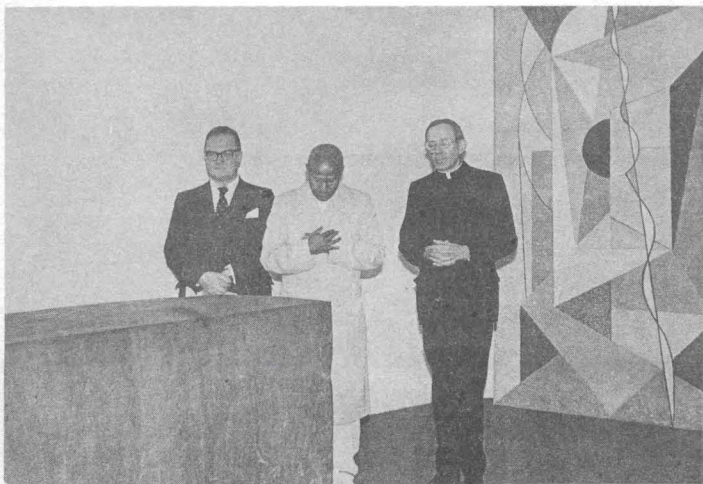


20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.N. MEDITATION ROOM

On 15 November 1977 the U.N. Meditation Group observed the 20th anniversary of the opening of the U.N. Meditation Room, located in the General Assembly Lobby. The programme opened with a short meditation in the "Room of Quiet" and continued in Conference Room 4 with speakers and the performance of six new songs written for the occasion by Sri Chinmoy, five of which were words of the four Secretaries-General set to music. The full text of the programme is available in pamphlet form. A brief excerpt from each statement follows.



Mr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General; Sri Chinmoy, Meditation Group Director; and Monsignor G. Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, lead a brief moment of silence in the U.N. Meditation Room (photo by Richard Howard).



Monsignor G. Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations: This pearl of great price brings us to the interior joy, the hope and the encouragement to persevere in the difficult task of peace making. But silence does not come to us just because we ask for it. Silence is like a friend. It must be cultivated. We might say that the Meditation Room created twenty years ago by the beloved Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjold, is a great house of silence. It is a place where silence is encouraged, stimulated and developed. If we wish meditation to flourish within us, we need to help it to grow. We can do that only by setting aside times in our day when we can pay attention to the quiet within us so that we renew our awareness of its beauty and its grandeur, when we communicate with God, and when we, of course, can fill our minds and our hearts with thoughts from good readings and conversation which will enhance our appreciation of quiet and silence.



H.E. Dr. Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines: The Meditation Room can be said to be a memorial to Secretary-General Hammarskjold. The United Nations is a centre for harmonizing action, as the Charter continually reminds us. But the process of humanization is a difficult one. All too often passion and conflict rule the day. It is at such moments that we need the Meditation Room to look into ourselves and to encounter our God so that we may cleanse our spirit and gain needed strength. This I have done many times.

Thousands have visited the Meditation Room and no doubt thousands of others will do so in the future. They will sit there in silent communion seeking refuge from the turmoil and, more important, seeking guidance and light and refreshment of the spirit. The Meditation Room is, or should be the "other United Nations." Thank you.



Mr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination: Meditation, prayer, dream, hope, vision, monitoring, guidance, foreseeing and planning all go hand in hand in so many different ways at the United Nations. For me the tall building of the U.N. is an edifice of human hope and dream jutting into the universe and receiving from that universe increasingly clearer messages. Perhaps we have reached a time of cosmic evolution. Year round people from all creeds and cultures assemble here to design a better future for the world. And in my opinion they will succeed. Once again, but this time on a universal scale, mankind is seeking no less than its reunion with the "divine", its transcendence into ever higher forms of life. Hindus call our Earth "Brahma," or God, for they rightly see no difference between our Earth and the universe. This ancient, simple truth is slowly dawning again upon humanity. Its full flowering will be the real, great story of the United Nations.



Ms. Judith Hollister, Representative of the Wainwright House: As time goes by, people often forget the original pioneers behind, for instance, the Meditation Room. Weyman Huckabee and his group, called the Friends of the Meditation Room, had the concept of a holy, quiet, sacred area connected with the United Nations way back in the days of Lake Success. They struggled, and sometimes they were given a tiny corner, and sometimes they were not given anything at all.

It was later on, as you know, that Dag Hammarskjold really took over and created the beautiful Meditation Room that we all know and love. But, as Weyman said to me, to the Committee this little story was just a miracle. I think that we don't always know the facts behind what we see. So I told him, with his permission, I would tell this lovely little story about that miracle. And today we rejoice in this miracle, and even today is a miraculous day. Thank you.

Statement received from
His Excellency Mr. Andrew Young
Permanent Representative of the United States
to the United Nations

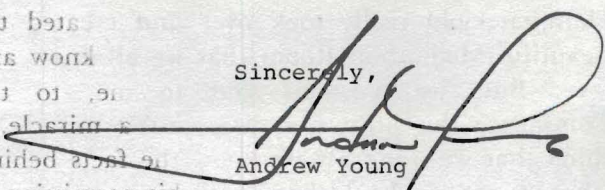


THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations, where the most tragic examples of human suffering become the concerns of all nations, there can be no greater or more meaningful sanctuary than the "Room of Quiet." For all of us who are at the United Nations to work out peaceful resolutions to the world's problems, the Meditation Room beckons us. Away from the formality and routine aspects of our diplomatic activity, there is a great need for this room where we can absorb ourselves in private meditation and prayer.

I pray that the tranquility of the "Room of Quiet" transcends throughout the world and provides the inspiration for peace and brotherhood.

Sincerely,


Andrew Young

REFLECTION ON SILENCE

In my life, I feel a need for and value opportunities for prayerful silence. Conscious of a loving God who communicates in many ways, I listen in quiet for His voice.

In listening, I recall moments during which I experienced life intensely—times of suffering, of great happiness, of unfulfilled longing, of tender love.

In reflective moments, I am at home with my memories, for what is most precious to me is made present in them.

In silence, I realize that the values and convictions that can be easily broken by the hard experiences of life are of great importance—such convictions as: it is good to be selfless; to be sad with those who mourn; to hunger and thirst for justice; to be pure in heart; to be merciful; to be a peacemaker.

In prayerful stillness, I am aware that God is closer to me than my own heart and I ask that His Spirit will lead me to seek holiness, and to clothe myself with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness and patience.

— *Terence Cardinal Cooke*

Below are the songs by Sri Chinmoy written for the 20th Anniversary of the U.N. Meditation Room.

THE UNITED NATIONS

$\text{♩} = 132$ Moderate words by Trygve Lie
music by Sri Chinmoy

The U--ni--ted Na-----tions is-----
the----- Su-----preme Law----- of-----
the----- world----- (sing 3 times)

U.N. MEDITATION

$\text{♩} = 120$ Moderate words and music
by Sri Chinmoy

U----- N. Me-di-ta-tion a----- soul--ful-- cry
To reach the vast--ness of----- one--ness-- sKy
U-----ni--ted Na-----tions Me--di--ta--tion----- Group-----
a sim-ple Truth--ser-ving all--loving troupe-----
U-----ni--ted Na-----tions Me--di--ta--tion----- Room-----
to stop for----- good----- the----- birth-- of-----
cos-----mos doom U----- N. Me-di-ta-tion
a----- soul--ful-- cry

MAY I BE OFFERED

words by Dag Hammarskjöld
music by Sri Chinmoy

$\text{♩} = 96$ Moderate

May I be off-----ered to----- that----- in the
of---fer---ing Which will be off-----ered (sing 3 times)
God took the form of man----- in the vic-tim
Who----- chose----- to----- be-----
sa---cri-ficed (sing 3 times, then D.C.)

fine

GONE ARE THE DAYS

words by U Thant
music by Sri Chinmoy

$\text{♩} = 132$ Moderate

Gone--- are the days when each----- Na-----tion
was-- an is-----land-- un-----to
it-----self----- (sing 3 times)

IN THE WAKE OF THE MOST CATASTROPHIC WAR

$\text{♩} = 116$ Moderate words by U Thant
music by Sri Chinmoy

In the wake of the most ca-ta-stro-phi-c war
in the his-tory of----- man-----kind, hu-----ma-ni-ty
had----- a----- new----- Vi-----sion:
it saw the glim-----mer of----- dawn-----
of----- a----- war--less world-----
(sing 3 times)

I KNOW

$\text{♩} = 126$ Moderate words by Kurt Waldheim
music by Sri Chinmoy

I----- know----- that-----
the----- world----- can--not-- do with--out
the----- U-----ni-ted-----
Na-----tions (sing 3 times, then D.C.)