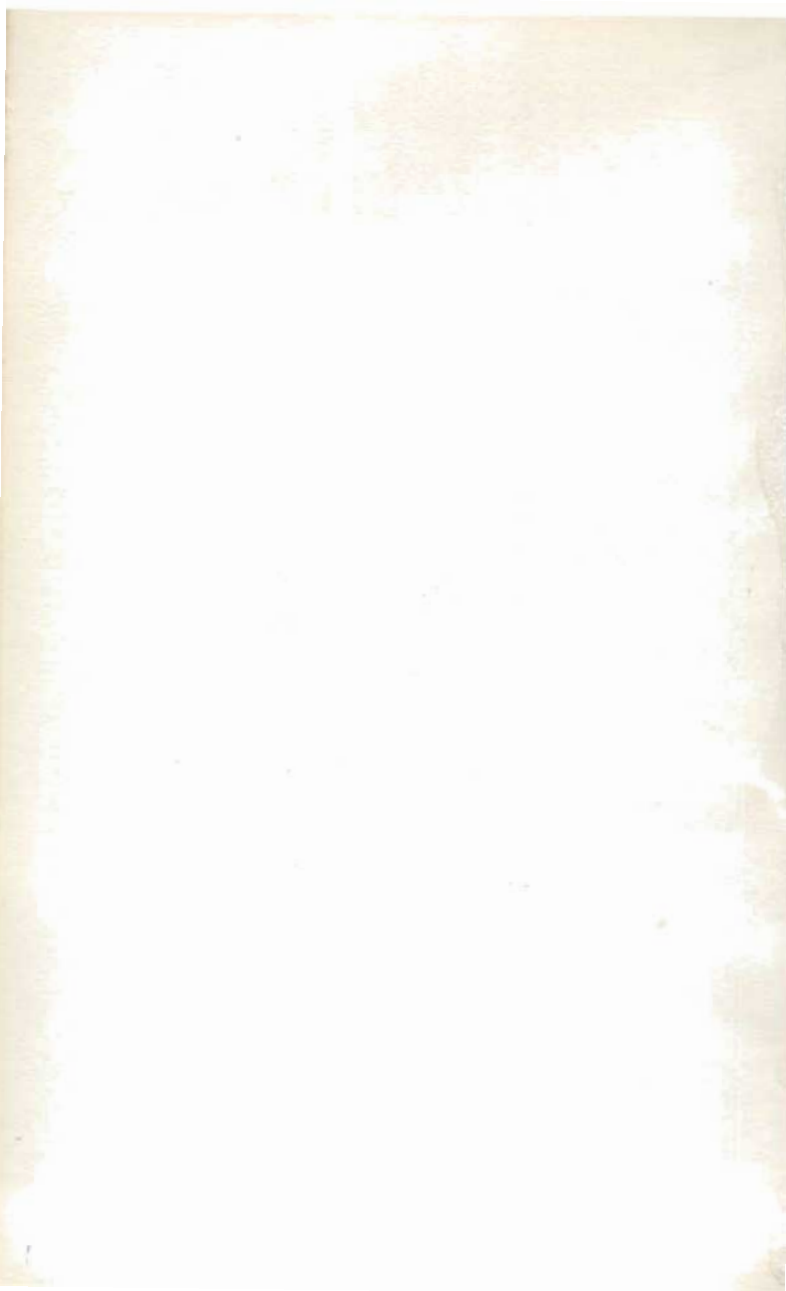


NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
OBSERVANCE
AT THE UNITED NATIONS





NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
OBSERVANCE
AT THE UNITED NATIONS
JULY 24, 1975

NATIONAL DAY OF BIRTH
FOR EVERYONE
AT THE UNITED STATES
MAY 24 1954

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OBSERVANCE
AT THE UNITED NATIONS
JULY 24, 1975

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PREFACE

President Ford proclaimed July 24, 1975 as a National Day of Prayer, calling upon all Americans to pray for peace on earth and reaffirm their commitment toward bringing about a nobler existence for all humanity. Several staff members at the United Nations were inspired by this proclamation to participate in the event with a programme at the United Nations. Representatives of the world community, political leaders of the United States as well as spiritual leaders of many faiths were invited to attend, and many guests offered their own short prayer. Presiding over the session was the Director of the United Nations Meditation Group, Sri Chinmoy.



*Silent Prayer—Religious Representatives
with Director, U.N. Meditation Group*



National Day of Prayer, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As we begin the celebration of our Bicentennial, it is fitting to recall that it was a profound faith in God which inspired the Founders of our Nation. Two hundred years ago, on June 12, 1775, the Second Continental Congress called upon the inhabitants of all the Colonies to unite, on a designated Thursday in July, in "humiliation, fasting, and prayer." This was our first national day of prayer.

Americans on that day were asked to address their prayers to the "Great Governor of the World" to preserve their new Union and secure civil and religious liberties.

Those first prayers were answered in full measure. The Union survives. The liberties for which our forefathers prayed were never so secure as they are today. But material progress and human achievement often beckon mankind away from the spiritual virtues.

As we prepare to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of our Nation, it is my fervent hope that Americans will not forget that it was prayer that helped to forge our freedoms and foster our liberties.

Let us now pray—as we have done throughout our history, and as the Congress has requested (66 Stat. 64)—for the wisdom to continue the American pilgrimage, striving toward a nobler existence for all humanity. Let us ask for the strength to meet the challenges that face our Nation. Let us give thanks to God for the many blessings granted to America throughout these two centuries. And let us express the hope that our lives may continue to be enriched by the grace of our Maker.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Thursday, July 24, 1975, as National Day of Prayer, 1975.

I call upon all Americans to pray that day, each after his or her own manner and convictions, for unity and the blessings of Freedom throughout our land and for peace on earth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

Gerald R. Ford

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— photo by Lloyd Hart

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The following telegram was sent to President Ford by Sri Chinmoy, Director of the United Nations Meditation Group.

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of those commemorating National Prayer Day with a service at the United Nations Church Center this coming Thursday, I would like to offer you our soulful gratitude for the lofty inspiration and illumining encouragement you have offered to America to observe a National Day of Prayer.

According to my inner feelings, America as a nation stands in the vanguard of fulfilling achievements precisely because its very being was founded on self-giving prayers.

The humble service we are holding this week will combine the efforts of the Council of Churches of New York City, the New York Bicentennial Corporation, religious leaders of many faiths and the United

Nations Meditation Group. Our devoted
prayers will be with you, the supreme Pilot
of the supreme Country.

Sri Chinmoy
Director
United Nations Meditation Group

DEDICATION

On behalf of the *National Day of Prayer Observance at the United Nations Committee*, I would like to sincerely thank all the participants of this event, particularly Sri Chinmoy. His interest and continued support, from the initiation of the function right up to the actual ceremony, was most inspiring and appreciated.

For the effort they gave to make our programme a success, we also thank Dr. Dan Potter (Council of Churches of New York City), Peter Stewart (Thanks-Giving Square Foundation), Maria Downs (the Presidential Bicentennial Office) and the members of *The Sacred Fire* Choral Group.

We have a special feeling of respect and gratitude to the visionary delegates of the Second Continental Congress who first recommended the National Day of Prayer, as well as to President Gerald Ford, who two hundred years later reaffirmed this part of our country's heritage.

Kevin Keefe
National Day of Prayer Observance
at the U.N. Committee

On the occasion of the Bicentennial, Sri Chinmoy composed this song on the soul of America. He is dedicating it to President Ford.

This song was sung by the United Nations Meditation Group at the observance of the National Day of Prayer at the United Nations.

O MY AMERICA

America, America, America!
Great you are, Good you are,
Brave you are, Kind you are.
O my America, America!
Your Heaven-freedom is earth's aspiration-choice.
With you, in you is God-Hour's Victory-Voice.

— *Sri Chinmoy*

O MY AMERICA

words and music by Sri Chinmoy

fine

A-me-ri-ca, A-me-ri-ca, A---me-ri-ca Great you-- are,
good you-- are, brave you-- are, kind you-- are.

O----- my A-me-----ri-ca A-me-----ri-----ca-----

Your hea-ven free-----dom is earth's as-----pi-ra-----tion

choice----- . With you, in you, is God-Hour's-----

Vic-----t'ry- voice--, voice-----.

A-me-ri-ca, A-me-ri-ca, A---me-ri-ca Great you-- are,
good you-- are, brave you--are, kind you-- are. da capo



*Opening— Silent Prayer— Sri Chinmoy
Director, U.N. Meditation Group*

— photo by Lloyd Herr