

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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MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

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UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

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 UNICEF.

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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. delegates, staff members and NGO representatives 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 14 April 1970, when it invited the well-known mystic and philosopher Sri Chinmoy to lead its meetings. Since then the U.N.M.G. has sponsored conferences on the role of spirituality in world affairs, held symposia on the philosophy of world peacemakers, convened formal interfaith gatherings and hosted concerts, poetry readings and benefits for disaster relief and UNICEF at Headquarters in New York and in Geneva.

Schedule of Meetings:

Tuesdays: 1-2 p.m.
U.N. Secretariat, New York
Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium

Fridays: 12 noon to 1 p.m.
U.N. Secretariat, New York
Room 550

Tuesdays: 12:30-1:30 p.m.
U.N. Secretariat, Geneva

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WORLD GRATITUDE DAY

The United Nations Meditation Group celebrated World Gratitude Day twice this year—once on 12 September in a special programme in the United Nations Secretariat for delegates and staff; and again on 21 September 1977 in World Gratitude Day's New York Headquarters when the Group's Director, Sir Chinmoy, was honoured at official ceremonies. The plaque, presented to him by Mrs. Edna Lemle, president and founder of the organisation dedicated to promoting the cause of worldwide gratitude, cited Sri Chinmoy for having "enhanced the spirit of globalism with his compassion, his creativity and nobility of spirit." The first September 21 World Gratitude Day celebration was held 13 years ago.

This year citations were presented to nine religious leaders and representatives of organisations. Among others recognised were the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, whose director Dr. J. Ottley came from Salt Lake City for the ceremony; Judith Hollister, founder of the interfaith Temple of Understanding; Dr. Russel Barber, producer of the NBC television programme THE FIRST ESTATE; and Rabbi Sally Prisent, the first woman in American Judaism to attain the ranks of the clergy. Past awards have been given to UNICEF [as an organisation] and to former General Assembly President Angie Brooks Randolph.

Following are the texts from both programmes, which included music and the performance by the United Nations Meditation Group singers of a song by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to World Gratitude Day.

UNITED NATIONS HERALDS
WORLD GRATITUDE DAY
Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium
12 September 1977

Sri Chinmoy opened the programme with a silent prayer.

Mr. Robert Muller, U.N. Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination: I was happy, a few moments ago, to read the beautiful booklet of quotations on gratitude distributed by the World Gratitude Day association. Thanks to a member of the Meditation Group, I was invited to inaugurate in a few days hence, in Dallas, Texas, a world gratitude center in Thanks-Giving Square. When I received the invitation, I reflected for a moment and concluded that although throughout my life I had always been deeply grateful for the gift of life, I had never thought much about the concept of gratitude. I therefore turned to any encyclopedia I could find, including children's encyclopedias, but except for a few words on the tradition of Thanksgiving Day, I could find nothing.

I was puzzled. I went through my books at home, and I found the word "gratitude" well covered in two places: the Bible and my old Latin dictionary. To find it in the Bible was normal, since daily prayer and thankfulness to God are two main

pillars of religion. But the several pages of quotations from Latin authors was a revelation: They had found gratitude—"gratia"—to be a very profound philosophical concept, which the compiler summarized as follows: "way of agreeableness in a subject towards someone else or of someone else towards the subject." Then I consulted an old German etymological dictionary inherited from my grandfather, and I found another concept: "Dank", "thanks", "tak" (Danish), "Dank" (Dutch), etc. came from the word "denken", "to think". It meant to remember something agreeable that had happened or was given. At the U.N. I consulted a few colleagues from different lands, and I got some fascinating answers: the Greek "eukharistia" means "expressing joy" (khara); the Arabic "shukran" is related to "sweetness"; Chinese "shie-shie" meant originally "to decline", since it is the tradition in China to decline three times before accepting a gift or favour. The different cultural perceptions of "gratitude" were so interesting that we decided in the U.N. Linguistics Club to collect its etymology and meanings in as many languages as possible and to publish a booklet on it.

The concept seems to be deeply entrenched in all cultures, and it is a pity that in our modern world we seem to take it so much for granted, to the point of rendering it almost meaningless. It is good that World Gratitude Day on 21 September and the movement started in Dallas have as their

objective to re-establish gratitude at its proper and indispensable place in human civilization.

When I think of gratitude, the image of Pablo Casals comes forthwith to my mind. I have seldom met anyone who was able so constantly and so deeply to express his gratitude for life. When he spoke on that subject, he often ended up in tears, lamenting the incapacity of so many people to understand what an incredible miracle life was. These were his words to Sri Chinmoy during their meeting in Puerto Rico:

" . . . The child must know that he is a miracle, that since the beginning of the world there hasn't been and until the end of the world there will not be another child like him. He is a unique thing, a unique thing, from the beginning until the end of the world."

He was absolutely right and held the key to the world's main problem, namely that of violence and war, when he continued:

"Now that child acquires a responsibility: 'Yes, it is true, I am a miracle. I am a miracle like a tree is a miracle, like a flower is a miracle. Now, if I am a miracle, can I do a bad thing? I can't, because I am a miracle. . . . Could I kill? Could I kill someone? No, I can't. Or another human being who is a child like me, can he kill me?' I think that this theory can help to bring forth another way of thinking in the world."

A few days ago, I had the privilege of reading a chapter of U Thant's forthcoming memoirs, in which he describes how he conceived the role of Secretary-General. Fundamental to him was his religion, Buddhism, and he explains which precepts of his faith he found particularly applicable. Among these, he gives high rank to the principle of *metta*, or impersonal love or good-will which embraces all beings impartially and spontaneously, friends and foes alike. In his conversations with me he often said that each human being was a unique manifestation in the stream of life and that consequently we should approach all our human brethren and sisters with respect, kindness and wonder at the miracle they embodied. He held therefore that one should never dislike another person and never harm anyone. Respect, understanding and love were the only correct attitudes towards the prodigy of life. He applied this philosophy very strictly, never criticizing or diminishing others, never doing harm, but on the contrary, rejoicing at the qualities, achievements, prosperity and good fortune of others.

Then he turns to the thinkers who had an important influence on him and mentions Albert Schweitzer (as Hammarskjöld had done) and Teilhard de Chardin. Of Albert Schweitzer, he writes:

"In his *Philosophy of Civilization*, Schweitzer first presented the ethic of 'reverence for life'—a theme consistently featured in his life and thought, and the central core of most of his speeches and conversations. He stubbornly pressed hard to bring home his point and developed the theme to encompass wider horizons. Man, he said, must not limit life to the affirmation of man alone; man's ethics must not end with man, but should extend to the universe. He must regain the consciousness of the great chain of life from which he cannot be separated. He preached the necessity of 'the will to live an ethical life,' which should be the primary motivation of man, and he said life should be for a higher value and purpose—not spent in merely selfish or thoughtless actions. What then results for man is not only a deepening of relationships, but a widening of relationships."

U Thant himself left us some very important lessons, in particular his distinctions and hierarchy of the four natures and needs of the human person: physical, mental, moral and spiritual. If we think for a moment of the human body, its incredible complexity, the marvellous functioning of its trillions of cells, miles of vessels, hundreds of automatisms, a miracle such as the human eye and nervous system, we can but stand in awe before this prodigy. The same is true of our brain, a phenomenal natural, organic computer, the mechanical reproduction of which would require

the volume of a cathedral. And what should we say of the heart, capable of love for our children, family, friends, profession and for the entire creation on this planet? . . . , and last, but not least, of the soul, hungry to seek the outer limits of the universe and of the eternal streams of time, from Creation to the Apocalypse? When you think that we have been given such a body, such a mind, such a heart and such a soul, then there can be only one conclusion, namely that life is a true miracle. It is a miracle for which we must be grateful from morning to evening. In the morning when we rise we should look at the sun, as so many of our brothers and sisters still do in countries like India, in the monasteries and in the rural areas of the world. To pray to the rising sun is to recognise the resurrection of the day. There is so much to be grateful for. It is our duty to give thanks at all times for our admittance to the banquet of life, especially in those countries where hunger and poverty have been eliminated. In ancient times it was said that God punished the ungrateful. This is no less true today. For the rich to complain is really to tempt God. Nothing is more shocking indeed than the murmurs and dissatisfaction of the healthy and wealthy. Think of the 500 million hungry in this world, of the 600 million jobless, of the 400 million handicapped, and you will realise, you the healthy and rich, how thankful you should be. The least we must expect from you is to

put an end to your lamentations, waste, greed and unhappiness and to come to the help of your less fortunate brethren and sisters at home and abroad. The first step towards a happier world is for the well-to-do to acknowledge that life has been good to them and to be grateful. If not, what is the use of working so hard to bring about a more prosperous world?

In conclusion, may I say how happy I am that the World Gratitude Day association has decided to give its award to Sri Chinmoy, a great Master from the East, a teacher who has fully understood from the beginning when he joined as Director of the U.N. Meditation Group the significance and importance of world gratitude, and who has taught it so well to the members of that Group. Thanks be to him who teaches us to say thanks.



Mrs. Lemle presents a World Gratitude Day plaque to Sri Chinmoy at the United Nations.

Mrs. Edna Lemle, President, World Gratitude Day: Welcome, Sri Chinmoy, Mr. Muller, Mrs. de Sola Pool, Kevin Keefe, the United Nations Meditation Group and all you good people who have come here to help us herald World Gratitude Day. I will begin by asking Sri Chinmoy to stand here as he did before and get everyone into the mood which is the absolute essence of Gratitude Day.

Sri Chinmoy meditates facing the audience.

Now look inward and find something to be grateful for and remember this feeling. Now open yourself up and share this emotion with everyone here. Know that everyone in this room is sharing the same emotion... I feel it! It surges through the room... Thank you. This is the basis of the day.

On September 21st gather together some friends and observe Gratitude Day by repeating this with them. It can be a simple gathering or an elaborate party, depending upon how you would like to do it. The important part is that each one gives thanks in his own way. To whom and for what is for each personal and private. It is the essential emotion that should be universally shared.

The official beginning of this world holiday was in 1965 at the East-West Center in Hawaii where a Thanksgiving Dinner was held for ninety Grantees who came for the most part from Oriental

countries. We discussed the need for a globally unifying holiday and everyone was thrilled with my idea of Gratitude Day. Each person in the room pledged, therefore, to hold a Gratitude Gathering the following September 21st, when they returned to their own countries. That was the beginning. And since then Gratitude Day has been observed all over the world.

Each year the Board of Directors of World Gratitude Day presents an award to someone whom we feel has done something outstanding in the spirit of Globalism. In the past we have honored such distinguished individuals as Angie Brooks Randolph, first woman president of the United Nations General Assembly, Maurice Strong of Canada and the Nobel Prize Laureate, Rene Cassin. In addition we have honored UNICEF and Japan, which, incidentally, was the first country to declare World Gratitude Day a national day of thanksgiving.

And so, I am most pleased to present this year's World Gratitude Day Award to Sri Chinmoy, who is most deserving of this honour:

WORLD GRATITUDE DAY is pleased to honour **SRI CHINMOY** who has enhanced the spirit of globalism with his compassion, his creativity and his great nobility;

Whose being and achievements reflect the spirit of our Proclamation:

WHEREAS, humanity has come to recognize devotion and allegiance to immediate family, to clan, to city, to state, and to nation, and now must experience the concept of Globalism; and

WHEREAS, words of praise and positive thoughts generate dynamic harmony; and

WHEREAS, decisions made from a grateful heart are endowed with intrinsic wisdom and engender prosperity; and

WHEREAS, gratitude, the opposite of "taking for granted," is a positive emotion which generates good will, is a basic emotion which is indigenous to all people, is a peace engendering feeling;

AND WHEREAS, September 21 is a special day.

It is an equinox: one of the two times of the year when the sun passes over the equator and night and day are everywhere of equal length and everyone is equal under the sun;

THEREFORE let us proclaim World Gratitude Day, a holiday for all peoples, a day of meditation for all religions, a day of celebration for all humanity, united by knowledge of simultaneously shared emotion, a day when triumph of the spirit can make a world community.

Sri Chinmoy, I think the world should be grateful to people like you. I am honoured to give you this award.

Sri Chinmoy: I am accepting this with my heart's boundless gratitude, and this gratitude is something that is glowing and growing within me. Every day I offer to the Beloved Supreme only one thing: gratitude.

Man's greatest gift to God is gratitude. Man's self-giving and his gratitude are one and the same.

I am extremely grateful to you, Mrs. Lemle, for you are opening a new chapter in humanity's evolution. The world is in the process of evolution. You know the utmost significance of gratitude, and the awakened soul in you is awakening others. Gratitude is man's conscious oneness with his Beloved Supreme. I am sure that your soul has felt this supreme oneness with the Beloved Supreme and your soul has come to the fore to urge your illumined mind to offer this loftiest message to the world at large.

Gratitude in the inner world is nothing but self-expansion. It is through self-expansion that we become aware of our true reality, which is Infinity itself. Your contribution to the world at large, to the inner world especially, is momentous. As a seeker, I know that there is nothing on earth as valuable and significant as gratitude. In God's Eye there is nothing more meaningful and precious than man's gratitude. Therefore, to you, to the illumining soul in you, I wish to offer my boundless and ever-growing gratitude.

Mrs. de Sola Pool: I don't know if what I have to say is worth listening to. If I would speak in the muted tones of the speakers here, then your own souls would prevail and that would be best. However, I will say one word.

I was thinking this morning—How much of the food we eat, the clothing we wear, and the machinery we use belongs, not to one country, not to one people, but to all the world.

Physically we are interdependent.

This day we want to remember that spiritually we are one also.

There are certain things which belong to all mankind and to all ages. One of them is prayer.

In every age, be it Stone, Iron or Space, man begins with prayer. It is a universal which we want to carry in our hearts. It doesn't matter what prayer we say. Only our sincerity, love, and above all, our gratitude for the privilege of being able to share in the universal emotion, universal prayer, universal gratitude, is what really matters.

Let us pray:

What we have,

What we enjoy,

is for ourselves.

What we share,

is for the Lord,

is for the spirit,

is for what is beyond us,

is what we are striving to become.

And even if we are not here that day, our spirit
of striving will be there when we reach the Goal,
which I believe in my heart mankind will some-
day reach.
Thank you.



*OFFICIAL WORLD GRATITUDE DAY
AWARD CEREMONIES
World Gratitude Day New York Headquarters
21 September 1977*

Below are Mrs. Lemle's remarks when presenting the official award to Sri Chinmoy, and Sri Chinmoy's reply.



Mrs. Edna Lemle: Now we're going to conclude with an extremely special, unusual man. Sri Chinmoy comes from India. He makes everything seem possible. He is the head of the United Nations Meditation Group and he has people from the different United Nations countries meditating together. By golly, if you can do that, I guess you can do anything. And he is also a very creative man. He is a painter; he is a writer. I met Sri Chinmoy just last week when, Heaven-sent, he offered to have a programme to herald World Gratitude Day at the United Nations. Sri Chinmoy stood there and just

meditated, and everybody felt it. He does, of course, so much; I have to strain to reach it.

He is currently having an art exhibit at Grand Central Station with his magnificent paintings. He has written 300 books. There are Sri Chinmoy Centres in 50 or 60 countries or places around the world. We're grateful for your presence, Sri Chinmoy.

(Reading from the plaque) "World Gratitude Day is pleased to honour Sri Chinmoy who has enhanced the spirit of globalism with his compassion, his creativity and nobility of spirit, whose being and achievements reflect the spirit of our proclamation."

Sri Chinmoy: Dear Mrs. Lemle, dear sister in the Universal Compassion-Heart of the Supreme, your searching mind's World-Gratitude dream is astonishingly beautiful. Your aspiring heart's World-Gratitude reality is supremely fruitful. I am extremely grateful to you and to the Board of Directors for bestowing upon me, upon my devoted heart, this signal honour. You have discovered in me a world-server. A world-server is he who is a God-lover. A God-lover and a world-server are one and the same. Just because God, out of His infinite Bounty, has granted me the opportunity and capacity to love Him, today I am in a position to be of service to humanity, His creation. Your discovery will be a great asset in my service to mankind. I shall try to serve more devotedly, more soulfully and more unconditionally this creation of our Beloved Supreme.

Here many religious faiths are proclaiming the oneness, absolute oneness of our absolute Pilot

Supreme. An hour ago when I arrived here, my dear friend and seeker-brother, Dr. Russell Barber, (*producer of NBC's "First Estate"*), and my dear seeker-sister, Pat Parker, greeted me at the entrance. During our conversation, Dr. Barber said to me that he was very pleased that he and I were getting the award together on the same day. I said to him, "So, we are sailing in the same boat." He immediately and lovingly corrected me. He said, "Not exactly so. We are sailing towards the same destination but in different boats." Many roads lead to Rome. But here we are arriving at the same destination.

God is the gardener. In His garden there are many beautiful flowers. One flower cannot make a beautiful garden. Many flowers are needed in order to make a beautiful garden. Again, it is the garden that embodies the many flowers and the flowers' fragrance. So the one became many and, finally, the many are reaching the self-same goal and becoming one. We all came from the One, and now the one Tree is having many branches. But each branch knows that there is a trunk, a Source. God is evolving in and through us in various ways, in many forms and many colours and then He is returning to the one destination. So the One became many in order to enrich and fulfil and finally to reach one Goal.

During his short but momentous speech, dear Dr. Barber has told us that the United States is next to India in spirituality. With his soul's permission, I wish to correct his experience or his pronouncement. It is not because I am here in America that I feel bound to extol America to the skies where spirituality is concerned, but it is because

I happen to be a seeker of the Absolute Supreme. Our Beloved Supreme has two most illumining and most fulfilling qualities or attributes: Peace and Power. They are inseparable. They are mutually illumining and fulfilling each other. India embodies and represents the Peace aspect of our Beloved Supreme and America embodies and represents the Power aspect of our Beloved Supreme.

Peace and power we can take as two legs of an eternal runner, who is eternally running along Eternity's Road to reach an endless destination, an ever-fulfilling destination. At any moment when we observe the runner running, we will see one particular leg ahead. That doesn't mean that that leg is actually leading or winning the battle. No, sometimes the right leg is in front and sometimes the left leg is in front. We need two legs in order to run properly towards our destination. So peace is one leg and power is another leg. Neither of them is slower, or behind the other. Both of them are equally important. Each one is needed and each one is helping the other to run fast, faster, fastest towards the destination.

My gratitude-heart is my thoughtful inspiration. My gratitude-heart is my prayerful aspiration. My gratitude-heart is my soulful meditation. This inspiration, aspiration and meditation of mine have been helping me to become a devoted instrument of my Beloved Supreme. Today you are honouring me for what I have done to serve the world at large. My contribution is an infinitesimal iota of self-giving. Again, I have to say that there is Someone who is celebrating in the inmost recesses of my heart not only what I have done but also

what I have not done. Out of His boundless Bounty God has helped me not to dine any more with ignorance-night, and He is very pleased that I have not done so. so not for what we do but also for what we do not do, God is equally pleased with us.

My inspiration-wings, my aspiration-bird and my soulful life I am offering to each seeker present here, especially to you, Mrs. Lemle. You are the head of this organisation, World Gratitude Day. Gratitude is our self-expansion. It is the liberation of the finite reality inside the infinite Divinity. When we offer gratitude to someone, in no way are we showing insufficiency, inadequacy or an inferior existence-reality to that person. He has given us what he has and what he is and we are giving him what we have and what we are. Let us take God, for example. He gives to us what He is: infinite Compassion. This is by far the best Reality that He embodies. For us, our best achievement is our gratitude-heart. Our gratitude-heart will make us inseparably one with our Beloved Supreme. There is no other way. Consciously, soulfully and unreservedly we become one with Him only by the expansion of our aspiring heart.

Gratitude is what at every moment we must try to grow into in order to fulfil the divine in us. Gratitude is an earth-born and earth-grown fruit which nourishes not only the Heaven-born cosmic gods but also pleases most the Heavenly Creator, our Eternity's Beloved Supreme.

Finally, I wish to invoke the presence of an immortal poet, Shakespeare, whose soulful prayer I wish to share with you all: "O Lord who lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness."



World Gratitude Day

is pleased to honor—

Sri Chinmoy

Who has enhanced the spirit of globalism with his compassion, creativity and nobility of spirit.

Whose being and achievements reflect the spirit of our Proclamation

Whereas humanity has come to recognize devotion and allegiance to immediate family, to clan, to city, to state, and to nation, and now must experience the concept of globalism; and,

Whereas words of praise and positive thoughts generate dynamic harmony; and,

Whereas decisions made from a grateful heart are endowed with intrinsic wisdom and engender prosperity; and

Whereas gratitude, the opposite of "taking for granted," is a positive emotion which creates good will, is a basic emotion which is indigenous to all people, is a peace producing feeling

And Whereas September 21st is a special day. It is an equinox, one of the two times of the year when the sun passes over the equator and, night and day are everywhere of equal length and everyone is equal under the sun.

Therefore let us proclaim World Gratitude Day, a holiday for all peoples, a day of meditation for all religions, a day of celebration for all humanity, united by knowledge of a simultaneously shared emotion, a day when triumph of the spirit can make a world community

*gathier with a few friends—
Be aware of being grateful
(To whom and for what is personal)
Know that the emotion of gratitude
is being shared globally*

Edna Fuersch Lemle

*Edna Fuersch Lemle
President*



Edna Fuerth Lemle

Executive Office:

World Gratitude Day
777 U.N. Plaza, Suite 7A
New York, N.Y. 10017

Your presence, Sri Chinmoy, was indeed a key factor in the success of the thirteenth annual World Gratitude Day Gathering. Your spirit, your words, the music of your creation: "World Gratitude Day" were most marvelous contributions to the day.

Thank you for all this and for your gracious acceptance of the award.

I look forward to being in your presence again.

*Respectfully,
Edna Fuerth Lemle*

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In Process of Formation

(and those indicated above)*

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



GRATITUDE DAY

BY THE GOVERNOR:

- WHEREAS: Humanity has come to recognize devotion and allegiance to immediate family, to clan, to city, state and nation, but has not yet fully comprehended devotion to our World and Humankind; and
- WHEREAS: Words of praise and positive thoughts have the quality of generating dynamic harmony and energy throughout the crystal-line lattice of our society; and
- WHEREAS: The benefits of working, doing, and being together in a cooperative spirit are indigenously enjoyed by people; and
- WHEREAS: Gratitude is the opposite of taking for granted and has the quality of offering the grateful the opportunity to be part of the continuum, to enhance their lives; and
- WHEREAS: Decisions made in a grateful state of mind often contain the seeds of continuity, are endowed with intrinsic wisdom, and tend to engender prosperity; and
- WHEREAS: The equinox is one of two times each year when the Sun passes over the equator making night and day equal everywhere on earth and making everyone on earth equal under the Sun; and
- WHEREAS: September twenty-first marks the Harvest Season and is the autumnal equinox for the Northern Hemisphere and is the beginning of Spring, Season of Renewal, in the Southern Hemisphere; now
- THEREFORE: I, Jimmy Carter, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim Thursday, September 21, 1972, as "GRATITUDE DAY" in Georgia, and invite all our citizens to experience the emotion which goes with giving thanks and to recognize that this feeling is being shared with many others simultaneously around the world.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed. This 29th day of, August, 1972

BY THE GOVERNOR

Hamilton Jordan
Secretary, Executive Department

Jimmy Carter
GOVERNOR

(29)

O WORLD GRATITUDE DAY

O World Gratitude Day!
I pray for you I pray.
Man's feeble climbing ray
Is one with God's Vision-Play.

Compassion: highest gift.
Gratitude: fastest lift.
Only satisfaction-seed
Can feed man and God's need.

♩ = 104

words & music by Sri Chirmoy



0

O World Gra-ti-tude Day-----!

I -- pray for you -- I -- pray --, Man's -- fee-ble clim-bing

ray ----- is one with God's ----- Vi ----- sion Play.

Com -- pas -- sion --; high ----- est gift --. Gra -- ti -- tude --;

fas -- test lift. On -- ly -- sa -- tis -- fac -- tion -- seed --

man -- feed -- man -- and --

God's ----- need -----

Da capo without repeat

U THANT ISLAND DEDICATED

On 16 September 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group dedicated a small island in the East River, adjacent to U.N. Headquarters, to the memory of the late Secretary-General U Thant. State authorities gave permission for the Meditation Group to beautify the island and build a monument, with Governor Hugh Carey sending an official letter of soulful dedication to U Thant Island, citing U Thant's work for world peace.

The dedication ceremonies, held on what turned out to be a rainy but calm Friday afternoon, included the burying of a metal box or cornerstone, which contained a gold pen and tie clasp belonging to U Thant, as well as various significant artifacts and documents from the U.N., government officials, the Meditation Group and its director, Sri Chinmoy, a personal friend of the late Secretary-General. Members of U Thant's family were present, with his daughter, Mrs. Aye Aye Myint-U unveiling the plaque. Representing the U.N. Security and Safety Service was Officer Carlos Stozek, one of Officers who worked closely with U Thant, who broke ground for the cornerstone.

The short programme opened with a silent invocation by Sri Chinmoy. Commemoration by the speakers follows:

1992

Sri Chinmoy: Beloved brother U Thant, humanity's divine friend U Thant, we are here today to commemorate and perpetuate your invaluable life's immortal contributions to the length and breadth of the world.

This is an island smaller than the smallest. Indeed, you are another island, larger than the largest for our gratitude-heart and oneness-soul.

As the finite reality embodies infinite Divinity, even so this smallest earth-aspiration island will embody you, the Heaven-Perfection island, devotedly, soulfully, gratefully and eternally.



Mr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs: Dear friends and authorities who have made this day possible, it is with great emotion that we are standing here on this little island which U Thant often contemplated from his office on top of the United Nations Building. He had a deep love for rivers. He insisted on living in Riverdale where, from the porch of his house, he could see the Hudson, the sunsets over the Palisades, and meditate. From his office he often looked at the East River and wondered about this little deserted island, which for many United Nations officials has been a source of fascination. He would be a very happy man today if he knew that this tiny spot of our planet had been selected to bear his name, to commemorate him and to remind us of him in our offices in the United Nations. Yes, U Thant Island will be for us a symbol of the high virtues he advocated as the only answers to the troubling problems of our world: truthfulness, integrity, kindness, tolerance, compassion, simplicity, humility, purity and above all love for all our human brothers and sisters. As we stand here today on this island with his family and friends, let us all in our hearts and spirits pledge to him that we will work very hard to help fulfil his dream for a peaceful, just and happy human family on our beautiful planet.



Mr. Robert Muller and Sri Chinmoy meditate together on the cornerstone for U Thant Island.

Ms. Sita Simian, Staff Aide to the Honourable Governor Hugh Carey: I am Sita Simian and I am here today representing Governor Carey, who has asked me to tell you how sorry he is that he cannot be with you for this dedication of U Thant Island. He feels very strongly that this is a very important day for New York. I'm going to read you a copy of a letter that the Governor has sent, which I believe will be buried on this island. Hopefully a dry copy will be buried. This is addressed to Sri Chinmoy.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

HUGH L. CAREY
GOVERNOR

September 16, 1977

Dear Mr. Chinmoy:

I commend you and the United Nations Meditation Group on your dedication today of U Thant Island, a symbol of world peace. It is right that this Island be named after the late Secretary General U Thant who labored so hard and so long to achieve world peace.

U Thant will be remembered by all who knew him both in his homeland of Burma and at the United Nations. He was a gentle and dedicated man of whom all mankind is proud. The United Nations was greatly strengthened by his actions.

I share your hope and dream that U Thant Island will remind us all of the never-ending and essential quest for peace around the World.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hugh L. Carey".

Mr. Sri Chinmoy
Director
United Nations Meditation Group
Room 1061
The United Nations
New York, New York 10017

Ms. Sylvia Fuhrman, Special Representative of the Secretary General, United Nations International School: I am Sylvia Fuhrman. U Thant asked me originally to do something for the United Nations International School and appointed me as his Special Representative to do so. We were also good friends. I have very deep affection that I will always carry with me for U Thant. We had an official relationship, of course, and I've been asked to read the statement that's being interred in the ground about that relationship. But just as important to me was the personal relationship: when we would discuss architects and plumbers when he was building his house in Harrison; when we would discuss children at the School with personal problems; when he asked to visit the new building which he was so responsible for getting for the School. This was after he retired from the United Nations, but his interest in students, in education and in the United Nations International School continued. And so we did, indeed, make an informal visit after that to the School, where he pitched pennies with the students to help them in raising funds for a ping-pong table. After the fun and games we discussed very serious matters about the School. He was fully confident that all matters relating to the School could be handled: the ping-pong tables of course, but also the matters of building, of funding, of international education being accepted world-wide were of very much importance to him.

Because of the rain I don't want to speak too long, but I will read the statement that is going to be in the ground with a lovely photograph of U Thant at the School, as well as the United Nations hymn which he commissioned from Pablo Casals and W.H. Auden. I had the happy chore of being his emissary for that. I know that lovely music will last forever and will always be a reminder of U Thant.





Mrs. Murray Fuhrman
Special Representative of the Secretary-General

United Nations Headquarters
Room 820
New York, N. Y. 10017
754-6941/6943

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In 1967, U Thant received the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding. The Award involved a substantial sum of money which the Secretary-General turned over to the United Nations International School. UNIS used it to establish a scholarship award in his name for a student whose parent is a UN staff member. Since this award is given each year, all those connected with UNIS know of it. Few know, however, of the honoraria for articles or speeches that benefitted UNIS. This generous awareness on the part of an extremely busy and by no means wealthy man, was a true indication of his unfailing support of and dedication to the idea and ideals of international education. He was indeed deeply involved with the School and, during his ten years as Secretary-General and after his retirement, showed it in every possible way. A request to use his good offices on its behalf was always certain of acceptance.

He believed firmly that teachers, in his own words, "have to play a very important and significant role ... in peace keeping and peace building." Himself an educator for twenty years, he came to the conclusion that "in order to fashion a new society, to mold a new generation in keeping with the times, three things were necessary -- mental growth, spiritual growth, and development of a social sense -- in other words, education for citizenship."

U Thant believed, as he said, that to support the School was "to forward the principles of international understanding enumerated in the UN Charter." His own support was unstinting.

14 September 1977

Mr. Donald Keys, Representative, Planetary Citizens: I am Donald Keys. As has been said, U Thant was first and foremost an educator. Little did he realize to what extent that would be true. He was not only an educator of school children, university people, he became an educator of heads of state, of governmental representatives. He became an educator of nations in the ways of peace, compassion, tolerance, perseverance, harmonization. He became an educator, not only and perhaps not primarily, by what he did but by being the person that he was. This is attested to over and over again by those who knew him and even by those who did not know him. So it is a great privilege to join today in the establishment of this particular spot as a shrine to our most exalted educator. Thank you.



Mr. Donald Keys addresses the gathering on U Thant Island.

Ms. Nancy Neal, Department of Ports and Terminals, City of New York: Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Nancy Neal. I'm here representing Commissioner Mastriani of the Department of Ports and Terminals, who sends his regrets that he can't make it today. He told me to tell you that he's very proud to be involved in this ceremony and that all of New York is honoured that the United Nations is situated here on our waterfront. Thank you.

Mr. Kevin Keefe, UNICEF: Representing the "International Year of the Child" Secretariat, I would like to say how deeply honoured we are to be a part of today's ceremony. UNICEF has been designated as the lead Coordinating Agency for the Year of the Child. I feel the statement made by U Thant when UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1965 shows that he would be very happy that the International Year of the Child is represented here today:

"UNICEF . . . has now become established as one of the most meritorious agencies of the United Nations which has earned the unstinted support of men and women all over the world. Its devotion to the welfare of children and mothers everywhere reflects a concern for the younger generation which we all must share."

Thank you.

The U.N. Meditation Group Singers dedicated a song by Sri Chinmoy to U Thant, after which Mrs. Myint-U unveiled the plaque.



Dr. and Mrs. Myint-U and their son, Thant, after the unveiling of the plaque.

Officer Carlos Stozek: My name is Carlos Stozek and it is a great privilege and a great honour for me to be here during this very happy moment for all of us who loved U Thant, who respected and thought of him as a great human being. I believe all of us are very happy to be here today. I am representing the Security and Safety Service, Colonel Trimble and especially three of my colleagues who worked very closely with U Thant: Mr. Isaac Edwards, Mr. Florino Squillace and Mr. Joseph C. Agazzi. I believe I shouldn't keep you too long in the rain—we are having very bad weather here—so I think we should break ground now. Thank you.



ENSHRINED IN THE CORNERSTONE

— *Personal artifacts*

A gold pen and tie clasp belonging to U Thant,
both inscribed with his name.

— *Commemorative offerings*

- *Photograph of U Thant and Sri Chinmoy*
- *Book: "U Thant: Divinity's Smile—Humanity's Cry"—Sri Chinmoy*
- *Pamphlet: "The Example of a Great Ethical Statesman: U Thant"*
— *Robert Muller*
- *Flag of the United Nations*
- *American Flag*
- *Flag of the State of New York*
- *Reproduction of official letter of soulful dedication from the Honourable Hugh Carey, Governor of New York State, on the life of U Thant, the dedication of U Thant Island and the world-service of the United Nations*
- *Copy of permit to beautify U Thant Island issued by New York State, Real Estate Division*
- *United Nations Meditation Group banner*
- *Photograph of U Thant at the United Nations International School and historical record of U Thant's close relationship to the school*
- *UNICEF emblem and emblem of the International Year of the Child*
- *Resolution A/Res./31/169 of the 31st Session of the General Assembly proclaiming 1979 as the Year of the Child (14 February 1977)*
- *Insignia and historical record of New York City's waterways (New York City Police Department, Harbor Unit)*
- *Insignia and Statement of Purpose of the Marine Division, Fire Department, City of New York)*
- *Photograph of U Thant Island*
- *Copy of letter of support from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority*
- *Small bust of U Thant by Mazzone in bas-relief—"Marmo tenero verde cipollino" (Sculpture in tender green onyx)*
- *Song sheet. "Hymn to the United Nations," music by Pablo Casals, poem by W.H. Auden*
- *Songbook dedicated to the soul of the United Nations: United Nations Meditation Group*



Above: *The boatripe to U Thant Island.*
 Below: *Guests and members of the Meditation Group join in a ceremony enshrining the cornerstone.*



PROGRAMME MARKING THE OPENING
OF THE 32ND SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On 19 September 1977, to mark the opening of this year's General Assembly, United Nations delegates, staff and NGO representatives met [in Conference Room 1] to reflect on the theme, "United Nations: the Heart-Home of the World-Body." Speakers explored the continually expanding role the United Nations plays at the heart of the global community.

In the tradition of the silent meditation which opens each session of the General Assembly, the Conference opened and closed with a short meditation, led by United Nations Meditation Group director, Sri Chinmoy. The programme also included music and short recordings of all the Secretaries-General. Excerpts from the talks follow.

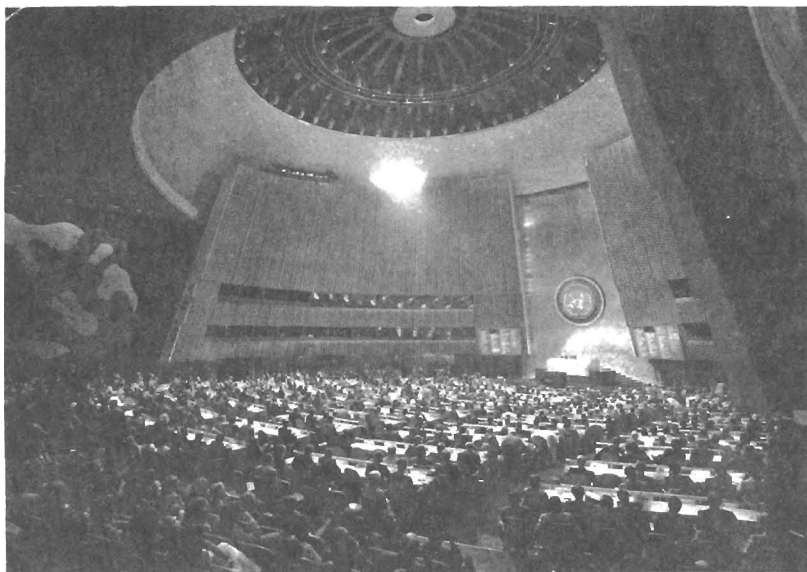
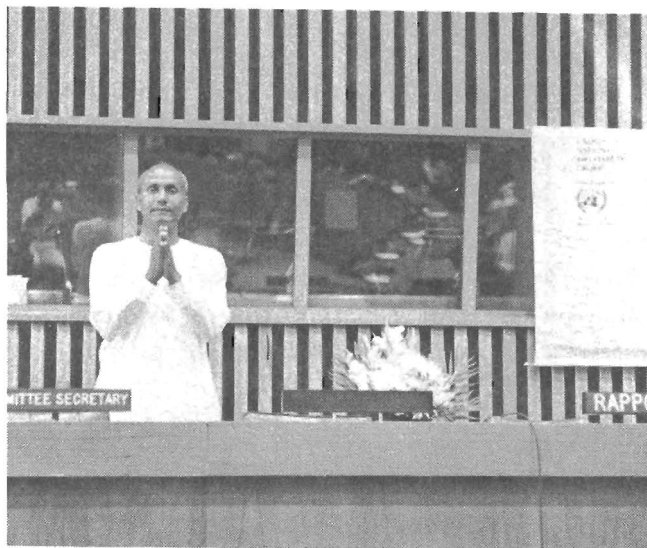
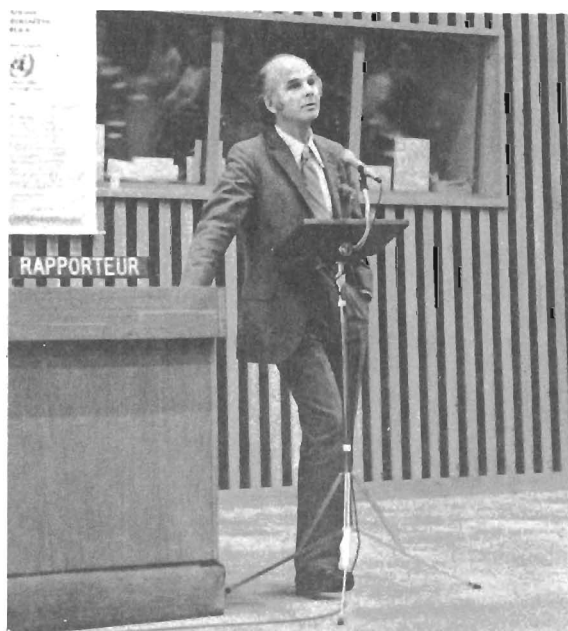


Photo: United Nations



Above: Sri Chinmoy, Director of the U.N. Meditation Group, leads the opening meditation of the Conference. Below: Mr. Ervin Laszlo gives the opening remarks.



MR. ERVIN LASZLO
*Special Fellow,
United Nations Institute for Training and Research,
and Director of the Report to the Club of Rome,
"The Goals for Mankind"*

"I would like to say a few words to continue in this atmosphere of meditation and I would like to call your attention for a moment to the historical dimension of what we are doing and the thrust of our activities. I think it is not accidental that the United Nations has come to life after the upheavals of the Second World War and of this century. And I don't think it's accidental that it is gaining in influence, that it is gaining in importance. I don't think it can go anywhere but forward, even though it has many difficulties in its way, as we're all aware.

"If we looked back over the course of human history, as perhaps we can do just to meditate on it for a moment, we would find that human societies have grown in their size and complexity all through history. . . . But in every civilisation, every society always had an information centre, a coordination centre, some place that administered the many and increasingly complex affairs of society, of people.

". . . we come across this concept of national government over three hundred years ago as being somehow the necessary and perhaps the ultimate form of administering and coordinating the affairs of human societies. But the true meaning of today's interdependence is that nations also need each

other; they cannot manage entirely by themselves. They need each other, and therefore there has to be a coordinator, an information centre which works among nations, which helps the individual governments and the cultures and the peoples from different parts of the world to achieve some of those aims that they could not achieve by themselves. I think that the growth of human societies, the growth of complexity, the growth of interactions—all of this calls for today the kind of a body that the United Nations is in the process of becoming. I think this realisation should give even the most commonplace and everyday chore or task that we may have to do, a new meaning, a new significance, because we are in a way at the hub, at the very centre of this new, emerging centre—a brain, a mind and a heart for the evolving societies of our times.”

Thank you.

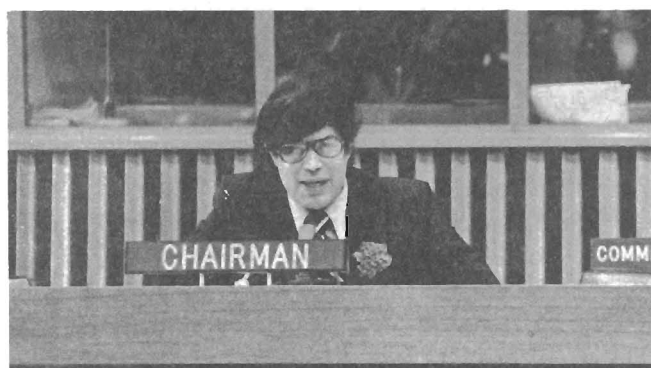
MR. ROBERT CHITTENDEN
Chairman, Staff Committee

"The vitality of the United Nations has been demonstrated over the years in its response to global change and newly recognised problems of concern to all humanity. And the United Nations has played a part in that process of transformation. The Organisation today is not what it was 30 years ago, or even five years ago; but the fundamental purposes and principles of the United Nations have never changed.

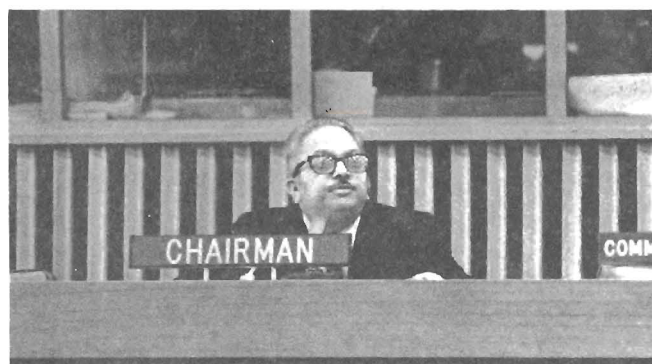
"The Secretariat was recognised by the Charter as one of the principal organs. Today as before, the Secretariat remains the heart of this Organisation. It was recognised from the beginning that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity must be met. It was also recognised that if it is to enjoy the confidence of all Member States, the Secretariat must be truly *international* in character, and cannot be composed of national representatives responsible to governments. I firmly believe that an international civil service is a fundamental pillar of the Organisation. . . ."



Mr. Robert Chittenden



Mr. Ghandikota V. Subba Rao



Mr. William Angel

MR. GHANDIKOTA V. SUBBA RAO

Senior Officer

Economic and Social Affairs

"It is certainly, I think, appropriate that we have this particular gathering at a time of the conclusion of this last Assembly on the theme of the international economic order. And very soon we will be having here a gathering of world political leaders. It is not, I think, inappropriate to hope that one of these days, and sooner than later, we would have a similar meeting, if I may use that expression, of world spiritual leaders—leaders to regenerate morality and ethics, I must say, at the individual as well as at the national and international levels.

". . .there has been the search for such codes of conduct in the United Nations in the economic and social as well as in the political fields. Codes of conduct must naturally include both rights as well as duties. Otherwise they would not be correct. In the final analysis, how do you judge these codes of conduct? In the case of individuals it is by their inner perceptions. . . This is precisely what is being done through the instrumentality here of the group for meditation led by Sri Chinmoy. These processes take place in the heart; you must think with the heart. It may be a contradiction in a certain sense, but this is basically at the very root of our approaches, our evolving and emerging approaches even to the world economic and social problems."

“ . . . international institutions and groups of this nature—spiritual or material, psychic or mystic—have a great harmonizing role to play; and beyond the role of harmonization, the role of real integration. . . . diffusion of the teachings of love and brotherhood—if this is not relevant to the U.N., I don't know what is really relevant.”

[The full text of Mr. Subba Rao's speech will appear in the following issue.]

MR. WILLIAM ANGEL
*Associate Officer,
Planning and Evaluation,
United Nations Centre for Social Development
and Humanitarian Affairs*

"I do believe that the U.N. *is* the heart-home of the world-body. Some people think it is a rather sacrilegious heart. I think it is a very sacred heart. In fact for me it is *the* sacred heart, but I think the heartbeat is far from adequate. The Secretary-General on Staff Day last Friday mentioned that the U.N. in his opinion has lost a sense of adventure and innovation which it possessed in the early days. And, I would add, that since the U.N. has experienced several broken hearts and minor cardiac arrests due to the struggles between the East and the West and the North and the South, and in some cases in the early seventies, the young and the old, I think the U.N.'s heartbeat is far from adequate.

"... it is not just a question of saying the U.N. is the heart of the world-body, but what part of the U.N. is the heart? I think to a degree the General Assembly is the heart which contracts and dilates; it projects, it is both inward and outward. It represents the people of the world in a better way than, shall we say, any other movement in the world in a sense that it brings together the

thousands of delegates every year, from now approaching one hundred and fifty countries. . . . besides being an incipient brain and nervous system for the world-body, I believe the United Nations embodies the heart of this emerging universal religion of which the historical, sacred and contemporary secular faces are but branches. And I believe that the U.N. presently is working out this larger synthesis. In fact I might add on a personal note that the United Nations *is* my religion, and I'm committed to its evolution in this direction via physical, mental, moral and spiritual ways."

[The full text of Mr. Angel's speech will appear in subsequent issues.]

UNITED NATIONS OBSERVANCE OF THE POPE'S BIRTHDAY

The 80th birthday of Pope Paul VI was marked by a ceremony at the United Nations on 23 September. Sponsored by the United Nations Meditation Group, the ceremony included remarks by Msgr. Giovanni Cheli, Permanent Observer for the Holy See at the U.N., Father John Donohue, of the Holy Family Church, and Mr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs; and meditation with Sri Chinmoy, who has met Pope Paul on several occasions.



Monsignour Cheli

Monsignour Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the U.N.: Your excellencies, my dear friends Robert Muller and Sri Chinmoy and my dear brothers and sisters:

Thank you very much for inviting me to participate in this celebration. I am confident that I speak in the name of the staff of our mission when I tell you how happy we are that you have decided to acknowledge the 80th birthday of our Holy Father in this way. We know very well of his great interest and his warm feeling for the United Nations, for the goals of the Charter, and for the people who dedicate their lives to work for peace.

You might like to know that I had a very fine conversation with the Pope just a few weeks ago. I found that he was filled with interest in the United Nations and that he had many, many questions about the progress of various projects for peace. He follows the activities of the United Nations with great enthusiasm, and takes a personal concern in all that goes on here and wherever the United Nations is active in the world.

You have made a very good choice in honoring the Pope on this occasion because he has always been united with you in spirit in your peace-making efforts. He has personally extended himself for peace among religious leaders and has taken important steps to advance unity among the churches. Peace in the world is his special concern. We think of him as the Pope of Peace. You recall

also how he drew the attention of the world to the United Nations and how he stressed the important work done here when he visited the headquarters in 1965; the 12th anniversary of that visit will be next Tuesday. His famous cry, "War no more — no more war" still strengthens the hearts of those who heard him when he spoke in the General Assembly.

When the Secretary-General visited the Pope in July, he heard the Pope say to him: "You are welcome to this house, together with all those who accompany you. We are always happy to receive you here." The Pope continued: "We have constantly expressed our high opinion of and our confidence in the path opened by that organization," the United Nations. He referred later to the "beneficial and key role of the United Nations and its specialized agencies." Looking to the future he said: "Above all, we want the United Nations to be, par excellence, the expression and the bulwark of those human rights which it so solemnly proclaimed almost thirty years ago. A heightened consciousness is needed to make these rights the touchstone of a really humane civilization and truly to achieve, without excluding any race or any people, the solidarity which is essential between brothers all created in God's image. In this connexion, you are aware of the efforts and the intentions of Christians consistent with their faith: the Church wishes to strive unceasingly to refine consciences and to open hearts. And this work is

inseparable from the prayer which we send upwards to God to obtain His spirit, without which men will be unable to achieve reconciliation and live together in respect and love."

You can see that your intentions and your work in this beautiful Meditation Group under the leadership of this highly respected master of spirituality, Sri Chinmoy, are in harmony with those of the Pope. He will be, therefore, especially happy to receive your greetings on this occasion because he will appreciate the spiritual unity that you share. May I conclude with the Pope's final words to the Secretary-General which, I think, he would want me to say to you on his behalf: "We wish thus to reiterate to you our esteem and our encouragement, our desires and our hopes. And we pray that God may bless you and those who work with you." Thank you again.



Father John Donohue, Holy Family Church:
Twelve years ago next month, on October 4, 1965, Pope Paul VI became the first Pope ever to visit North America during his pontificate. He came as a "pilgrim for peace," in his own words, to address the General Assembly of the United Nations, which was then and is today mankind's last and best hope of peace. His moving address with its anguished cry, repeated several times over, "No more war!",

“War never again!” still echoes in our ears and stirs us to action to do whatever is in our power to save our generation and generations still to be born from the scourge of war.

Today, September 23, we observe the 80th birthday of the man who made so eloquent and so simple a plea for peace. He is a man who though filled with a hope that overcomes defeat and death—the fruit of his Christian Faith—is nevertheless filled with sadness that his pleas have not been heard everywhere by those who have the power to preserve peace.

Let his plea for peace, and for the justice and respect for human rights which is the irreplaceable foundation of peace, find a welcoming response in your minds and hearts—you who work for UNICEF, United Nations Children’s Fund, who formulate its policy, who determine its priorities, who answer the social, cultural, educational and economic needs of the developing and the under-developed nations of the world.

In an address delivered in Holy Family Church, the parish church of the United Nations, to members of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish organizations which strive for peace and human welfare in cooperation with the United Nations, Pope Paul said: “The work of peace is not restricted to the religious belief. It is the work and duty of every human person, regardless of his religious convictions.”

Peace will never come to pass unless there exists among nations and their leaders respect for every human person and for fundamental human rights. If this is not present, the search for peace is illusory and will end in failure. The great world-religions go beyond even this assertion, and teach the truth of the brotherhood of all human beings under the Fatherhood of a loving and caring God. Pope Paul gave voice to this fundamental tenet held by all religious faiths when he said, in the same address, "Men are brothers, God is their Father, and their Father wills that they live in peace with one another as brothers should." May this truth soon be recognized and accepted by all who bear the responsibility of maintaining peace among the nations.

Mr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: During my many years with the United Nations, I had occasion to observe the important role of Pope Paul in world affairs and matters of peace. As you know, he was a dear friend of former Secretary-General U Thant, whom I often heard speak of him with great fondness and admiration. Pope Paul was one of the few people, a group of very special persons with whom U Thant was in constant spiritual and humanistic communion. Later, I had the privilege of accompanying Secretary-General Waldheim to Rome when he visited

His Holiness for the first time. I can remember vividly how much the issue of peace loomed large in the spirit and heart of His Holiness. Monsignor Cheli had the right words when he said that Paul VI will be remembered as the Pope of Peace. I fully share his view. I have read much of what His Holiness has written and said about peace. His thoughts, writings and pronouncements constitute a unique doctrine of peace for our time. I hope that scholars and political scientists will bring out fully the richness, depth, vision and timeliness of that doctrine. I can only submit here a few brief personal comments on some of its highpoints, based primarily on the remarkable annual messages issued by His Holiness on the occasion of the Day of Peace on 1 January, which he instituted ten years ago and which is always a very special event for us here in New York, thanks to the care and concern of the Holy See Mission.

The principle that *pacts must be observed* is a central theme in the Pope's message for 1976, "Real Weapons of Peace." How familiar does it sound to the minds of the delegates to the United Nations! Personally, I have come to the conclusion long ago that the single most effective way to achieve universal peace would be the strict observance of the United Nations Charter. It is one of the most remarkable pacts of all times. It contains most of the necessary basic principles, methods, procedures and rules of conduct to prevent con-

flicts and to ensure peaceful relations among nations. A full, universal, honest, unreserved and painstaking adherence to its spirit and provisions by all members would make it the most effective instrument of peace ever. This in turn would forge the conditions under which nations would entrust their security to their collective organization rather than to arsenals of weapons or the armed protective wings of powerful tutors and military alliances.

Disarmament. His Holiness repeatedly insists on disarming as the primary condition for peace. Whatever justifications a state or group of states may have for resorting to armaments for their security, no universal man can ever lend his support to the idea of a planet of armed nations. From the standpoint of the Earth nation, armaments are a folly, a disgrace and an intolerable waste. They are a folly when one thinks of the type of insane, life annihilating weapons which are being master-minded and accumulated by states on our fragile globe. They are a disgrace, for they cast a severe doubt on the validity of the Earth's present political system. They are an intolerable waste when one thinks that 350 billion dollars are being squandered each year on armaments, when so many hundreds of millions of human brethren still cry out for food, medical care, schools and shelter on our planet. The scandal has reached such proportions that renewed attempts at disarming have been launched of late in the United Nations. All conceivable files

and proposals for disarmament are ready. They have been painstakingly worked out over the last thirty-two years. All depends now on the will of states. We shall see.

If you want peace, work for justice. How pertinent are these words chosen by His Holiness for the title of his peace message in 1972! Injustice is one of the main arguments adduced by the victims of injustice to defend, justify and promote violence and war. The idea of a "holy" or "just" violence has not yet been fully eradicated from the mind of man. When utter despair sets in, it takes a saint not to think of violence and rebellion as a means of achieving justice. How can we envisage a peaceful, brotherly world, for example, if the fantastic injustices between rich and poor are allowed to prevail on our planet? The drafters of the Charter saw it most clearly when they declared economic and social progress for all people to be one of the main foundations of peace. We see this also when attempts are being made to stem such new forms of international violence as hijacking, taking of hostages and terrorism. Then we are often told by the victims of injustice that in despair of finding a peaceful solution to such problems as independence, crying social and economic inequalities or the regaining of a homeland, there are no other ways but violence. We can have no illusion: the problem of world justice has been clearly and forcefully placed before states and the United Na-

tions. Its definition and attainment represent one of the most staggering challenges of modern times.

Promotion of human rights, the road to peace (1969 message). Here again His Holiness touches upon one of the principal causes of discontent and conflict on our planet. The United Nations is often criticized for not doing enough in this field. In my opinion, historians looking back someday at the last decades of our century, will at least recognize that the United Nations' definition of the inalienable rights of the human person, this alpha and omega of all our efforts, has been one of the greatest collective philosophical exercises of mankind ever. The question here again is one of faithful, strict and world-wide implementation. Much remains to be done in this respect, but at least the world community is on the right track, despite considerable difficulties often stemming from divergent views regarding the respective positions of the individual and the various social and political groups within the total human community.

Consciousness of human brotherhood. In his 1971 message, His Holiness reminds us forcefully of the basic truth that "Every Man is my Brother." Nothing, indeed, in the long run will contribute more to the forging of a peaceful and orderly society than the recent emergence of a true world-wide community. Prophets and philosophers had all perceived the fundamental unity and brotherhood of man, but for the first time in all our long

journey, this community is now being born. This is due primarily to the tremendous strides in science and technology which have revealed the immensely complex and fragile natural interdependence of everything on Earth and have promoted over a short thirty years a no less astoundingly dense and irreversible network of man-made economic, social, scientific, technological and psychological interdependencies. Willingly or not, no nation desirous of surviving in these new conditions can afford not to pray and work for peace. This is our greatest chance of all times. One can see it well at the United Nations, where behind the protracted political difficulties and idiosyncrasies, the human community has created and is perfecting a system of world agencies and instrumentalities which play a vital role in the probing, monitoring and assessment of our total planetary home as well as in the guidance of human behaviour and destiny on it. In my view, the numerous UN agencies, world conferences, meetings and endeavours are a direct, most concrete biological manifestation of the nascent efforts of the human species to establish itself as one, interdependent and someday harmonious and peaceful community.

Peace depends on you too (1974 message). How right His Holiness is when he recalls this fundamental truth of human coexistence. Peace is not the sole matter of governments and international agencies. Peace is the matter of every human

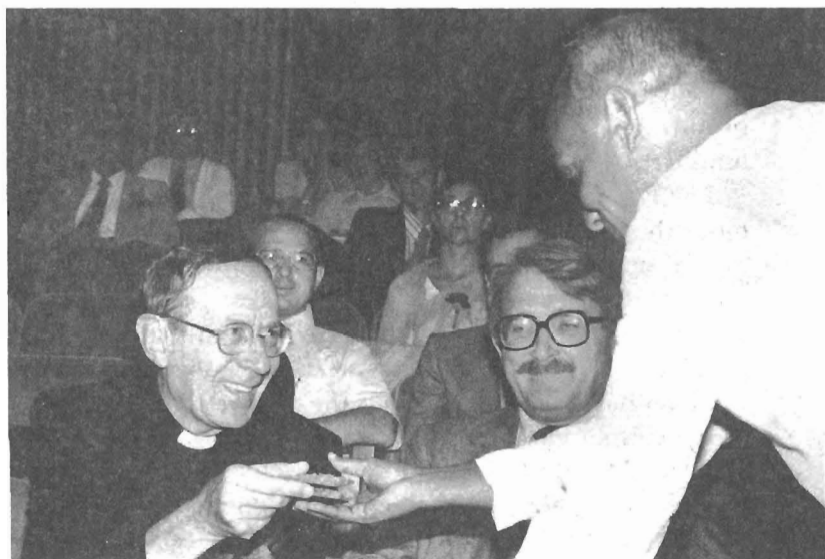
being. In the end, total peace, justice, understanding and happiness in the world can only be the sum of the peace, justice, understanding and happiness of all individuals, families, cities, nations, races, continents and cultures. Peace is interdependent in time and in space. The sense of peace, justice and understanding of a statesman may have been taught to him as a child by his parents, by the example of a public leader or by a good teacher. And the world may benefit immensely from that circumstance, if, at a moment of potential conflict, that leader extends his hands to his neighbour instead of seizing arms. A single act of peace is never lost. It has mysterious, far-reaching effects in the total world fabric. The same is true of an act of war and violence. In Buddhism this is called the law of karma. There rests an immense power for peace in the four billion inhabitants of Earth. People can be the masters of world peace if they work for it, if they insist on it, if they take an interest in the first international institutions created for it and give them their heart and spirit, a fact to which no government can remain insensitive. Thus, nothing in my view could do more for the strengthening and effectiveness of the United Nations than a good understanding and wholehearted support by the people. Generation after generation will have to be educated in matters of peace and global living if peace is to become a permanent feature of our planet.

If you want peace, defend life. In his 1976 message, His Holiness deals with the ultimate goal of all our efforts: the defense of life. In the great universal school of philosophy which the United Nations is progressively becoming, it is more and more apparent that humanity is setting the highest objectives ever for human life. Priority has been given first to the attainment of a good physical life for all, in terms of food, health and shelter, and of a decent mental life through education, without which there can be neither dignity nor the beginning of an understanding of the miracle of life. In those countries where these two objectives have been attained, people in increasing numbers, especially youth, are demanding a new dimension of life: they insist on the establishment of a moral society, the right not to kill a human brother in a fratricidal war, the re-establishment of morality, honesty, trust and integrity in all walks of life, public and private. This trend has emerged in the UN where more and more codes of ethics and rules of conduct are being requested on subjects as diverse as biological engineering, the comportment of the police, the transfer of technology and transnational corporations. The question is simply this: man has been able to extend tremendously the capacity of his hands, senses and mind through marvellous machines, optical and acoustical wonders and computers; will he now also be able to extend the capacity of his heart and soul? This is

the most fundamental challenge of our time. Everything is beginning to fall into place. Our knowledge reaches now from the infinitely large to the infinitely small. We have acquired during the last few years a remarkable knowledge of all major global conditions of our planet. The challenge is now whether a harmonious co-operation can be established between all social and political groups of our planet so that each human being, this miracle of creation and unique cosmos never to be repeated exactly the same during all eternity, will be able to achieve full consciousness of life—physical, mental, moral and spiritual. Yes, if we want peace, the first step is to defend life and to realize its uniqueness, sanctity, inalienability and miraculous character. If I realize that my human brother is a miracle, how can I ever hurt or kill him?

The Pope's rich doctrine of peace evokes so many more thoughts and comments. As a final remark, may I simply join in His Holiness' staunch optimism and belief in the human race. Yes, peace is possible, as he untiringly repeats. Yes, justice is possible. Yes, human dignity is possible. We may stand on the threshold of one of the greatest periods ever in evolution, if follies and accidents can be avoided. Mankind's incredible achievements in the realms of science, technology and thought must now be matched also in the social, humanitarian, ethical, moral, political and spiritual fields. It is

through the development of ties of sentiment, love, understanding, give and take, truth, compassion and global order, and through a full realization of what a miracle human life is in the universe, that we will be able to embark upon the next segment of our prodigious journey in evolution. Pope Paul's vision and doctrine of peace are luminous guideposts on that road. The world owes His Holiness a deep debt of gratitude for his relentless labours and thoughts for love and peace on Earth. We wish him a very long life and many more contributions to the doctrine of peace, justice and human fulfilment which has been his great gift to the human nation.



Monsignor Cheli and Sri Chinmoy

COMPASSION-HEIGHT

(Dedicated to Pope Paul VI)

Father, we love your eyes
Of glowing light.
Father, we love your heart
Of Compassion-Height.
Your soul champions love-cry
For peace on earth.
You bless our weakling hearts
With confidence-birth.
In you is quenched the breathless
Thirst of world-hours.
In you the U.N.'s high
Perfection-tree flowers.

May 28, 1976

(♩ = 76) COMPASSION-HEIGHT

The musical score is written on ten staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a tempo marking of (♩ = 76). The music is in 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across staves. The score ends with a double bar line and the word 'FINE' written above the final staff. The lyrics are: Father, we love your eyes of glo-wing Light. Father, we love your heart of Com--passion-Height. Your soul__chan--pi-----ons love--- cry---- for----- peace----- on----- earth----- You bless our weak-ling hearts----- with con-fi-dence- birth----- In you is quenched----- the breath-less thirst----- of world--- hours. In you the U. N.'s high----- per--fec--tion - tree----- flo-----wers.

FINE

U.C. al Fine

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Other publications about the United Nations include: *U Thant: Divinity's Smile, Humanity's Cry*, and four collections of talks at the U.N. by Sri Chinmoy: *The Garland of Nation-Souls, the Tears of Nation-Hearts, Union-Vision* and *Reality-Dreams*. Also available is *A Salute to the United Nations Security and Safety Service*, a compilation by the U.N.M.G. of informative talks and personal interviews with Security staff (profits are donated to the Security Benevolent Fund).

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