Institute. There he immunized children against polio. On September 12, he travelled to Xi’an (Shaanxi Province). He did some general sightseeing and spent a lot of time playing with children.

TIMECODE	SHOTLIST
01 29 09	China street scenes
01 29 36	Sir Peter does tai chi
01 29 48	More landscape
01 29 57	Sir Peter walks into clinic
01 30 15	CU children
01 30 29	Sir Peter vaccinates against polio
01 31 03	Children in a circle (Chinese version of duck, duck goose), Sir Peter plays too
01 32 00	Sir Peter walks through streets
01 32 21	Boy talks to Sir Peter
01 32 52	Sir Peter plays with kids
01 33 00	Sir Peter narrates last excerpt: “There’s so much to remember. So many knots in so many handkerchiefs. A few hints of a mammoth pageant of China’s history. But perhaps most impressive of all – China’s future...the children. The consequences of their glorious past. Good humour, generous, hospitable, and good at games. They welcome you with pleasure, say goodbye with just the right hint of regret and make you wish to return before you’ve left.”

## 9. Sir Peter Ustinov introduces The UNICEF Hour (April 1987)

During the 1980’s, UNICEF had an hour long program called “The UNICEF Hour,” broadcast on the Discovery Channel. Hosted by celebrities, the show featured UNICEF produced films and videos. This episode, hosted by Sir Peter, featured his Mission to China.

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>SHOTLIST</b>
01 34 13	“Hello, I’m Sir Peter Ustinov. Welcome to the Discovery Channel’s presentation of the UNICEF Hour, a unique series of programs about the work of the United Nation Children’s Fund. Since it’s creation in 1946, UNICEF has been reaching out to families a round the world, helping them to help themselves. Narrowing the gap between starvation and survival, illiteracy and literacy, disease and health. I’m please to be here on the Discovery Channel to bring you this special hour.”
01 34 51	“As a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF, I’ve had the pleasure of travelling to many countries around the world. In the name of UNICEF, I’ve been welcomed by African, Asian, and Latin American people. Recently I visited China, a simply fascinating country, which after years of remaining largely isolated from western influence, is now welcoming visitors once again. During the 18 day trip, we travelled all over. In some of the more remote regions, we were the first western faces these people had ever seen. And today China is undergoing dramatic changes. Most recently the Chinese government and UNICEF jointly working towards improving the lives of Chinese children, which is a monumental task considering there are more than 350 million children in China under the age of fourteen.”
01 35 41	“UNICEF is concentrating its effort in trying to reach the 70 million people who make up the minority population in China, many who live in areas where little health care is available.”
01 36 03	“China and UNICEF initially worked together almost forty years ago, when China was one of the first countries to receive health care assistance from the newly founded UNICEF. And in 1981, UNICEF once again started working with the Chinese government and opened an office in the capital in Beijing. UNICEF was the first international organization welcomed back into UNICEF. My trip to China was unlike any other mission I’ve ever taken for UNICEF. I’m thrilled to be able to share this experience with you.”

**10. Sir Peter Ustinov at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand  
(October 7, 1987)**

During his trip to Thailand, Sir Peter gave a speech to the Foreign Correspondents Club. He entertained the audience with stories of UNICEF and his work around the world.

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>SHOTLIST</b>
01 36 50	Woman introduces Sir Peter: “Welcome to the FCCT. Welcome here tonight Mr. Sir Peter Ustinov, here in his capacity as Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund. Danny Kaye was UNICEF’s first Goodwill Ambassador and Sir Peter Ustinov was second and he’s now part of this illustrious group of people. Some of you may have gotten hold of his autobiographical note available out front, which lists many of his achievements as an actor, producer, author, playwright, and designer. As to personal background, I’m told that he is half Russian, half German, one quarter French and one quarter Italian, which makes him a perfect representative for the United Nations.”

01 37 59	<p>Sir Peter speaks:          “I was first enticed into this work at this huge concert at the Odeon in Paris, which is a vast theatre. And where they have a concert on behalf of UNICEF, of which I hadn’t really heard. They had five or six different orchestras, ballet companies and I began to wonder what sort of organization it was that provoked such good will that provoked such good will from everywhere. And after that of course UNICEF became a habit simply because I’m lucky enough to have four children, who are more or less agreeable to look at, more or less interesting to talk to, and I think the time to repay your debt for that kind of pleasure is while everything is going well.”</p>
01 38 58	<p>“I’ve always thought because of my mixed blood (and you heard how many halves and quarters I have in me. And they missed Ethiopian also, which is only just out of sight.) It always seemed to me that devotion to the United Nations, despite all the continual attacks on it, was quite logical to me, since there’s no national anthem that sets my foot tapping. There are several which are so silly that I sit down during them. That I feel my devotion is really towards such an organization. But it’s under continual attack, sometimes in the middle west of America, which a part of the world that I like very much because it’s very unspoiled and the people are very nice. They still have got to hear a little bit about the outside world. And I feel that they sometimes think that UNICEF is a Bulgarian. That UNESCO is a Romanian. And that they’re up to no good. Well, I’ve tried to disabuse them and of course, attracted their suspicions myself, Because my name is not particularly reassuring.”</p>
01 40 29	<p>“It seems to me extraordinary that it is true about 7 or 8 years ago, and it’s obviously truer now and the figure is more depressing than it was then. That in those days, the governments gave UNICEF, or rather gave the children of the world through UNICEF, the same annual amount of money that they spend on armaments every hour and a quarter. It seems to me very immoral and bad business to spend so much on the armaments and so little on the fodder.”</p>
01 41 18	<p>“We’ve just been to China where the Chinese showed us some of the poorer parts of China and where UNICEF is really, according to them, an absolutely vital part in their management, especially of children in very far regions. It’s interesting in that respect, that UNICEF’s character has changed. It was started to deal with European children at the end of the war, when there were displaced people all over the place. The first non-European country to be tackled was China, in which as usual, UNICEF was on both sides. It’s always on both sides, it’s never on neither. Very often they were sending supplies to both Chiang Kai Shek and the communists, very often in the form of contraband across each other’s lines. So China has always kept a warm spot in its hearts for the help of UNICEF in its beginnings. And the attitude of the Chinese is perhaps very typical. They say, ‘if you can’t help us, [because they realize how little money you have for that purpose] we will do it ourselves. It will take much longer and there will be more casualties among children, but we will get there in the end. If you can help us, so much the better. We will always be grateful.”</p>
01 42 47	<p>“I think we are at a kind of crossroads where UNICEF has done its bit under a very energetic leadership of Mr. Grant. In which very often very interesting solutions have been found that cost very little money. For instance the little packet against diarrhoea which is the main killer of children – the little packet costs the equivalent of 11 cents, which is really very cheap medicine. All through, even the inoculations, are kept down to a minimum. They’re not expensive, there is no waste. We have work more and more, and it’s an obvious development, in conjunction with the UN High Commission for Refugees. Which has become, and it’s an indication of the times we live in, the largest of all UN operations. And we work with them for the very simple and sad reason that over 50 percent of all refugees are children.”</p>

01 43 53	“I don’t know what the future will hold. I think that UNICEF does an extraordinarily good job on a shoestring. My position on why Liv Ullmann or now Harry Belafonte have any merit at all, it’s the fact that we’re not paid, which doesn’t make us responsible to the authority. Therefore very often we are able, after our experiences in the field, to bring to the attention of people the attitude of those in the field who cannot speak as freely as they’d like to because they’re employed. It’s a slightly subversive attitude, which I welcome. Because without subversion, this planet would never move forward at all. Subversion in the good sense.”
01 44 59	“But I’d like you to take away the idea that UNICEF is a friendly organization that is battling under enormous difficulty to do a job which is its responsibility but is also a great deal the responsibility of governments, in my mind. I think it’s a disgrace that one has to go out digging for funds for children. It’s a disgrace.”

### 11. Sir Peter Ustinov in Thailand (October 5 – 10, 1987)

Sir Peter travelled to Thailand in October, 1987. He spent most of this time in the Maharakarm Province and Muang District, visiting UNICEF-assisted projects. At a school, he watched children dance and gave gifts to the students. The women gave him a traditional outfit, which they fitted around him. He vaccinated children and planted a tree. Then, he visited another children’s centre where he watched children sing songs and gave an interview with the press.

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>SHOTLIST</b>
01 45 35	Travelling on roads
01 45 47	Arriving at school
01 45 59	Kids dancing in grass skirts
01 46 41	Sir Peter gives gifts to kids
01 47 56	Woman ties band around Sir Peter’s waist
01 48 03	Sir Peter dances “Thai” dance with hands Cutaways of audience, CU kids
01 48 40	Sir Peter thanks people: “Thank you very much for making me so welcome and making me the recipient of the artistic greatness of your nation. I’ve enjoyed myself greatly and it’s a wonderful way to spend a rainy day. Thank you again for your hospitality, your kindness and the sea of smiling faces, which are of your own initiative but must governor must be responsible for a little of it.”
01 49 17	Sir Peter vaccinates
01 50 47	Sir Peter plants tree
01 51 27	Sir Peter enters school
01 51 51	Kids sing songs with Sir Peter in doorway with children
01 52 58	Sir Peter on all fours, barking
01 53 38	Interview with press: <i>What difference do you see since the last time?</i> “The first time, they weren’t as technically involved. Children were lining up and the village was inspired by the Chinese example...barefoot doctors... They didn’t quite know what they were up to yet. They were still fumbling with their aid packages. Now I feel that everything is MUCH more relaxed.

## 12. Sir Peter Ustinov visits Russia (July 7– 23, 1993) 8:16

In 1993, Sir Peter went on another mission to that was filmed for television; this time to Russia. The result was an hour long piece on Russia and the problems its children face.. Directed by John McGreevy, it was narrated by Sir Peter. Excerpts from the film are included here.

He arrived in Moscow and visited Children's House No. 25, a home for children with physical and mental disabilities. The children were abandoned and this was a shelter for them. Next, he visited a prenatal care unit for babies with fetal alcohol syndrome. He toured the play area and witnessed children who were not developing at the same rate as the average child. But he also saw quality nurses who helped train them. He also visited another home for abandoned children – those whose lives were affected deeply by parents with alcohol problems.

In St. Sir Petersburg, he arrived at the Children's Hospital No. 15, which specialized in gastric problems. He interacted with the children. Summer camps for children are a very important part of children's development, and Sir Peter visited one such camp.

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>NARRATION</b>
01 54 23	The United Nations Children's organization charged us with the mission to find out the needs of Russian children in these changing times.
01 54 46	A great deal of the help needed is given by individuals who sacrifice time and energy for the common good.
01 54 57	Children's House No. 25 which cares for children with physical and mental handicaps is no exception to this rule.
01 55 14	Well this is rather moving for these are children who perhaps have never known their parents or are from families which are so large that they can't care for them so they bring them here, instead of leaving them on the steps of the convent, which is what I suppose they used to do.
01 55 24	Children from the local school, which is near here, come and help play with them during the hours of recreation.
01 55 43	When I said that Russia was a nation of foster mothers and volunteers, this is never more evident than in these sort of places where despite extraordinary difficulties, they find helpers from absolutely nowhere.
01 56 13	Over there there's a whole cooking range...here's the actual banquet.
01 56 56	We know that the training for Olympic teams begins at extreme youth. Here is one being massaged into shape and practicing her sprint to the finish.
01 57 19	They do what they can for them here. It's not a highly specialized unit because they treat them when they are very small. When they are three, they go to a more specialized unit. Try to prove to them that the prognosis for most of the children you see here is pretty... That's congenital, alcoholic, pre-natal.
01 57 50	The children are nearly all the victims of what is a curse in this country, which is drunkenness. They nearly all have hard stories to tell and have been through depression. Alex here is looking at me in a depressed way but his automatic reflex is to smile at everybody. Very often some really horrifying stories. One of the boys falling on a broken bottle. Alcohol doing its work not only through the liquid but also through the container. Very pretty little girl here with a very amusing face being told by her father that he would kill her if she ever went back home. All sorts of really...stuff that happens all over the world but here in a very concentrated form. What is interesting here is the good intentions of everybody and the quality of people who are voluntary here in order to help. If you catch their eye occasionally, you see beyond their present complexes and difficulties and you know they're all recuperable; taking off the street or from a bad home and television has been used for an example....

02 00 00	This is a hospital devoted to gastric problems in children. It is, like most of the hospitals in St. Sir Petersburg, ancient. It's linked to the Pasteur institute and it looks like a place where Pasteur might have learned. It was built in 1888 and during the whole communist period there was only one new hospital built and that was by voluntary contributions. The conditions they have to work under are really melancholy. There are oral rehydration problems which are very much on UNICEF's mind because of Africa and hot countries where many children die of diarrhoea. Luckily in this sort of climate there are no deaths at all. Just gastric problems due probably to impurities in the water and the food. This is a place where they stay perhaps an average of 27 hours before they're released again. Some longer if it's an infectious or a dangerous form of it. But it's still a transitory place where if they have ulcers too they go elsewhere. This is really for light cases. It looks pleasant enough in this weather but I can imagine when it's rainy and foggy it's about as depressing as it could be.
02 01 43	Here you see the choreographic gift of this nation... This is like an oasis of purity and they have what they call an ecological laboratory, which is full of plants which are carefully tended and the relationship of man and nature is emphasized in the process. One also begins to find out at this stage why the emphasis on summer is so great. They have many disadvantages in this country but they have a lot of countryside and nearly everyone can get out and breathe fresh air in some nook or cranny in the countryside.

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>SHOTLIST</b>
01 54 12	Opening montage with titles
01 54 45	Sir Peter enters courtyard where children are playing
01 55 08	Sir Peter talks to camera
01 56 09	Sir Peter in nursery school
01 57 10	Other babies and children
01 57 42	Sir Peter walks up to house
01 57 51	Children that are victims of alcohol and depression
01 59 06	Sir Peter fools around with kids outside
02 00 00	Hospital No. 15 – Sir Peter narrates to camera
02 00 37	Children with gastric problems
02 01 30	Summer camp – children
02 01 46	Sir Peter sits with group of children
02 02 01	Ecological laboratory

### 13. Interview with Sir Peter Ustinov (January 30, 1995) 6:17

Sir Peter was interviewed again at the UN. He talked about the 1969 Gala, the state of children, and James Grant, former Executive Director of UNICEF.

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>SHOTLIST</b>
01 02 35	"I think also the first thing I did for UNICEF for sort of symbolic of what was to follow. I was asked by Leon D. , who was a great civil servant and much more than that, to host a great UNICEF Gala in Paris at the Teatro Odéon, which is a huge theatre. And the first number on the program was the Polish Mountaineers Dance, which was done by the Polish National Ballet, gentleman with top hats and feathers in them, boots and axes. And after the first few bars of this music, one of the dancers cut through my microphone cable with his axe. I had to shout the rest of the evening to this enormous opera house practically."

	“And I ended the evening a happier and hoarser man. It was kind of symbolic of UNICEF because you have to improvise all the time against difficulties that are unforeseeable. Nobody goes on stage literally thinking they are going to be cut short by a man with an axe. But you have to go despite that. I think that put me in mind of a whole attitude towards UNICEF, which is always a very very difficult job but very very inspiring.”
02 04 04	“For instance, the fact that you frequently meet children nowadays, now that the emphasis has switched from rural and rustic concerns to urban ones, when you see young children, boys of 9 chain smoking and their voices are beginning to break under the influence, premature influence of these cigarettes. They are the fathers of 2 or 3 younger children because the father of them all has been killed or disappeared and so has their mother. Then you are appalled, consistently appalled at the fact that a child or several childhoods have been robbed. But amazed at the resiliency of the human spirit that can make a boy of nine into an adult over night.”
02 04 54	“A rather cynical German journalist said, quoting some ancient German proverb, ‘Don’t you think all you’re doing is like a raindrop on a hot stone?’ ‘No, it’s like a raindrop in the ocean, it doesn’t get lost.’”
02 05 12	“And UNICEF had a kind of reticent image. And then suddenly a tornado hit UNICEF, James Grant, who set himself very high standards and expected others to follow him along that road. And of course it Revolutionized everything; it brought the whole thing into focus. It had much more to do with children than it had before, directly. Before it was about adults helping children. Grant was childish enough in a sense that he had a very astonished face. He was always ready to be surprised and always ready to be excited if something fired him up from the inside. He was a really very vital personality. I said that I don’t think he would have been very pleased if anybody ever said he was indispensable. But at least he was an example who could actually be unique, and a shining example and anybody who follows him now will have difficulty keeping up. And one mustn’t be surprised if the personality of that person is slightly different. Because other people succeed in different ways and they have to be themselves. Children of the world were extremely lucky that Grant had that kind of personality, that kind of simplicity. It’s very rare in life that you get the right man in the right job at the right time. This is one that you could unequivocally say ‘This is it.’”

And I ended the evening a happier and hoarser man. It was kind of symbolic of UNICEF because you have to improvise all the time against difficulties that are unforeseeable. Nobody goes on stage literally thinking they are going to be cut short by a man with an axe. But you have to go despite that. I think that put me in mind of a whole attitude towards UNICEF, which is always a very very difficult job but very very inspiring.”

#### 14. Sir Peter Ustinov visits Cambodia (February 10 – 19, 1998) 7:24

In February, 1989, Sir Peter visited Cambodia. He travelled to many regions in Cambodia, including the Takeo Province, Samrong District. There he visited the Prasat Neang Khmao Cluster School. He watched a dance performance and played with the children. He was applauded by rows of children. Next, he visited the Ta Yeung and Prey Khla villages, where he visited a UNICEF-supported water pump. There he also danced with the children.

TIMECODE	SHOTLIST
02 09 00	Dance performance, Sir Peter looks on, applauds, more dancing
02 11 22	Sir Peter with dancers
02 11 38	Sir Peter leans down, makes funny animal noises

02 12 49	Sir Peter with flowers, walks through rows of clapping children
02 13 32	Sir Peter enters courtyard with water pump Cutaways of women pumping, Sir Peter CU, UNICEF engraving
02 14 42	Children dancing
02 15 11	Sir Peter does a dance

## 15. UNICEF Luncheon to Honour Sir Peter Ustinov (August 4, 1998) 12:15

On August 4, 1998, Sir Peter was honored at the United Nations by UNICEF and the United Nations for thirty years of service as a Goodwill Ambassador. A luncheon was held, attended by fellow ambassador Nana Mouskouri, UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, among others.

Kofi Annan gave a toast to Sir Peter and Carol Bellamy thanked him as well. After making his own speech, Sir Peter was given a gift by Carol.

TIMECODE	SHOTLIST
02 16 24	Mingling – Nana Mouskouri, Carol Bellamy, Mary Cahill, Sir Peter Ustinov, Kofi Annan
02 17 27	Kofi Annan makes a speech: “There are two problems about a toast to Sir Peter Ustinov. One is that in a few words, one cannot do justice to all the innumerable talents and achievements. The other is that Sir Peter is likely to reply. No matter how funny one may try to be, it is certain that he, without trying, will be far far funnier. And if one happens to be the Secretary General of the United Nations, there is a third problem with Sir Peter. In a recent BBC program called “The Candidate” Sir Peter applied for my job. I must tell you, his performance soon made it quite clear that his qualifications are simply unbeatable. He speaks French, German, English, Italian, Russian, Spanish and even some Turkish. Even the languages he does not actually speak, he can imitate them so well that he sounds like uncannily as if he’s speaking them. Actually, He would not only make a first rate secretary General, he would easily double as permanent representative of all of the member states. And indeed, in one of the more memorable television sketches he did just that. How fortunate we are, then, and how fortunate are the world’s children, that for thirty years, Sir Peter has been serving as UNICEF’s Goodwill Ambassador. He has been a strong supporter of the United Nations system and he’s been phenomenally successful throughout his life in using his art to forming bridges of friendship between people in different parts of the world. There can be no better friend for the United Nations and no finer example of what it stands for. Sir Peter let me thank you for all of your magnificent work. Thank you on behalf of the United Nations and particularly on behalf of the world’s children. “
02 20 23	Toast
02 20 38	Carol Bellamy speaks: “It was my first weekend that I was at UNICEF; I said it’s when I thought I knew what I was doing. Stefan had an event and I met Sir Peter. My head was just going in circles after an evening. I thought I knew a lot about you but I just began to get to know you better and know how many Sir Peters there are. There is the actor, the wonderful actor. There is the director. You’re an author and he’s a comedian. I had the opportunity during a celebration in Germany to attend a performance of Sir Peter doing his one man show in German. Unlike him, who speaks all these languages, I do not speak German. It was still the funniest show. It was hilarious. I understood every word. It was really quite extraordinary. But in addition to author, director, actor, what you really are is a humanitarian...”

02 22 03	<p>Sir Peter speaks:          “I’m really bereft of words because I’m so flattered by this thing. So many people I admire under one roof, and what a roof. I remember starting here in UNICEF; it was under the leadership of Mr. Labouisse then. It was a distinguished organization, slightly reticent, but it had already the right idea. Because I remember that Labouisse on one of his journeys got a jewelled something from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia something with jewels, whose use was not immediately apparent. And Henry Labouisse retorted by giving King Fad something made with plastic, which I think you could by working by hand, tell the different days as they passed, a kind of calendar. And King Fad also was aware enough to congratulate Labouisse on not spending UNICEF’s money on trivialities.”</p>
02 23 11	<p>So, it was already in the right direction. But it was when Jim Grant came along that it really became quite dynamic. Jim Grant was an extraordinary person. He even committed the great folly of taking me along to Washington to try and persuade the Senate committee that the contributions to UNICEF should not be diminished. I remember one senator who was extremely obstinate. He was one of the rare senators that are no longer with us. He licked a cigar, which I still smoked at the time, which was obviously Cuban. I asked him, “Is that Cuban?” “Why do you ask?” I said, “Because I thought it was not allowed in this country. “Oh, well...” And we won the day at that moment. I’m not suggesting that I did remarkable but we worked together as a team, trying to control our giggles all the time. Jim Grant was an extraordinary man. When he died, we thought he was irreplaceable. Now Carol comes along and proves in a remarkably short time that she is also irreplaceable. Quite different but wonderful because we understand each other automatically, even in German. And I must say on that occasion when I appeared in front of the German audience full of politicians. There was a German in the front row rocking with laughter and I thought to myself, “What party is he from?” I almost lost my concentration trying to figure out who he was. It was Mel Brooks.</p>
02 25 15	<p>UNICEF is full of surprises and you never know what you’re going to meet next. Some things are very tragic and very difficult to deal with but always tremendously interesting if you’re interested in people. When I made the application for your job on the BBC, if you heard it, you’d know that I did it only the condition that you didn’t leave. That was the stipulation. And I’m also very glad that you’re here at the lunch, not as I feared that you’d be in Baghdad again. You’ve taken a later plane. I take that as a tremendous compliment. I just want to say quite seriously, and if you laugh, I’m quite prepared for that always. Quite seriously, I consider you remarkable, because you’re one of the nascent examples, and a quite prominent one, of a purely African wisdom. Something, which, having talked to Mandela earlier this year and to Tutu and having known about Ghandi who of course came from South Africa too, I’m beginning to realize this continent has something quite serious to offer. That fact that you are a dove...One thing you prove is that being a dove is much more difficult than being a hawk. Being a dove you have to be far tougher than you do if you are a hawk. Being a hawk is relatively easy, it’s old-fashioned, I hope, and it’s on the way out. I mean that very very sincerely and I’m very proud to serve in a branch of your organization. I’ve got so many bloods in my veins, most of them represented here today. I really can’t serve anything with the same faithfulness as I do the UN. It’s a thing that all the world is aspiring for and which will, eventually be seen to be absolutely necessary. I just want to thank all of you who bothered to come here and congratulate myself on having come.</p>

In 2001, UNICEF launched the Global Movement for Children Say Yes campaign, urging the world to say “yes” to children’s rights. Sir Peter participated by making a PSA in English.

PSA Text:

“I’m Sir Peter Ustinov and I believe all children have the right to grow up in health, peace and dignity.”

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>SHOTLIST</b>
01 28 45	English PSA (:20)

For more information about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNICEF’s Goodwill Ambassadors, please see [http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_18045.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_18045.html)

*Note to broadcasters:* This video B-roll is provided by UNICEF free of charge but please **credit UNICEF on-screen**