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ExRef: Document Series/Year/Number

Record Item Title

UNICEF Press Release No. 70/73, Biographical Note for information media, not an official record Maurice Pate: Executive Director, UNICEF 1946-1965

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Notes

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PRESS RELEASE No. 70/37

30 April 1970

Biographical Note

Maurice Pate

Executive Director, UNICEF, 1946 - 1963

Maurice Pate was born on 14 October 1894 in Pender, Nebraska and died in New York on 19 January 1965.

He served for 18 years as Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) from the establishment of UNICEF in 1946.

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He graduated from Princeton University in 1915 and worked briefly in a small bank in Iowa. In 1916 he went overseas with Herbert Hoover's Commission of Relief in Belgium.

After US Army service in France and following the 1919 armistice, Mr. Pate rejoined Hoover with the American Relief Administration in Poland where he was in charge of feeding 1,300,000 children.

After the Russian-Polish war he added a new branch to the relief agency to feed tens of millions of starving Russians.

He engaged in private business in Poland (1932 to 1934) and then returned to the US to become an investment banker until 1939 when he resumed relief work as Director of a new commission for Polish relief.

From 1942 to 1946 he served as Director of Relief to American and Allied war prisoners, shipped over 170 million dollars worth of food and other supplies to POWs in Europe and the Far East.

After World War II, he was a member of a small Hoover group for the coordination of food resources against worldwide famine. He made a survey of special needs of undernourished children. He was appointed head of UNICEF at Hoover's suggestion in 1946.

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Personal Life

In 1927, he married a member of an old Polish family, Jadwiga Monkowska who worked for destitute children in Warsaw. She died in 1960.

In 1961, he married Martha B. Lucas, an educator and former college President. Former US President Herbert Hoover, presenting Pate at a gala dinner, referred to him as having aided more than one hundred million children. He also called him "the most efficient and dedicated human angel I have ever known."