

The following prayers were delivered or telexed to the National Day of Prayer Observance at the U.N. Committee.

Algernon D. Black

Leader Emeritus, The Society for Ethical Culture in the City of New York

Member of the American Ethical Union

May the leaders of Nations and the representatives to the United Nations recognize, respect and carry in their hearts the deep yearning for peace which is in peoples everywhere.

May we pledge ourselves to work to rid the nations of the costly, wasteful and dangerous way of working for peace by preparing for war—and the way of thinking and insecurity and fear and hate which lead to war.

May we overcome our extremes of nationalism and face the realities of our global interdependence. May we recognize

that the use of military force between and by nations to resolve differences and conflicts is no solution to our national problems, and constitutes a threat to the survival of all human beings and human life and values.

May we work toward the day when the differences between nations, races, religions and ideologies do not divide us. Rather, may we be enriched by the way we solve common problems together. May the passion for justice and compassion and love that has been the heart of all religions unite us to work together in a shared commitment for the sake of human kind.

Munishree Chitrabhanu

Munishree Chitrabhanu is the first Jain Muni or monk to cross the boundaries of his native land, India. In America, he first came to the historic city of Boston in response to the invitation of the 1971 World Spiritual Summit Conference. He has remained here, building a bridge between East and West through the message of Ahimsa (non-violence) and relativity and openness in thinking, the two principal teachings of Jainism's last prophet, Lord Mahavir.

On this day of world unity in prayer, Munishree sends this prayer for universal harmony and human brotherhood and goodwill:

THE IMMORTAL SONG

May the sacred stream of amity flow forever
in my heart,
May the universe prosper, such is my
cherished desire.

May my heart sing with ecstasy at the sight
of the virtuous,
And may my life be an offering at their
feet.

May my heart bleed at the sight of the
wretched, the cruel, the poor,
And may tears of compassion flow from my
eyes.

May I always be there to show the path to
the pathless wanderers of life,
Yet if they should not heed me, may I bide
patiently.

May the spirit of goodwill enter into all our
hearts,
May we all sing together the immortal song
of human concord.

Harrison J. Goldin
Comptroller, City of New York

Peace requires our prayer, not only on this day, but everyday. For it is only through a spiritual awakening of conscience and consciousness, recognizing the wonder of life and manifesting a reverence for the protection and fulfillment of life, that all peoples on earth can live in harmony, in brotherhood and in peace.

Hubert H. Humphrey
United States Senator—Minnesota

Although I cannot accept your invitation to join you on July 24, I do want to send greetings to those attending the Church Center for the National Day of Prayer Observance. I join my friends at the United Nations and throughout the United States in the hope and prayer that a just and lasting peace may be achieved within and among the nations of the world. On this special occasion, I urge them to join me in reaffirming a strong personal commitment to the relentless pursuit of this peace.

Pir Vilayat Khan

Head of the Sufi Order in the West

KHATUM

O Thou, Who art the Perfection of Love,
Harmony, and Beauty,
The Lord of Heaven and earth,
Open our hearts, that we may hear Thy
Voice, which constantly cometh from
within.

Disclose to us Thy Divine Light, which is
hidden in our souls, that we may know
and understand life better.

Most Merciful and Compassionate God,
give us Thy great Goodness;

Teach us Thy loving Forgiveness;

Raise us above the distinctions and
differences which divide men;

Send us the Peace of Thy Divine Spirit,
And unite us all in Thy Perfect Being.

Dr. Louis Longarzo
Caritas Internationalis [*International
Catholic Charities*]

Together, we lift up our hearts, minds, and wills to the Divine Creator and Lord of history. Thou art the source and inspirer of all human efforts towards perfect unity, complete freedom and true peace.

Strengthen our resolve to creatively mold and effectively utilize all institutions, national and international, which will forge the links of unity, freedom, peace and love to bind the peoples of the earth in a common effort to transform our evolving world community to more fully reflect and radiate Your beauty, goodness, righteousness, wisdom and love.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your
Peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow
love;*

*Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may seek
not so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we
receive; it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned, and it is in dying that we are
born to Eternal Life. Amen.*

—Prayer of St. Francis

Donald R. Manes

President of the Borough of Queens

As all of us become more and more involved with our problems here in New York City, in the United States and throughout the world, it is fitting and proper that we observe a National Day of Prayer.

I feel everyone, in his or her own personal manner and conviction, should pause during today's observance to take part in official National Day of Prayer programs or engage in individual devotion.

We should give thanks for our blessings, and pray for guidance, inspiration and assistance to meet and overtake our personal problems and those that face us as a City, Nation and as responsible members of a World yearning for peace.

Charles H. Percy
United States Senator— Illinois

Two hundred years have passed since the Continental Congress proclaimed America's first national day of prayer. The men who comprised that Congress were men of action and also men of prayer and principle. They understood that their handling of the worldly affairs of men had to be guided by an underlying reverence toward man and God, and not only by expediency. That they were practical men is demonstrated by their success in establishing an independent and viable Union. That they were reverent and principled men is proven by the institutions they established—institutions which are still remarkable as embodiments of the ideals of justice and freedom.

Let us, both as citizens and public servants, pray for the same wisdom which was granted the members of the Continental Congress. Let us strive to unite prudence and principle as we work to perfect the democratic institutions given us by the Founders. Let us learn to be guided by prayer in this task.

Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rauf
*Director, The Islamic Center,
Washington, D.C.*

PRAYERS IN ISLAM

Prayer has its special place in Islam. It is the topmost ritual incumbent upon all adult believers. It is a mandatory duty performed and said in congregation or in private daily in the morning, at noon, in the afternoon, at sunset and at night. In addition, Muslims are urged to supplicate and pray to their Lord any time, day and night, feeling that God is near and ready to answer their prayers if they comply with His teachings. Parents are also to train their children in saying their prayers when they attain the age of seven.

Saying prayers is one of the noblest measures through which a believer seeks to attain God's pleasure. It brings him nearer to his Lord. It soothes the soul, it cleanses

the heart, it comforts the mind and eliminates evil thoughts. It fosters humility, generates a sense of unity, and promotes peace and understanding. The Prophet of Islam, Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, used to say:

“The delight of my heart is not in worldly pleasures, but in saying prayers!”

John J. Rhodes
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

During the two centuries of our nation's progress, we have sought and received divine guidance. Founded on faith, made free by the courage of our forefathers, the United States is a beacon in a materialistic world for those who seek to worship as they choose. This precious right has been preserved for us by the wisdom of our Constitution. I urge that the American people join in this National Day of Prayer, and make its 200th observance an expression of gratitude for the many blessings we have received, and in prayer for peace in the world.

Robert Taft, Jr.

United States Senator—Ohio

On this National Day of Prayer, we should be mindful of the bounty this nation has enjoyed since the Continental Congress called upon the struggling colonies 200 years ago to raise their voices to The Almighty in search of guidance and to offer thanks. Since that day, we have experienced countless blessings which have enabled us to grow and develop into the great nation we are today. As we stand on the threshold of our nation's Bicentennial, this day should be one of rededication to the spirit of the Second Continental Congress which, in setting the course of a new nation, saw the wisdom in declaring a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer."

Harrison A. Williams, Jr.
United States Senator—New Jersey

I hope the following message, which you requested, will be of use to you, and I want to express my best wishes for the success of this important endeavor.

As we approach our nation's Bicentennial birthday, let us rekindle the faith of our forefathers. These men were dreamers, men whose imaginations were fired by high ideals; but they were realists, too. They had the strength, the courage, and the will to translate their noble ideals into reality. On this day, let us pray for a resurgence of national will and for a rededication to the noble principles that propelled this nation along its 200-year journey.

With best wishes.