

# Anahata Nada

## SRI CHINMOY PEACE RUN CIRCLES THE GLOBE—PASSING THROUGH SIX CONTINENTS

It's the longest relay run in history—an unprecedented peace journey through six continents.

It has won the support of heads of state, major sports and entertainment figures and tens of thousands of ordinary people who have seen the flaming peace torch pass through their towns or villages.

The Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, says Sri Chinmoy, is "carrying a most special message of our Beloved Supreme"—that now "is the time for peace to be established beautifully and powerfully on earth."

The Peace Run, explains Shambhu, its organiser, "is really a series of runs—each covering anywhere from a few kilometres to several thousand miles—happening simultaneously in more than 50 countries. In each case a peace torch is passed from runner to runner in a symbolic effort to involve the whole world, one person at a time, in the peace process."

The global event began April 27 in New York's Battery Park, with the lighting of a peace torch by Sri Chinmoy, and then moved to the World Trade Center for a massive kick-off—with live coverage on NBC's "The Today Show."

In hundreds of places along the 11,000-mile U.S. route, the runners were feted by local townspeople and city officials. Mayor Andrew Young greeted them in Atlanta, Georgia; a sheriff's posse on horses escorted them into Fort Worth, Texas.

The 1,300-mile Japanese segment from Hokkaido to Okinawa received broad media coverage; during one 70-mile stretch, a local newspaper chartered a bus so several of its staff members and area runners could join the peace caravan.

Local runs and ceremonies were held in major cities and border crossings of eight West African countries; in Daloa, Ivory Coast, schools closed so children could line the streets and cheer the runners as they passed.

In Norway, marathon champions Grete Waitz and Ingrid Kristiansen

carried the torch in Oslo. Relays held in a number of European countries converged at the United Nations in Geneva, where special ceremonies were held.

The cross-Canada odyssey, which will eventually link up with the U.S. run for the final "victory lap" to New York, included a run—with the torch—into a Montreal Expos game.

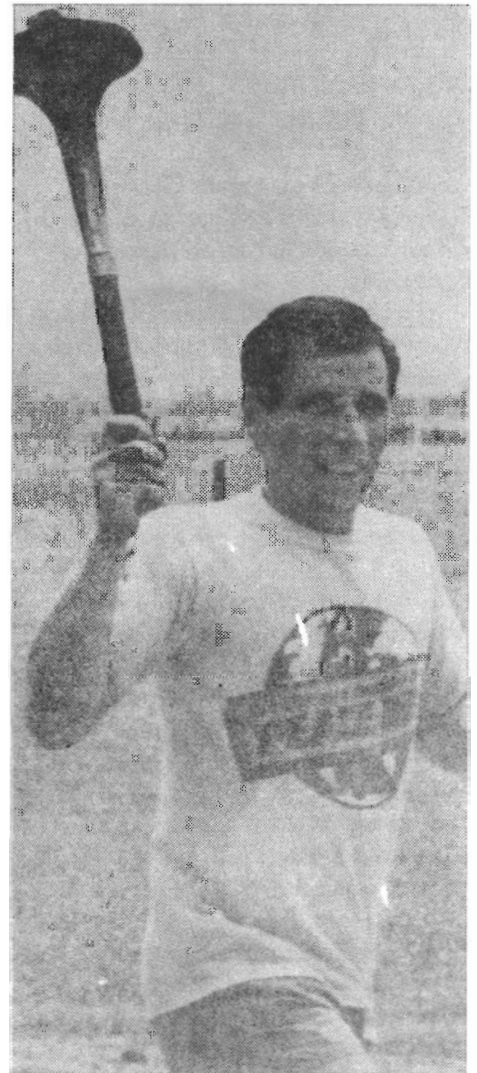
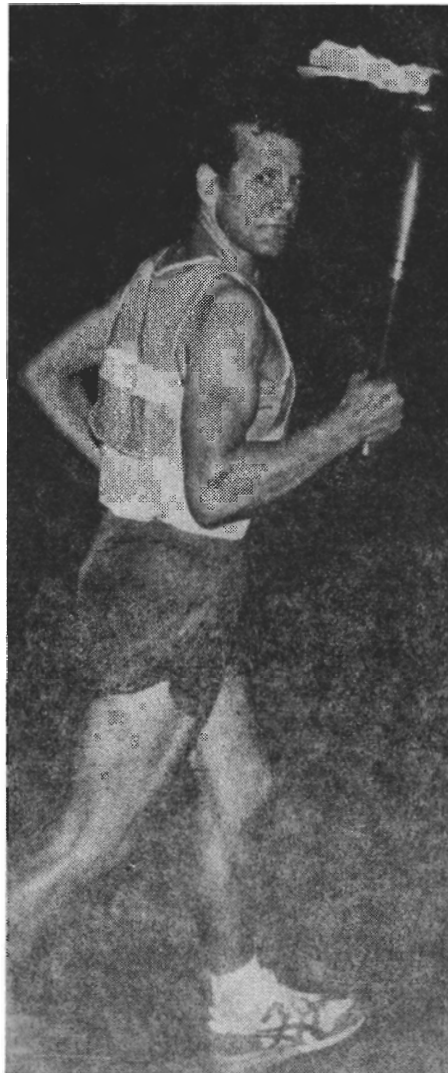
The All-China Sports Federation sponsored the Beijing portion of the run.

In Iceland, the Prime Minister and party leaders conferring to form a new government took a brief recess to pass the peace torch. In Australia, Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Opposition Party Leader John Howard jointly held the torch in an unusual gesture of

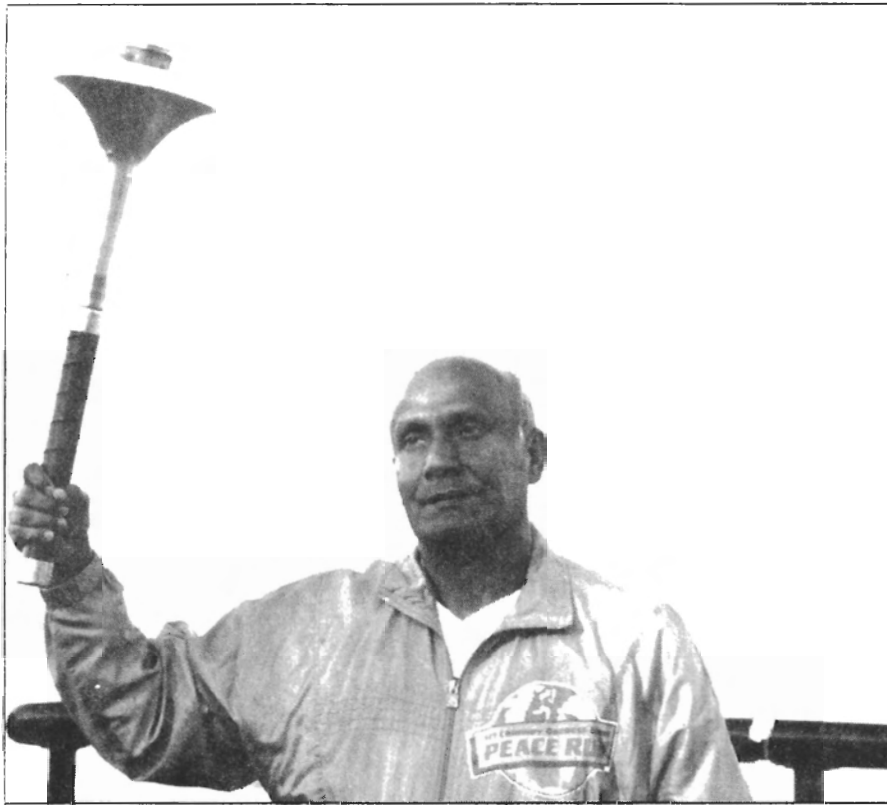
unity. The Prime Ministers of Canada and New Zealand also participated in the run.

AFS Intercultural Programs, a key supporter, produced a half-hour film on the run, which was broadcast by some 200 PBS stations nationwide. The film was produced by Marilyn Rasmussen, who was joined by Mokshagun as co-host, and directed by Sudakkha.

Other celebrities participating in the run included award-winning songwriter Narada (who along with Sutunga and lyricist Jeffrey Cohen wrote the Peace Run theme song), Grace Slick of the singing group "Starship", pop singer Carly Simon, actress Joanne Woodward and the Chicago Bears' Willie Gault.



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## A PEACE RUN SCRAPBOOK . . .

*Clockwise, from top: Sri Chinmoy holding peace torch at Battery Park . . . Australian Prime Minister Hawke [right] and Opposition Party Leader Howard holding peace torch in Canberra . . . Ingrid Kristiansen [left] and Grete Waitz holding peace torch in front of Nobel Institute in Oslo . . . Peace Runner Michel Careau with Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney.*

*Far left:  
Peace Run-  
ners Saurja  
and Arpan.*

*Right:  
Tarak  
starting the  
Peace Run  
in New  
York.*

