Meditation at the United Nations



MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP UNITED NATIONS:



the Heart-Home of the World-Body

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Since January, 1973, the United Nations Meditation Group has published the monthly bulletin, Meditation at the United Nations. This publication offers a basic introduction to meditation techniques and spirituality through questions and answers and lectures, and also reviews the group's activities. Profits from the sale of this bulletin are donated to UNICEE

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UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The United Nations Meditation Group consists of U.N. staff members, representatives, delegates and NGO's who believe that a spiritual approach to world peace is inherent in the basic U.N. ideals and can go hand in hand with political striving for U.N. goals. The Meditation Group at New York Headquarters was inaugurated on April 14, 1970. At that time it invited the well-known mystic and philosopher Sri Chinmoy to lead its meetings in the Peace Room of the Church Center for the United Nations. As its membership increased and the scope of its activities expanded, the Meditation Group began holding meetings Tuesdays at 1 p.m. and Fridays at 12 noon in the Secretariat. A Geneva branch of the Meditation Group, which was established in early 1977, meets Tuesdays at 12:30 at United Nations Geneva.

Staff members of the Secretariat, delegates and representatives from Missions, Specialized Agencies and non-governmental organisations acredited to the U.N. are most welcome to join in these meetings, as well as in our other activities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Salute to the Security and Safety Service6
The Inner Vision: Love of God; The Outer Mission: Service of Humanity32 •questions submitted by Mr. David Rowe
United Nations Meditation-Flowers40 •instruction in meditation
Song by Sri Chinmoy42 • "Our U.N. Soul"
To-Morrow's Noon
• from World Environment Day Committee • from U.N. International School
Bike Marathon

A SALUTE TO THE SECURITY AND SAFETY SERVICE

On 7 June 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group held a special function to honour the U.N. Security and Safety Service. Colonel H.A. Trimble, Chief of the Service, described the functions and organisation of the Service and then answered questions from the audience. Also speaking were Mr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs, and Sri Chinmoy, Director of the Meditation Group. A transcript of the meeting follows.

Mr. Robert Muller: Thirty years ago, some of the world's best architects were asked to devise a site for the United Nations. They planned a world capital located on 24,000 acres and equipped with such buildings as a world university, a world library, an edifice for non-governmental organizations, etc. For a variety of reasons, the result was a tiny fleck of seventeen acres along the East River of Manhattan. Le Corbusier, the French architect. declared at the time that this site would only be a "bastion", a stronghold for the larger idea, an embryo of the future world capital. His prediction became true, but in a spiritual way. Today the world's common services are a complex of lands, buildings, institutions and world servants located in several places of our globe: in New York, Geneva,

Vienna, Paris, Nairobi, Santiago, Addis Ababa, etc., as well as in 130 smaller locations. Le Corbusier's and U Thant's dream for a U.N. university became also true: it is located in Tokyo and will have affiliates in many countries. New York and Geneva divide among themselves a world library and world data banks. If one visualizes the thirty specialized agencies and world programmes which compose the U.N. system, then one can see the U.N. flag flying already in numerous places around our Earth. Perhaps some day, that flag will also appear on the high seas and oceans and in outer space, the two "common heritages" of mankind.

I know of many of the U.N. sites. To me, they have the same meaning as they had for their architects: they are places where the destiny, the peace and the future of our children are being forged. They are the cradles of a more peaceful, just and happy world, a world in which man will find his maximum fulfilment and his limits. It is refreshing to think that on a globe where there is still so much violence, indecency and disfigurement, there are those few islands, the United Nations sites, where one can see cleanliness, decency, no graffiti, no disfiguration, an atmosphere of kindness. This we owe, to a very large degree, to our Security Forces.

I know these Forces well. When I was Director in the Secretary-General's Office, I had almost daily occasion to measure the scope of their difficult task: to ensure the security of so many statesmen and dignitaries visiting the U.N., especially during the General Assembly; to take care of bomb scares, the threats of mad people, demonstrators chaining themselves in the Security Council, or occupying the Meditation Room, etc. And all of these problems are solved without violence, without publicity, with much understanding, almost with kindness, not to mention the exemplary efficiency. The record of safety of the U.N., when one thinks of its many prominent visitors who are targets of hatred, madness, jealousy, and assassination, is almost a miracle, and we must touch wood so that this protection from heaven shall continue.

Usually, when one sees a good family, one finds that there is a good head of family. I have known your chief, Colonel Trimble, for many years and I believe that the standing of our Security Forces owes much to him. I have known other military men in my life, in particular General De Gaulle, and General Thimaya, chief of the U.N. forces in Cyprus. When a man is able to ally deep human qualities with the requirements of orderliness and discipline, then one is in the presence of a truly great man. Colonel Trimble, in the judgement of many, is giving such an example.

When I look at you, the thought of pride comes to my mind. The notion of pride is linked with uniforms, with military men. In my mind, there is nothing wrong with pride. Perhaps the greatest goal in life is to be able some day to be proud of one's life. The day I will leave this house after a lifetime of world service, I will be proud and I will not hesitate to proclaim my pride.

I will never forget two people whom I have particularly cherished in my life, namely my two grandfathers. They were the proudest people on earth. One of them was the master of a tiny railroad station in Alsace-Lorraine. My mother often told me that his greatest moment of pride was when he went to church on Sunday wearing his uniform and seniority medals, with his wife and five children. This was the great moment of his week. He was right to be proud, because he was raising a good family, on a modest salary and at a time when there was no social security. When he was killed in an accident, after his wife had died. five orphans were left without income and protection. They went to work as maids and apprentices, and later they were proud of their own families, and so it will be throughout the ages and ages. We are all entitled to some pride and this is particularly true of us who are privileged to work for the United Nations. Believe me, this is a great organization, something unique in the entire evolution of mankind and of our planet. In the various sites of the U.N. we see nothing less than the birth of world organs, a heart, a brain, a nervous system, trying to probe, understand and guide humanity's destiny on our tiny globe, circling in a remote corner of the universe. And we will be able to say

that we were there when it happened, that we witnessed a very rare moment in time and that we were part of it. Sometimes I think that I would feel honoured to wash the floor of this house, for on it tread humans from all over the world every day. You see them come a million a year, children and adults of all races, languages and beliefs. They come to this building carrying in their minds their dreams and in their hearts their hopes. They feel that the U.N. is their building, the embodiment of their search for peace and happiness. The architects knew it very well when on the tiny seventeen acres shared by 147 nations they built a round. close-to-earth General Assembly in which the interests of the various regions of the world are represented, and a lofty Secretariat building, thrown towards heaven in a gesture of challenge, of oneness, of unity, of outreaching for the stars. And there is the Meditation Room, a tiny place for cosmic interiority, prayer and silence. And there is the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium, impregnated with so many events, feelings and history. Year after year, the United Nations enriches itself with history. It is the beginning of a new history, the history of the whole human community. Progressively, the U.N. flag, this building and all other U.N. sites are growing into the hearts of all the peoples of the world. This is our greatest hope for the future. And we must all be grateful to you, the U.N. Security Forces, for ceaselessly, and so successfully ensuring the peace, order, decency and safety of the U.N. sites.

Colonel H. A. Trimble: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. The previous speaker in his very interesting statement and his complimentary remarks about the Security and Safety Service alluded to pride and I would like to say at the outset that I too believe in pride. I am a very proud man. Part of the reason for making this statement is that as I look back on my life, I will judge the years that I have spent as the Chief of the Security and Safety Service as a highlight of my career. I am very proud of my position here at Headquarters. I would also like to take this opportunity to give a very warm word of thanks on behalf of the Service to the United Nations Meditation Group for this programme today. As an expression of what I have



Colonel Trimble answers questions from the audience. Seated are squad representatives Officer Jo Ann McReary (Office of the Chief), Officer Raymond Hoffman (Tour platoon), Sergeant Allen Smith (Conference platoon), Officer Louis Heyworth (Fire Unit) and Officer Noel Warner (Special Services Unit).

alluded to earlier, under the heading of pride, I think we deserve it, we in the Safety and Security Service. I know this is a very proud statement; we are blowing our own horn and we cannot blow it too loud.

Now, I know that time is fairly short, so what I propose to do is to give you a rough break-down of my Service, tell you in general what their duties and responsibilities are and then introduce you to a few people that are primarily responsible for carrying out our responsibilities and duties. In a nutshell, our duties and responsibilities are the protection of persons and property. Property speaks for itself. Persons are broken down, at least I break them down, into three categories. We have the delegates, the staff members and the public. I won't say too much about the delegates except that they can do no wrong. The house belongs to them; they pay our salaries. But by and large the delegates are a wonderful group of people to work with.

The staff members are also a wonderful group of people to work with. We are all staff members. I am a staff member the same as you, the same as all the members of my force. We do our best to look after their interests and here I would like to put a plea in. I always take advantage of this opportunity, reminding everybody that security is a two-way street. We cannot do it all alone. We would hope that each and every staff member

would become our eyes and our ears, in other words, would help us carry out our duties and responsibilities. Of course, without certain information provided to us, we cannot do our job.

We certainly hope that you will continue now to cooperate and take this message away with you. If you see a stranger roaming about the corridors, let us know. Or go to the stranger and say, "Good afternoon, Madame or Sir"-whichever it is. "May I be of some assistance to you?" I say this because even with the best security in the world, it is possible for people to get into this building and roam around virtually at will. Staff members are human beings, the same as we are. They invite guests into the building, but sometimes they don't remain with their guests. Sometimes their guest is not on a tight time schedule and doesn't have to leave the building and says he or she would like to roam around. The staff member goes off to his or her office and leaves the guest. Human nature being what it is, some of these people that roam around have sticky fingers. Unfortunately, some of our staff members have sticky fingers too. But we all have to be on the alert and be curious about things that some of these people may be up to. We are prepared to help; we will do as much as we can. But all too often, we have to get some information from you. Pick up the phone and call us. Our numbers are all in the book; they are not hard to recall. For example, 6666 is the Security Control

Centre. You can get an immediate response any time. Tell them that there is a stranger on the fourteenth floor. We'll respond, we'll take over from you. In ninety-nine per cent of the cases, it will probably be something quite innocent, but we are concerned about that other one per cent. So we would like you to help us to carry out our duties and responsibilities.

Now the third class of people with which we have to deal are members of the public. And once again, by and large they are wonderful people to deal with. Most often they are here to look at the United Nations, to find out something about the United Nations. On occasion people do come in, walk-ins off the street, and they are up to mischief. It is our responsibility once again to see that no harm is done. When there is this possibility, the person in question is removed from the premises as quickly as possible to make sure that he doesn't harm delegates, staff members or the Organisation itself and its property. And I think I've said enough on that subject in general.

Now, what I would like to do is to go through my organisation, giving you a brief thumb-nail sketch of what our duties and responsibilities are. First, I suppose, I should start with the office of the Chief. Every organisation has to have a Chief and the Chief has to have a few people to do the work for him because, I have always maintained, if there is one man in the organisation who should have

nothing to do, it should be the Chief; it shouldn't be the low man on the totem-pole. I sit in my office with my beautiful view of the East River and do as little as I can get away with. I do have a very efficient team.

First of all, I would like to introduce my Deputy, Jim Finore. Jim, would you stand up. Jim is a Mohican. Jim, I think, joined the Organisation before it came into being. He's been around that long. He goes back to Hunter College days and there is very little about the United Nations, the way it operates and certainly Security in particular that Jim is not right on top of. He is a true expert in his particular field.

Going along the front row, also as part of the office of the Chief, I have a training and operations officer, Mr. Goldstein. Will you take a bow. Naturally, we do our best to train our security and safety officers in the way we like things done. We have no fat in the organisation; we have no spare file. We are not permitted as much training as we would like to do, but I can assure you that we keep Mr. Goldstein quite busy, organising training on an ad hoc basis, doing his best to look after us. Also as part of the office of the Chief, we have the pass and identification unit. Mr. Poveromo, would you take a bow. I can assure you that this is a very busy office and Mr. Poveromo runs it very efficiently. You all know the number of staff members that are involved. We also have non-governmental organizations and the press and all the rest of it, and they do turn out an awful lot of paper work in the form of little identification cards.

Next I would like to mention the claims and safety unit. Mr. Sal Rizzo, who is the Deputy of that unit, or of that section I should say, would you take a bow. The Chief is on annual leave this week. In this service we have two sections, a Security Section and a Safety Section. It is both a security and safety service. So Mr. Finore, my Deputy, mans the Security Section and he does all the work in the security field. Mr. Withopf and his able assistant, commanding the Safety Section, do all the work in that particular field.

Then we move on to the Special Services unit. The Special Services unit could be compared to a detective branch of a city police force. They are the people operating in plain clothes. They investigate incidents that take place, they provide plain clothes coverage for heads of state, heads of government, and other dignitaries that come into the building, and carry out a variety of actions behind the scenes. Mr. Redman commands that unit. He is away today, but his able assistant Neil Breen is here. Neil, will you stand up. Also, as part of the Special Services, we provide a service to delegates and to some very senior staff members in their relations with the City of New York and in particular in the diplomatic field with the Motor Vehicle Bureau, ably provided by Mr. Victor Noble. Will you stand up. In the Special Services unit we also have the Locksmith Shop. The locksmiths go around the building repairing locks, opening desk drawers when you leave your keys at home in the morning, or opening office doors for the same reason, and carry out a variety of functions. We are ably represented this afternoon by two of our locksmiths. I would like them both to stand up, Jim Slattery and George Hafner.

Now moving on a little, we have two platoons in the service. We have a Conference platoon and a Tour platoon. The Conference platoon man the security posts that are not required twenty-four hours a day. In other words, they open the building to the public, to the delegates and staff, they look after the conference and committee rooms, and they provide the personnel that man the public galleries and carry out a host of activities in that area. Dr. Cicco commands the Conference platoon; unfortunately he is not here today. Mr. Robert Colonell is his able Deputy. Bob, will you stand up and take a bow.

The second platoon is the Tour platoon. The Tour platoon mans those security posts that are required twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. For example, you can get in the Secretariat entrance twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. They also man the 48th Street Gate, as it is also open twenty-four hours a day. It is that type of function that must be carried out twenty-four

hours a day, each and every day of the week in the year. The Tour platoon is divided into four squads: A, B, C and D. Squads work three eighthour shifts: eight to four, four to midnight, and midnight to eight, with the fourth squad being off duty. In other words, they work one shift for five days, have two days off, and then come in on a different shift. Commanding these four squads is Lt. Fitzmaurice. Fitz, would you take a bow.

Last, but by no means least, is the Fire Unit. Incidentally, in mentioning the various sub-units of my organization, I have not attempted to establish a priority because none of the units I have mentioned is more important than the other. We have to operate as a whole. They are all very efficient.

I have often described the firemen, and I honestly believe this, as unsung heros. These are the people, all trained firemen, who are on duty twentyfour hours a day, seven days a week, to make sure that fire hazards do not develop, to take care of fire prevention in the widest sense of the word, and also to put out those fires that do take place. Now, we do get the odd fire in the building. I am sure the majority of you people were not aware of that. Fortunately, we have never had a serious fire and this is primarily due to the alertness of our firemen. Our firemen are, of course, divided into four squads, the same as our tour platoon. They do a wonderful job, and we are very proud of our Fire Unit. We have our Chief Fire Officer with us. Mr. Gunn, would you stand up.

Now, as representatives of the various sub-units, as I call out your names, I would like you to come up on the platform and take a seat at the table. Representing the Office of the Chief, we have Security Officer Jo Ann McReary. Would you come forward please. Jo Ann is a new member of the Office of the Chief. In fact, she just joined it this morning. She has been a Security Officer in the Tour platoon, but she now is a member of our Claims and Safety section. We are very proud of her and we are very happy to have her with us.

Representing the Tour platoon is Security Officer Raymond Hoffman. Raymond Hoffman is, of course, a very efficient member of the Tour platoon. He has been with us a total of seven years. We are very happy to have him. He is doing a good job and is an ideal representative of the Tour platoon.

From the Conference platoon, we have Sergeant Allen Smith. Sgt. Smith, I am sure, is very well known to the majority of you people here today. He is a veteran with something like twenty-five years of service, and I am sure we have all seen his smiling face and have received a helping hand from him on many occasions around the building. You will notice that he is dressed a little bit differently from Raymond. He happens to be wearing the uniform we wear to honour heads of State. As you probably know, when a head of State pays an official visit to the United Nations, we turn out an honour

guard. We like to make our dress just a little bit more distinctive. Sgt. Allen Smith is a very competent member of our honour guard.

Representing the Fire Unit, we have Fire Officer Louis Heyworth. Fire Officer Heyworth has been with us for about four years. Prior to that he had long service with the New York Fire Department. He is a very experienced, capable member of the Fire Unit and a good representative of that group of people I referred to a little bit earlier.

Now, in the Special Services Unit, and that is the unit I referred to and compared briefly to a detective branch of a police department, we have an ideal representative this afternoon in Special Security Officer Noel Warner.

And there you are, ladies and gentlemen, five representatives of the Security and Safety Service. I know that in my comments I have been very brief and I have talked in very general terms. I thought what I would like to do now is for the next few minutes entertain any questions which you people might have on our duties and responsibilities or any aspect of the Service.

Mr. Ken Peck: I would like to know what kinds of fires we do have here.

Col. Trimble: If you don't mind, I would prefer for the Chief Fire Officer to answer that. Mr. Gunn, would you take the floor.

Mr. Gunn: You asked what types of fires we have here. We have mostly what we call Class-A fires. People leave cigarettes around prior to going home at night. We have tours in the building, and some of the people are careless. However, we do have major fires too. During the holidays we had a fire in the machinery room on the 39th floor. We sent one of our men up there and it took nine extinguishers to put it out. The big reason as to why you don't have too many major fires is that twenty-four hours a day we have a building inspection programme. We do have electrical fires; that is why you do see CO2 extinguishers around. We also have little incipient fires, papers and such, and car fires. We have a little apparatus, a fire apparatus, that can go out into the garage in case we have to stretch hose; there is hose in that. But we have the same types of fires that you have outside in the city, except-thank God-we have not had a big high-rise fire. But we are equipped for that emergency and our public assembly office each year holds an emergency exit drill on each floor.

Mr. Danny Tuohy: I am curious to know if there are any rules of thumb that the officers might have to be a good Security Officer?

Col. Trimble: This is my definition: to be a good Security Officer, you have to be an intelligent, mature individual who is ready to exercise the maximum of tact and courtesy with a reasonable amount of good judgement, plus a little bit of training and experience. I cannot overstress the tact and courtesy. I have often said to my men, it used to be, ten or fifteen years ago, that you could tell the status of the person by the way he dressed. This is no longer true. We have seen delegates, and some very senior delegates, come in dressed in outfits in which ten or fifteen years ago we might have considered denying them access to the building. So it is very, very important that we exercise tact and courtesy in all our dealings with everybody. Security Officers are human beings the same as everybody else. After a Security Officer has been standing on his feet on a concrete floor for about eight hours, his smile may not be as wide as it was at eight o'clock in the morning; he might not exercise the degree of courtesy he would have under better conditions, but I think we have to forgive him for that as it is a pretty thankless task. I can assure you that if you had to stand on a post for six to eight hours a day-in all kinds of weather, if it is an outside post - and accept the frame of mind that a lot of the staff members are in when they arrive, particularly on a Monday morning, you would agree that our Security Officers deserve our appreciation.

Mr. Phil Hirschi: I'm impressed by the guards who stand out on First Avenue and are able to

screen people coming into the U.N. It seems that now when I come into the U.N., the guards somehow know that I have a pass in my pocket, and they don't ask me for it. But before I started working here, once I started walking through the gates, and the guard immediately stopped me. How do they know?

Col Trimble: I would like to respond to that myself once again. The majority of my Security Officers almost make a game out of their ability to recognise people. For example, in the Conference platoon Control Center we have the pictures of all the permanent representatives and most of the delegates on a big wall. I have been in there on occasion when there have been four or five Security Officers standing around with a small wager to see which one can call the most people by name. Now, they do the same thing as far as staff members are concerned, and of course it is not as difficult as it may appear on the surface when you realise the majority of the people you see on the post to which you refer are more senior Security Officers who have been with us for a number of years. Normally when we get a new recruit, he starts in the Tour platoon and remains there for two to four years before he comes up to day duty, which is the Conference platoon. But in covering these posts we tend to select our more senior people, people who have been around. It is surprising the number of people they can pick out like that. In fact, on many occasions I have said to the man on duty on the post on First Avenue, "Has so and so arrived yet?" He will say, "Yes, he came in five minutes ago," or "No, he is not due for another five minutes." They not only know the majority of you, they know roughly the time you arrive. They can also tell me, and they have on many occasions, those people, particularly senior staff members, who traditionally come in at 10:15 or 10:30 in the morning, or a little earlier. I can assure you that it is the end result of a combination of a number of things: being interested in the job, trying to do the job to the best of your ability without offending staff members, and experience. I hope that that is a satisfactory answer.

Ms. Dolores Novoa: To what do you attribute the high morale?

Col. Trimble: Well, I wouldn't agree with you that our morale is always that high, particularly when the Appointment and Promotion Panels are meeting and people are worrying about whether or not their name is going to be on the register. But I think a little bit of the pride I mentioned earlier is part and parcel of it. I am sure 99.9 per cent of my people are proud to be in the Security Service. We are well paid, as our salary scale is quite respectable, our working conditions are pretty reasonable,

considering the fact that we are out in all kinds of weather. There could be no better atmosphere to work in than the United Nations. I am sure that all my people appreciate this. They believe in the U.N., they are dedicated to the U.N., and I think all these various ingredients go to build up a high sense of morale. Plus the fact of our personal security—and I am using that in the sense of security after you reach retirement. It's pretty hard to beat the benefits that are available to a staff member from the United Nations. I don't know of any Organisation from the outside that treats their members any better.

Ms. Vivien Fredner: I would like to know about the role of women in the Security Section.

Col. Trimble: Yes, we have six female Security Officers at the moment. But we have always had a few women in the Service, doing our secretarial work. We started recruiting female Security Officers a little over two years ago, two years on the 25th of May I believe. We are very happy with them. We will have more female Security Officers in the future. We wanted to be very careful that we did not bring too many in at the same time, for a number of reasons. First of all, we wanted to satisfy ourselves that they would fit in well with our type of operations. We have no doubts about that. We also wanted to establish a little bit of seniority

within the female grade so that when they start bucking for promotion, we won't have too many of them with the same seniority date.

Ms. Anne Agostini: How far will the Security Officer allow things to go before using force?

Col. Trimble: Well, we have not had to resort to physical force very often. When we do, it is the minimum amount of force necessary to carry out what we think should be done. To give you an example, a few years ago a number of people chained themselves to the table in the Security Council. They came in and took a guided tour and at a given signal hopped over the railing, ran down through the press gallery, seated themselves around the horseshoe table, brought handcuffs and chains out of their pockets and chained themselves around the table. They insisted that we call the Security Council into session, so that they could put their grievance to the Council. They did not really believe us when we told them that the members of the Security Council did not live in the building and were not available on a moment's notice to come to the Security Council chamber. They did not believe us; they thought we were just trying to put them off.

Well, to make the long story short, we listened to their grievances, we did our best to convince them that they should leave of their own free will and accord, and told them of the ultimate consequences if they did not. The whole event happened about 3:15 in the afternoon, or about that time, to give you an illustration as to the time we let elapse before we took firm action. As we did not need the Security Council for anything, in theory, time was on our side. But after we had talked to them, and a number of different people did talk to them, time elapsed and it was fast approaching five o'clock when we normally close the building. I made the decision that if they had not left of their own free will and accord at that particular time, we would give them one final warning and then we would remove them.

Now, during that period of time, when the negotiating process was going on, we were of course collecting Security Officers in the background. If you want to remove one person from a building, it takes a minimum of two people to remove that one, even though I have some big and burly individuals. If a person decides they don't want to move, in most cases, you have to carry them out. We called on our Fire Unit, because it is one of their functions, to come up with the steel cutters. We cut the individuals off from the Security Council table, we removed them from the building and in this particular case we turned them over to the New York City police, who were waiting outside the United Nations to receive them, and the United Nations lodged a complaint against them on this particular occasion.

But this is not to say that all people you have to use a certain amount of force to remove are difficult people to talk to. We don't say we disagree with their cause or anything else like that, because we do our best not to take sides. But by and large, even with people of this type, our relations are reasonable. I remember one afternoon when I personally got involved with the leader of one group who was causing us a little difficulty and concern. And some of the press spoke to me afterward and asked, "What were you talking over with him?" I did not tell the press at that particular time, but that was the day that Willie Mays was sold to the New York Mets and we were discussing the transaction.

Sri Chinmoy: Dear Chief, supreme Chief, good friend of humanity's cause, on behalf of the United Nations Meditation Group I wish to thank you from the very depth of my heart for your most illumining talk and most fulfilling answers. You mentioned in your unique talk that you believe in pride. Like you, we too believe in pride. We pray and we meditate. On the strength of our prayer and meditation we try to become one with the soul of the United Nations. Here the soul of the United Nations makes us feel that it is supremely proud of you, dear Chief, and of your devoted, faithful assistants. You are protecting the body of the United

Nations; therefore, the soul of the United Nations is extremely, extremely proud of you for without the body, the soul-reality cannot manifest here on earth. Your service is not only to the body of the United Nations but to humanity's supreme cause, to each individual on earth. Each individual is crying for world peace and world harmony in the inmost recesses of his heart and you are helping humanity in a unique manner. The United Nations is not only a building; it is something infinitely more important than a building—it is humanity's cry and humanity's smile. With your invaluable service you are becoming one with humanity's cry and humanity's smile.

The Meditation Group is extremely proud of serving the soul and the body of the United Nations in a silent way. Here we feel that there are two ways to serve the United Nations. One way is to deal outwardly with politics or with the organisation as such, the world body. The outer way is being fulfilled by the work of the Secretary-General, the Security-Council, the delegates and the staff members. The other way is to pray and meditate inwardly for the world soul. Here prayer and meditation try to help the outer way according to their capacity. We do not say that the inner way is the only way to save mankind—far from it. Only the inner way helps considerably the outer way.

You are serving and you are protecting, Colonel Trimble, the United Nations body and soul.

Therefore the Meditation Group offers its most soulful gratitude and divine pride to you and to your devoted assistants. We are offering to you a small gift as a token of our hearts' deepest gratitude and our souls' loftiest pride. (Sri Chinmoy presents medallions to Colonel Trimbel and the five squad representatives, and then offers U.N. tie clasps to the other officers present.)



Sri Chinmoy presents Colonel Trimble with a medallion for his dedicated service to the United Nations.



Colonel Trimble, centre, and Sri Chinmoy, far left, with representatives from the Security and Safety Service.

Col. Trimble: For those of us in the Safety and Security Section, I just want to take this opportunity to thank the United Nations Meditation Group very warmly and very sincerely for their programme this afternoon and for their expression of thanks toward us. We are deeply appreciative.

THE INNER VISION: LOVE OF GOD; THE OUTER MISSION: SERVICE TO HUMANITY

In the spring of 1977 Mr. David Rowe, Political Advisor, United States Mission to the U.N., submitted the following questions to Sri Chinmoy, Director of the United Nations Meditation Group.

David Rowe: Bhaktivedanta referred to the United Nations as a "society for united animals" where people are not interested in religious things. Could you please comment on this?

Sri Chinmoy: Dear David, it will simply be impossible for me to see eye to eye with the statement that has been made by the spiritual leader in question. To say that the United Nations is a society for united animals, since people at the United Nations are not interested in religious things, is to criticise the United Nations not only mercilessly but almost unreasonably. First of all, we all know that in the name of religion and religious matters countless people have been killed since the dawn of so-called civilisation. Almost all the religions have fought at one time or another against one another unreservedly and, what is

worse, at times without any rhyme or reason. Just to show its supremacy over other religions, each religion has swerved from the fundamental principles of truth. Why blame the United Nations? The wisest thing for the wise man is to first solve his own personal problems, illumine his own darkness and perfect his own nature. This is the only way that either the united or the divided human animals all over the world can climb to a higher rung of evolution, which we can unmistakably call proper human life.

David Rowe: Is the fundamental goal that the United Nations can aspire for no more than that of the member states which compose it?

Sri Chinmoy: No, the United Nations can and should aspire for a higher goal than what the member states that compose it represent. The member states are like strong pillars of an edifice, but many more things are required to build the edifice. Those things are also of tremendous necessity. When everything is in its proper place and all things are combined to achieve a specific goal, at that time the body of the achievement-reality becomes divinely integral and supremely perfect.

David Rowe: Can we hope that individual delegations of member states will work toward higher goals than their home governments would normally support?

Sri Chinmoy: It entirely depends on the inner strength of the individual delegations. If individual delegation has received a higher call to spread deeper reality in human life and, at that time, if it does not get support from its home government, then I think and feel that the individual delegation must move forward and listen to the inner dictates. Let us take the home government as an old man, an old father, and the individual delegation as a young man. The old man always thinks that he knows everything far better than his son, but sometimes it happens that a higher truth and more illumining realities want to express themselves in and through the young generation. At that time, if the old generation does not want to accept the new vision that has dawned on the young generation, then it will be a deplorable mistake. And this mistake may cause an untold disaster in the minds and the hearts of both the fearful and unwilling old generation and the daring and pioneering new generation. God does not have to speak all the time through the human father. He can easily speak to the father through the human son as well. Therefore, as it is obligatory for the son to listen to his father when

the father's advice is founded upon unmistakable truths, even so it is equally obligatory for the father to accept the son's vision-reality when it is unmistakably illumining and considerably fulfilling.

David Rowe: When a member state assumes an "anti-United Nations attitude," the cause would probably be frustration or fear that the UN has taken or may take some action against it. Does such an attitude weaken the UN system?

Sri Chinmoy: When a member state assumes an "anti-United Nations attitude," it undoubtedly weakens the United Nations system. First of all, it violently and shamelessly goes against the United Nations system. When a member state goes against the United Nations system, on the outer plane it definitely weakens the system; but on the inner plane the strength of the United Nations system is extremely solid and sound. As long as the inner aspiration of the United Nations is sincere and strong, we do not have to worry if a member state or even if all the member states assume an "anti-United Nations attitude." For it is not the member states alone that can and will bring about world harmony. It is the united force of all the. nations, big and small, that can and will bring about a oneness-world family.

There can be many reasons why a member state

wants to stand against the United Nations policy. But just by standing against United Nations policy, a state will not be able to solve even an iota of the world's problems. If one sees that the United Nations is doing something wrong, that is no reason why one should want to stand against the United Nations. One has to love the United Nations more in order to bring to the fore its sincere aspirations which can and will change the face of the entire world.

To err is human, to forgive is divine. To forget past blunders of others, as well as one's own, is to make friends with satisfaction-peace and perfection-bliss. Further, this is the only way to accelerate humanity's oneness-vision and oneness-goal. If you see the world's imperfections, you should not discard the world; you should not consider it a filthy object or speak ill of it in season and out of season. No! The wise thing is to accept and embrace the world—the well-meaning U.N. world—as a humble and trying instrument of an all-embracing and all-fulfilling supreme Reality.

David Rowe: Secretaries-General have conceived their office in various ways. Is there a preferred definition of the institution of the Secretary-General?

Sri Chinmoy: According to my inner aspiration, I wish to say that an ideal Secretary-General is he who has a free access both to the inner realities and the outer realities of life. The inner realities are heart's cry, heart's oneness. The outer realities are life's total and consecrated dedication. The ideal Secretary-General is he who dives deep within in order to quench his inner thirst, the thirst of the oneness-world family, and then comes from within to without to share with the rest of the world the nectar-bliss that he has discovered and drunk profusely in his inner life.

An ideal Secretary-General is he who at once fulfils his inner vision and outer mission. His inner vision is love of humanity, for humanity's sake, and his outer mission is service to humanity, for humanity's sake. His inner life is a continuous growth to reach the acme of perfection. His outer life is dedicated to spreading his perfection, which is illumination itself, throughout the length and breadth of the world.

David Rowe: The style and personality of the Secretary-General influences numerous individuals and national governments and to a degree determines the performance of the entire U.N. Don't you think, then, it is essential to select a Secretary-General who will not allow possible wrong influences or powers to guide his actions?

Sri Chinmoy: We should always try to be true servers and warriors of truth, for truth is life in the purest sense of the term. Therefore, our supreme choice and our only choice has to be an all-loving, all-caring, all-serving and all-fulfilling Secretary-General, whose love-power will transform the dominion-power or the influence-power, and not the other way around. Love inspires us to do the right thing in life. Power quite often, if not always, influences us or, rather, not always but quite often instigates us to do the wrong thing. Therefore, a Secretary-General who is higher than the highest in height is also expected to be wider than the widest in every sphere of his life.

David Rowe: Is there a special need to promote cooperation between the newer and often poorer countries in the General Assembly and the older and, in most cases, more established, wealthier countries? Should the latter not take the lead in fostering good relations?

Sri Chinmoy: We all believe in progress. Progress is nothing but true satisfaction. If one country is more established and more financially secure than another country, that doesn't mean that this particular country is the happiest and the most perfect country. If one country wants to remain always at the vanguard of all the other countries, or if it wants to exercise supremacy over the other countries, then it may be able to do so. But true satisfaction, for which there is a common

and universal cry, will never come. Supremacy will never be transformed into either an individual or collective smile.

Everything is relative. One country may be poorer than another country in one particular aspect of human life but it can easily be richer in some other aspect of life. Outer wealth it may lack, but inner wealth it may have in profuse measure. Again, if one country is wanting in the outer wealth as well as in the inner wealth, then it will be an act not only of kindness but also of wisdom if the superior country opens both its inner door and outer door to help, guide and illumine the unillumined, inferior one. At that time the illumined one is only increasing its reality-existence. The heart of love knows only how to expand, and another name for this expansion is satisfaction. Satisfaction-reality is the fruit of the satisfactiontree, which comes from the perfection-seed.

(continued in next issue)

UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION-FLOWERS

On 10 June 1977 Sri Chinmoy gave the following practical instruction in meditation during a meeting of the U.N. Meditation Group.

(To seekers below thirty years of age) Today we shall do a special type of meditation. We shall focus our attention on various places. When we concentrate on the top of our head, we shall imagine a conch. And when we focus our concentration inside the mind, inside the head, we shall imagine a beautiful rose. Then, when our concentration is inside the heart, we shall imagine a beautiful lotus. And when it is around the navel area or below the navel area, we shall imagine a few jasmine flowers.

A conch signifies divine victory. When we meditate on the top of our head, on the crown centre, then it will help us to blow the conch, to sound the divine victory. Then, when we meditate on the head proper, on the mind, the beauty and fragrance of the rose will help us to illumine our unlit human life. When we meditate inside the heart, the beauty and the fragrance of the lotus will help us identify ourselves with the soul. Then, when we meditate around the navel area, the jasmine flowers will help us purify our impure body-reality.

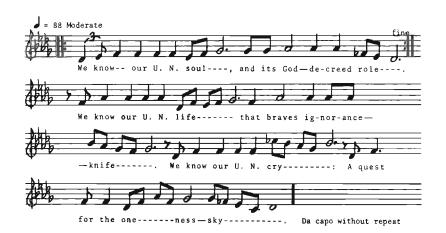
It will be safe and wise to start with the navel area. So for a few seconds please meditate on the navel area and imagine a jasmine flower and establish purity. The jasmine signifies purity. Then come to the heart centre and there imagine a lotus. Imagine a lotus and identify yourself with the soul. When you come to the head, kindly imagine a rose and then illumine your unlit human life. Then come to the top of the head and imagine a conch, the divine victory. Imagine that it is announcing the divine victory, your victory.

(To seekers over thirty years of age) Now let us do a different type of meditation. We shall focus our concentration first on the heart, then on the third eye, and then on the head. While concentrating inside the heart we shall imagine a boat, a golden boat. While concentrating on the third eye we shall imagine the sky. And while concentrating on the top of the head, on the crown centre, we shall imagine the sun. The boat is your own Eternity's boat, the sky is your own Infinity's self-expansion and the sun is your own Immortality's new creation.

So let us start with the boat. We shall imagine the boat inside the heart. This boat will be our Eternity's boat, our own Eternity's boat which is sailing inside us. And then, when we meditate on the third eye, we shall imagine the sky and our own Infinity. Our own Infinity's expansion we shall observe. Then we shall meditate on the crown centre and imagine the sun, which is our own Immortality's new creation.

OUR U.N. SOUL

We know our U.N. soul, And its God-decreed role. We know our U.N. life That braves ignorance-knife. We know our U.N. cry: A quest for the oneness-sky.



TO-MORROW'S NOON

(continued from previous issue)

47.

Love and serve humanity sincerely. Your name will be disseminated constantly over God's special Radio.

48.

If you have a solicitous heart, then rest assured that God has a blessingful Eye.

49.

Sobriety in all things may not always be attainable, but it is always desirable.

50.

A sincere seeker must never be afraid of the doubting mind. On the contrary, he should take the doubting mind as a skittish animal.

A skeptical person has to remain always a stranger to the bliss of oneness-reality.

52.

It is the height of stupidity to attempt to dissemble fear, doubt, anxiety and frustration in the spiritual life. Fear, doubt, anxiety and frustration must be brought to the fore before they can be transformed.

53.

Insincerity and impurity are undoubtedly sinister forces in the life of a seeker.

54.

It is a deplorable mistake to think that faith's position as the chief leader is a sinecure in the spiritual life, for it is faith that functions, performs, illumines and fulfils us more than anything else.

(continued in next issue)



June 10, 1977

Ms. Gail Gershon U. N. Meditation Group Singers 866 United Nations Plaza Room 3001 New York, New York 10017

Dear Ms. Gershon:

We want to thank you all for the lovely singing of Sri Chimmoy's beautiful " O Body of the World" at our June 4th World Environment Day program.

Yours was an important contribution which reminded people of the significance of wholeness and serenity in our lives.

We thank you, and we thank Sri Chinmoy.

Sincerely.

Martha Lackner World Environment Day Coordinator

ML:bjl

world environment day - sierra club united nations environment program - united nations, room lx.1225, n.y. n.y. 10017



THE UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP TAKES GREAT JOY IN OFFERING FOR YOUR DELIGHT













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- United Nations Meditation Group

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REFERENCE

22 June 1977

Dear Miss Novoa.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School, I wish to thank the U.N. Meditation Group, through you, most warmly for the kind interest and support of the School.

The Circus event for the Junior School by your talented performers on 15 June was thoroughly enjoyed by all. What a fine example it was to our students, of the joy received as well as given, in the performance of public service. And of course, the beauty bestowed on the School in such a tangible way by the lovely plantings at the School's entrance will be a reminder always of the generous and thoughtful deeds. Please be good enough to convey our deepest gratitude to all involved in making the Circus and the garden possible.

The spirit which has motivated your action is a source of encouragement to all those who are engaged in reaching out to the children of every race, creed and culture represented at the School. Through your support, you are helping to forward the principles of international understanding enumerated in the United Nations Charter and in so doing, giving recognition of your faith in the Organization.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Murray Fuhrman Special Representative of the Secretary-General

Miss Dolores Novoa U.N. Meditation Group United Nations Room A-515L

BIKE MARATHON

Many of the Meditation Group's aspiring athletes spent a rather invigorating Memorial Day weekend this year, cycling in the annual 24-hour Pepsi Cola bike marathon in Central Park. High mileage award in the Group went to Paul LaRusso of UNICEF, who circled the five-mile track 54 times for a total of 270 miles. Most of the women in the Group completed 100-150 miles, with Barbara DeLong of ESA making a strong showing with 210 miles; and Sri Chinmoy, Group Director, kept up a slow but steady pace all night long to finish with a highly respectable 175 miles. The Group practised twice daily in Flushing Meadow Park for about three weeks before the event.