

UNITED NATIONS



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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
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REFERENCE:

9 April 2007

Dear Ms. Silver and Ms. Claxton,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to thank you for your letter of 7 February 2007. The Secretary-General is honoured by your invitation to receive the U Thant Peace Award. Much as he would have liked to accept this award, I regret to inform you that the various activities which he has planned for 2007 will not allow him to do so.

Allow me to take this opportunity to wish you and all the members of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations continued success in your important endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

Yeocheol Yoon
Special Assistant
Chief, Scheduling Office

Ms. Nilima Silver
Ms. Catherine Vijaya Claxton
Programme Coordinators
Peace Meditation at the United Nations
New York



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SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS
P.O. Box 20 – Room S-1B-1 • United Nations • New York, N.Y. 10163 • (718) 291-0364

7 February 2007

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations, New York

Highly esteemed Secretary-General,

It is an honour to extend to you our sincere congratulations on your appointment as Secretary-General. We watch with deep admiration as you begin to unfold a new era of hope that will surely strengthen the United Nations' effectiveness in the world community.

We write to you on behalf of international peace advocate and humanitarian, Sri Chinmoy, who in 1970, at the invitation of then Secretary-General U Thant, began leading non-denominational peace meditations at the United Nations for staff members of the Secretariat and members of delegations. Since that time, under the auspices of the "Peace Meditation at the United Nations", as the group is known, he has served the international community in various ways, sponsoring religious, interfaith and cultural programmes, lectures and concerts at Headquarters to promote world peace, while simultaneously working through his Non-Governmental Organization to provide humanitarian aid to many countries.

Sri Chinmoy respectfully requests that you receive the *U Thant Peace Award*. This *Award*, offered under the auspices of the "Peace Meditation at the United Nations", is given to distinguished individuals for their exceptional service towards world peace and for their work towards the betterment of humanity. The first recipient was Ambassador Zenon Rossides of Cyprus in 1982 for his work on national security and disarmament issues, his personal example and life-long commitment to universal spiritual values. Since that time Sri Chinmoy has personally given the *Award* to President Nelson Mandela, President Mikhail Gorbachev, Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former Secretaries-General Kurt Waldheim and Javier Perez de Cuellar, Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, and a number of Presidents of the General Assembly.

Upon receiving the *U Thant Peace Award*, Mr. Waldheim commented, "I know how much you have contributed to our efforts in the United Nations to work for peace, to work for understanding, to bridge the gap between rich and poor people in the world, to try to improve the lives of so many people..."

When Perez de Cuellar received the *Award*, he remarked, "I am deeply honoured to receive this *Award* from Sri Chinmoy, a very distinguished and loved friend for many, many years. What is happening to me now is that I am receiving the inspiration of Sri Chinmoy, who is actually, I would say, the heart of the United Nations – because in all the years I was Secretary-General, and even before I was Secretary-General, he was always with us. Even if he was not present, his message was with us, and we were, as I said before, being inspired by him."

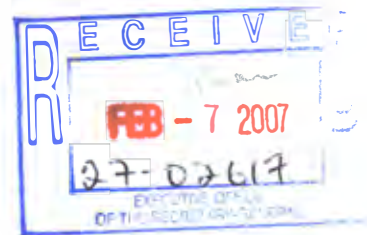
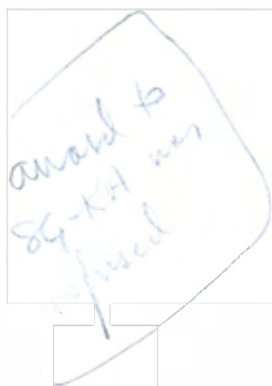
Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations is an association of United Nations delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents holding twice-weekly peace meditations and other programmes at United Nations Headquarters.

UNITED NATIONS:



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

We believe and we hold that each man has the potentiality of reaching the Ultimate Truth. We also believe that man cannot and will not remain imperfect forever. Each man is an instrument of God. When the hour strikes, each individual soul listens to the inner dictates of God. When man listens to God, his imperfections are turned into perfections, his ignorance into knowledge, his searching mind into revealing light and his uncertain reality into all-fulfilling Divinity.




Having watched you embark on your personal commitment to the ideals expressed in the Charter which U Thant valued so deeply, and in recognition of your lifetime of world service, Sri Chinmoy would be especially honoured to present you with this *Award*, upon his return to New York in March from his goodwill tour in Turkey, Bulgaria and Thailand. We sincerely hope that you might be able to take time out of your busy schedule to accept this Award at a time of your convenience.

As members of the Peace Meditation Group and as Secretariat staff members, we are honoured to bring this proposal to your kind attention. We wish you all success in your tireless efforts of reform and progress and applaud your setting an environment that respects all and promotes healing and harmony. We remain available, if necessary, for any additional information that may be useful in your consideration of this humble recognition of your lofty vision.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,



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