

For immediate release  
August 2, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

---

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a Black-tie dinner in honor of His Excellency Dr. Urho Kekkonen, President of the Republic of Finland, Tuesday, August 3rd, at 8:00 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Guests will arrive through the East Wing and will be received by President and Mrs. Ford and President Kekkonen in the East Room on the State Floor.

American Indian pottery from the collection of the Department of the Interior will be featured in the centerpieces on the round tables. Dried and fresh flowers in shades of corals, apricots and golds will be used to accent the colors of the pottery pieces. Flowers include Sonya roses, Gerbera daisies, Meykii fern and statice and other dried grasses.

Tables will be covered with light beige tablecloths and set with the Johnson china, Morgantown crystal and Monroe vermeil flatware.

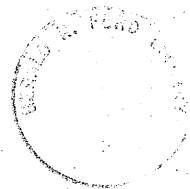
Bill Dove and Robert Shaeffer of Dove Flowers of Washington, D.C. have donated their time to coordinate the decorations. The pottery is on loan from the U.S. Interior Department.

Following dinner, George Shearing, pianist, will entertain in the East Room. The Marine Dance Combo will provide music for dancing in the State Dining Room after the entertainment.

The menu: Supreme of Red Snapper, Tournedos with Mushroom Sauce, Carrots and Grapes, Broccoli Timbale, Watercress and Hearts of Palm Vinaigrette Salad, Brie Cheese, Fresh Peach Mousse, Macaroons and Demitasse.

The wines: B V Beaufort Pinot Chardonnay, Louis Martini Cabernet Sauvignon 1971, and Schramsberg Blanc de Blancs.

# # #



For immediate release  
Monday, August 2, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

---

The President and Mrs. Ford have invited George Shearing, pianist/composer/arranger, to entertain at the State Dinner Tuesday, August 3, in honor of His Excellency President Urho Kekkonen of the Republic of Finland.

This will be Mr. Shearing's first appearance at the White House.

Shearing, congenitally blind, discovered his piano talent when he found he could duplicate songs from the crystal radio set on the piano. He studied music at the London School for the Blind and started his professional music career in British pubs. He was a jazz name in England at 21.

In 1947, Shearing moved to America. His booking at New York's Birdland was later memorialized by his famous "Lullaby." By 1949, the Shearing Quintet was well-known in the U.S. The group has toured Europe, Japan, Australia, South America and the West Indies.

Shearing has devoted many summers to teaching jazz techniques, arrangement and ensemble playing at the University of Utah workshop and the Chautaugua Institution. He also enjoys classical music, with Bach and Mozart being two of his favorites. Shearing has performed as a soloist with symphony orchestras, including those of Cincinnati, Baltimore, St. Louis, Utah, Boston Pops, Detroit and Denver. He is currently continuing his performances with symphonies and at community concerts.

Since his first recording with Leonard Feather in the 1930's, Shearing has cut albums with Nat King Cole, Peggy Lee, Billy Eckstine and Nancy Wilson.

Among Shearing's many awards was a Doctorate of Music from Westminster College in Utah in 1975. In 1976 he was nominated for an Emmy Award for his music composition of the PBS documentary on guide dogs for the blind, "Out of the Shadows into the Sun," which he also narrated.

Shearing, one of nine children, was born August 1919 in London. He has one daughter and lives with his wife, Ellie Geffert, in San Francisco.

# # #

