

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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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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(2)

Photo credits:

F.P. Millis, page 20

Ruby Mera, page 13 (bottom picture)

*Lloyd Hart, pages 7, 9, 10, 13 (top picture),
22-25, 31-34, 36, 38-43*

Richard Howard, pages 14-17, 21, 44, 47, 48, 50

Ian Prior, page 11

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.

(5)

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 Hammarskjold Auditorium

Wednesdays: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

U.N. Secretariat, New York

Fridays: 12 noon to 1 p.m.

U.N. Secretariat, New York
Room 550

(4)

Tuesdays: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

U.N. Secretariat, Geneva

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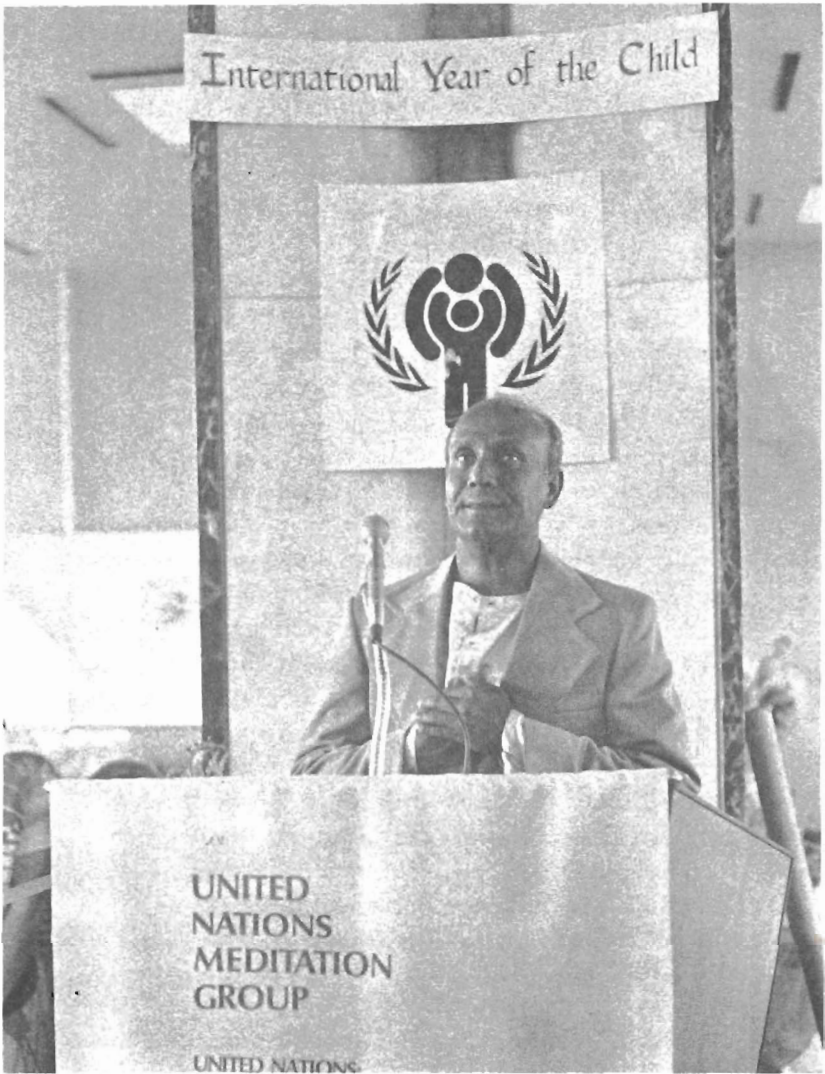
UNICEF BAZAAR FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

On 31 October 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group held a Bazaar at U.N. New York Headquarters in honour of the International Year of the Child. Meditation Group Director, Sri Chinmoy, offered a silent meditation for the success of the I.Y.C., which has been declared for 1979. Dr. Aldaba-Lim, Assistant Secretary-General, who has been recently appointed Special Representative for the I.Y.C., then spoke and cut the ribbon to open the Bazaar. Members of the Meditation Group sang Sri Chinmoy's song dedicated to UNICEF, which has been requested by the General Assembly to act as the co-ordinating agency for the activities of the I.Y.C.

Dr. Lim's talk follows:

Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative for the International Year of the Child: Sri Chinmoy, my dear friends in the United Nations and members of the United Nations Meditation Group, good morning. I am not going to speak very long. I just want to say how greatly I appreciate this invitation to join you on this very important occasion to raise funds for children of the world, especially children of the developing world, for which UNICEF, as you all know perhaps better than I do, has worked for all these years.

I know of what I speak for I have seen UNICEF in action in the little villages in the Philippines and many other parts of Asia. For there the cents and the dollars which you contribute from these kinds



Sri Chinmoy opens the programme with a minute of silence, in the tradition of many International Children's Day celebrations around the world where the children themselves join in silent prayer or meditation (photo by Lloyd Hart).

of things that you have held throughout the years have gone to feeding children, not just ten, twenty or fifty, but hundreds of children, sometimes thousands of children, who probably would never have been able to receive food from their own families. Often their own parents cannot afford to give them even a glass of milk for all their lives, their poverty is so great.

And so therefore this occasion takes on greater significance for several reasons. First, you are doing it in honour of the International Year of the Child, a declaration of the United Nations which will make 1979 the Year of the Child. And it is hoped that you and I from now on will continue to join hands, not only today, but in the years to come, in the next few years and thereafter, to make a better world for children not only in the poor countries but even in the rich countries. For the International Year of the Child is not only for the poor but as well for the rich countries of the world, for all the children of the world, to make everyone aware—rich parents and poor parents alike—of the special needs of children wherever they are, to maximize their development—psychological, emotional, cultural, moral and social development.

Therefore, on behalf of my colleagues in the UNICEF Secretariat here as well as in the Secretariat of Geneva, I would like to say that the International Year of the Child is all gratitude to you for participating in today's fundraising. We shall ever be grateful to you and we hope that this is not the last time that you will be concerned for children—that your concern is not only for this month, not only in this year, but in the years to come. Thank you very, very much.



Dr. Lim cuts the ribbon and graciously offers the decoration to Sri Chinmoy (photos by Lloyd Hart).

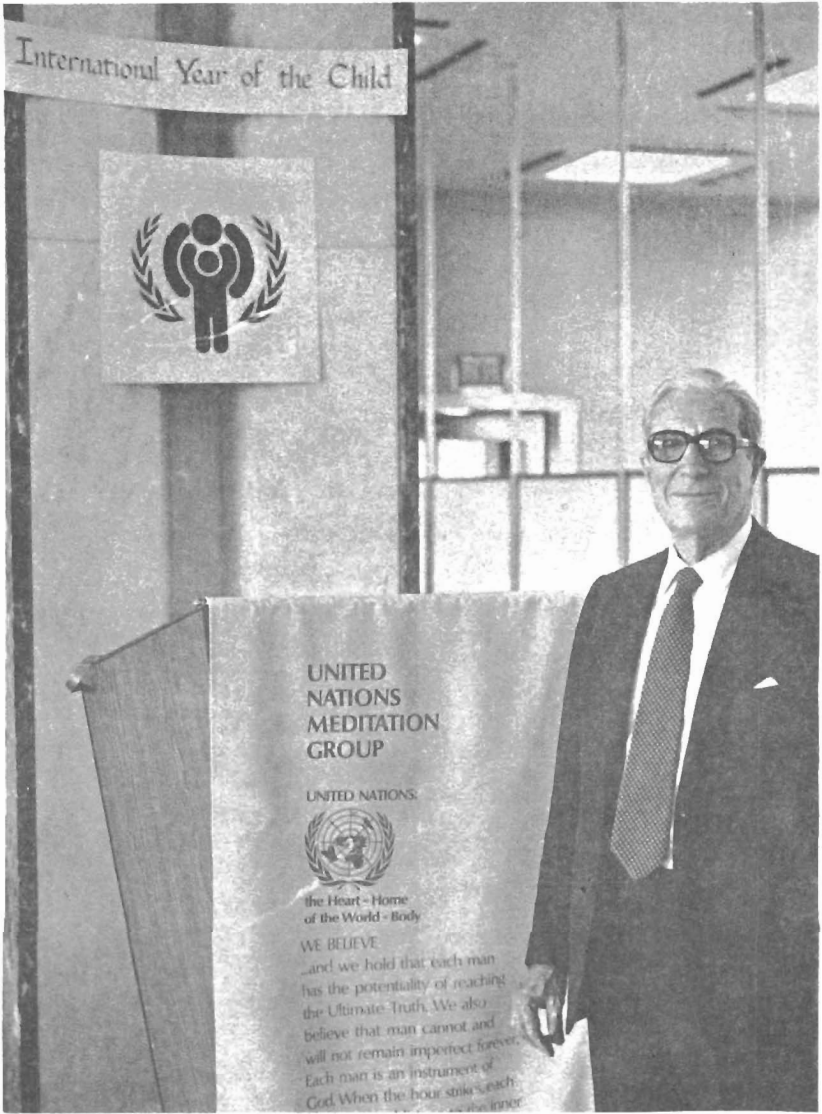




Sri Chinmoy thanks Dr. Lim for her illumining talk, offering her a bouquet of flowers (photo by Lloyd Hart).



Dr. Lim comments on a particular painting by Sri Chinmoy which was part of the one-man exhibit set up especially for the Bazaar. "There is a nice use of colour and line. I see an interlinking that binds people working for one cause—both for the poor child and for the rich child." (photo by Lloyd Hart)



Mr. Henry Labouisse, Executive Director of UNICEF, at the Bazaar (photo by Ian Prior).



(photo by UNICEF: Ruby Mera)



(photo by Lloyd Hart)



(photo by UNICEF: Ruby Mera)

NEW WORLD CONFERENCE

On 2 November 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group sponsored a programme on spiritual and cultural solidarity in Latin America. The series of lectures in Spanish by U.N. dignitaries, which was simultaneously translated into English, is available in pamphlet form. Brief excerpts from the English follow.



Mrs. Emilia Castro de Barish, Minister Plenipotentiary of Costa Rica: This topic of American solidarity reminds me of Simon Bolivar, whose thoughts and philosophy were embodied in and established by the Panama Congress which he set up 200 years ago. When this anniversary was celebrated last year at the United Nations, it was underscored at that time that Bolivar's idea was that our peoples should be united as one, as a whole, in order to work

together and overcome problems and attain Latin American solidarity and peace. This is why I would like to thank the organisers of this conference and wish them the greatest success in attaining their goals, which we know are difficult to reach, but which are worthwhile to pursue with great enthusiasm. Therefore I congratulate them on their hopes. Thank you.



H.E. Dr. Miguel A. Albornoz, Permanent Representative of Ecuador. Today, these old concepts of heroics and gentlemanliness, generosity, fraternity, perseverance in struggle and kindness in victory—which were set up by warriors and were made great by scientists, educators, statisticians and those who built republics and international organizations—now have a new dimension. Today we have the imperative of integrating our peoples. We have the need to have a common market, to have solidarity in international forum, to be aware of the

Spanish spirit in order to build a peaceful world free of fear, free of needs, a world which will prevent a nuclear holocaust and lead to a new and more just international order among peoples and among individuals.



H.E. Dr. Alfonso Moreno-Martínez, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic: The young man who invited me to speak today impressed me, and made me feel obliged to attend and speak before your Group, particularly when I found out what type of group the Meditation Group is, one which I think is very important in our Organization. I say this because I think it shows the success of your very own Group. It shows that you have very outstanding individuals who know how to communicate spiritual ideas and it says that what you are doing is worthwhile. I think that I am one of those individuals who need this: I need meditation, I think we all need it.

As was said in such a wise manner by my good friend the Ambassador of Ecuador, the Latin Americans are very closely bound by our Spanish origin, which is, I would say, our path towards universality. Thank God, when Spain made nations of us, it did not set up barriers between us or barriers between us and the rest of humanity. I would say without being an expert that the spirit in which Spain acted, in spite of the excesses of some of its men, was a spirit of trying to make us universal men, so that we are therefore the first largest mixed continent of the world. I would say that it was our first step towards cultural and human homogeneity.



Dr. Ramón Mancilla-Hernández, Director of Venezuelan G.M.A. Scholarships: We had to initiate a gigantic task, a work of Atlas. And we were sustained by our inner spiritual resources. There was no lack of critics who had no confidence in our

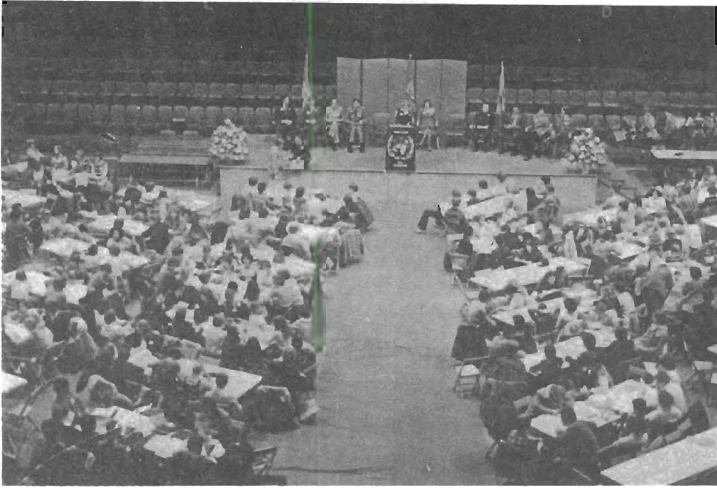
strength, our perseverance or our faith. And today we can say with pride that we have distributed throughout many countries of the world more than 12,000 students. It is important to mention that more than 85 percent of those young people come from the least favoured economic classes. We are fully confident that the final rate of return to the country will be a satisfactory one. We believe that our effort will be crowned with success and that we will be proud. We will be followed by the aura of victory in the path which we undertook at first as only a dream.

MODEL U.N. AT GANNON COLLEGE

Meditation Group members Kevin Keefe and Bernard Curchack were guest speakers at the Twenty-fifth, Gannon College model United Nations programme in Erie, Pennsylvania held on 11 and 12 November 1977. Gannon College holds the distinction of being the first college to develop a mock General Assembly for high school students. This year approximately ninety schools attended with nearly 1,000 students.

Messrs. Keefe and Curchack conveyed the Secretary-General's best wishes to Professor Reinhard and all the participants as they presented a photo of Kurt Waldheim which he had personally inscribed to Dr. Reinhard for his many years' service as the moderator for the Gannon Model U.N. On behalf of the U.N. Meditation Group, the two speakers also presented College President Dr. Scottino with copies of Sri Chinmoy's thirteen books about the United Nations for the library.

They also had several newspaper, TV and radio interviews and discussed with members of the press and managers of CBS and ABC-TV stations how the media might be more involved in supporting the U.N. and the up-coming International Year of the Child. Erie's Mayor Tullio, President of the 1976 USA Mayors Conference, made a presentation to Messrs. Keefe and Curchack as an indication of the City of Erie's friendship with the United Nations and its appreciation of the U.N. Meditation Group's efforts to bring forward the highest goals of the U.N. Charter.



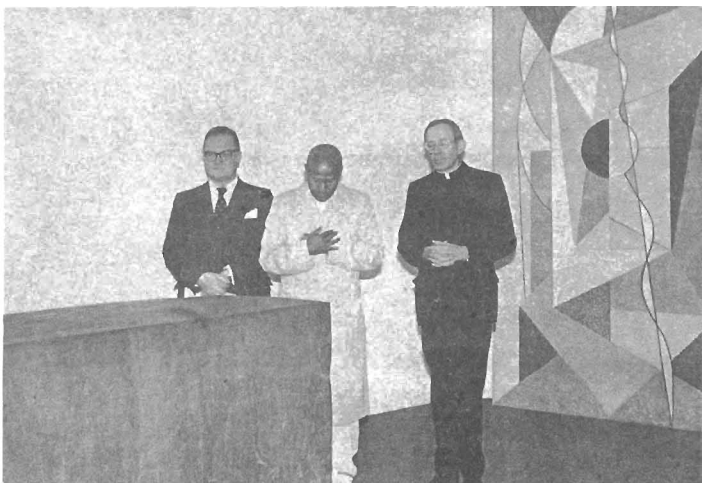
At the plenary meeting the different delegations composed of high school students from Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York begin deliberations on resolutions presented by the various committees who had met earlier in the day. (photo by F.P. Millis).



Guest speakers Mr. Bernard Curchack (left) and Mr. Kevin Keefe (right) and Gannon Model U.N. Secretary-General Therese Niedenberger applaud after the presentation from U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim to Dr. Reinhard. (photo by F.P. Millis).

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 Hammarskjöld. 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)

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the song 'THE UNITED NATIONS'. It consists of three staves of music in G major and 3/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Moderate' at 132 beats per minute. The lyrics are: 'The U-ni-ted Na-tions is the Su-preme Law of the world (sing 3 times)'. There are triplets in the melody for 'Na-tions' and 'Law'.

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 trou-p-----
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

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the song 'U.N. MEDITATION'. It consists of ten staves of music in G major and 3/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Moderate' at 120 beats per minute. The lyrics are: '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 trou-p----- 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'. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and repeat signs.

MAY I BE OFFERED

$\text{♩} = 96$ Moderate

words by Dag Hammarskjöld
music by Sri Chinmoy

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

GONE ARE THE DAYS

$\text{♩} = 132$ Moderate

words by U Prant
music by Sri Chinmoy

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

♩ = 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)

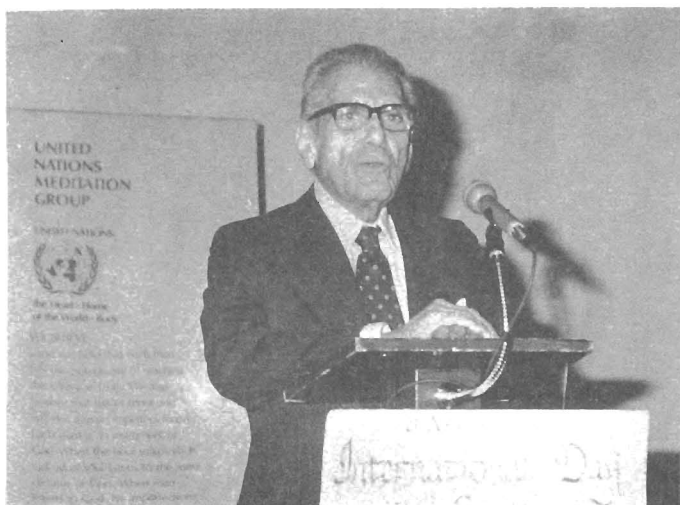
I KNOW

♩ = 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.)

INTERNATIONAL THANKSGIVING 1977

On 21 November 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group sponsored the third celebration at United Nations Headquarters of International Thanksgiving with a mid-day programme of music, slides and guest speakers. In the evening the Group hosted a vegetarian Thanksgiving dinner to express its gratitude to all those who so kindly participated in its activities in 1977. The full text of the programme is available in pamphlet form. Brief excerpts from the statements follow:



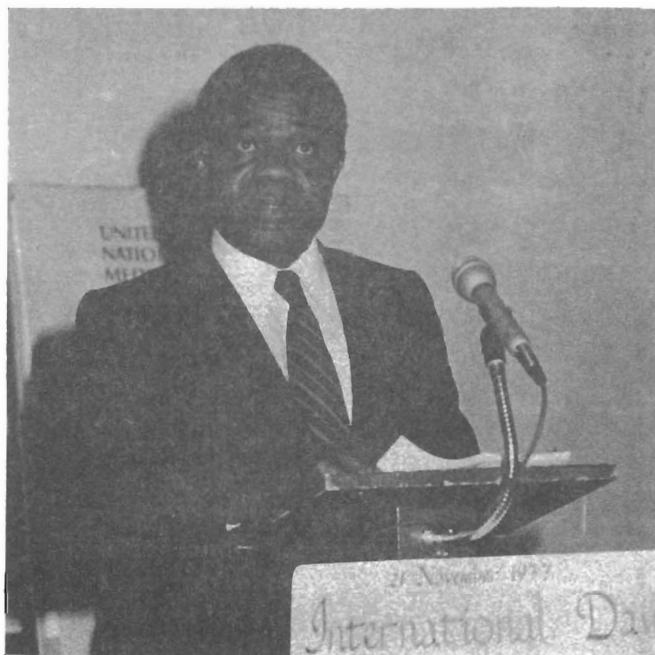
His Excellency Mr. Zenon Rossides, Permanent Representative of Cyprus: We have to adapt ourselves to the means of our times. The greatest scientists today are those who speak of the need of spirituality in order to improve our conditions. Science with its technology cannot go further. As a matter of fact, it has gone too far and requires a

corresponding advance in moral principles. Now, we come to spirituality. Man is made of body, intellect and spirit. Usually people don't think of this; they think only of the body and mind. Intellect is the function of the brain based on actual, concrete facts. Spirit is something far above that. It is the communion of the individual man with the universe. . . .Therefore I attach great importance to these spiritual gatherings because the hope of mankind surviving is through the rise of spirituality. And we have, I am glad to say, great signs, great indications during recent events for the prevalence of the spirit in the world.



Sister Elizabeth Espersen of Thanks-Giving Square: I am humbled to be here for this is a great place, a global center where the vision of man is

dreamed into the future shape of his destiny. Statesmen and kings, presidents and patriarchs, ambassadors and makers of peace have peopled this place; it is hallowed by their memory and presence. Yet I dare to come here, for the place that I come from, though tiny, possesses great vision. It is a vision called "thanks-giving," and it lies at the heart of life. The United Nations, of course, shares this vision profoundly, calling it "peace"



His Excellency Mr. Ignace Karuhije, Permanent Representative of Rwanda (translated from French by Yvette Ripplinger): Our problems are very numerous and the obstacles almost insurmountable. But we are full of hope, for, fifteen years ago, we never thought that we would have come to this point.

But we are working under the protection of the Almighty and we believe in His direct role in our success, since failures are due to our human imperfections.

I shall conclude by offering thanks to the eternal God who has ceaselessly guided us through difficulties and pitfalls of all kinds. I ask Him in the name of my country, its leaders and its people to grant us His benedictions and to guide us to wisdom.



His Excellency Lic. Julio Asensio-Wunderlich, Permanent Representative of Guatemala: Let me begin by reading a wonderful concept that I found on a United Nations Meditation Group brochure. For it says, “The outer message of the United Nations is Peace. The inner message of the United Nations is Love. The inmost message of the United

Nations is Oneness.” And I think this is very appropriate for my brief comments. It was just over a year ago that my country was shaken, broken by a terrible earthquake that was one of the worst that had been felt in this continent. We had some 75,000 people die, we had some 20,000 persons that were wounded and many of them are permanently crippled. The world was informed of this terrible natural catastrophe on the very first day, which was the fourth of February of last year. And it was just a few hours later that we in Guatemala received the love of the people of the United Nations, of the world. This love was represented by all sorts of efforts to help our people overcome the tragic circumstances.

If the inner message of the United Nations is love, that message was expressed loudly in Guatemala in February last year. And if the inmost message of the United Nations is oneness, then oneness was also present when people of every part of the world, of all ages, little boys and little girls from schools throughout the world, sent letters, toys and assistance. I personally give more importance to the little tokens of love and oneness that we received than the massive help sent by governments and by international assistance, without which, of course, we would not have been able to stand on our feet.

Mr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: Thanks-Giving Square is a place where you can feel the fundamental urge of the human being to be grateful for the gift of life, that unique, mysterious outcropping from darkness and the void, that flowering of “existence” under sunlight and the stars. Yes, out of a cell, of a seed, as from



Mr. Robert Muller

the center of a spiral or the impact of a sound, we are grown into a cosmos, a universe of our own, sentient, seeing, feeling, thinking, linked mysteriously with the rest of the universe, capable of loving and encompassing the entire world in our heart, to feel in ourselves the divine and to lift ourselves to the Godhead on our own volition. You can feel this in the Square. It is something very unique, and I am grateful that the United Nations has been associated with it.

We will help the World Thanksgiving Center by collecting the etymologies and origins of the words "thanks" and "gratitude" in all languages. We will also collect saying on Thanksgiving by famous people, by our Secretaries-General, by Albert Schweit-

zer, Gandhi, Pablo Casals, Martin Luther King and others. We thus hope that the spirit of thanksgiving for life will continue to expand and encompass the entire planet, thus helping the cause of peace to be illumined in the hearts and souls of men, unlocking mysteriously the immense force which resides in love, prayer and meditation.

Statement received from His Excellency Mr. Tan Sri Zaiton Ibrahim, Permanent Representative of Malaysia: Unfortunately, under the pressure of modern life and modern techniques of agriculture, harvest festivals are slowly dying away. In Malaysia, for instance, while no doubt such occasions in the past were frequently held, nowadays they are virtually non-existent. However, much research has been done and many of the traditional songs, dances and other cultural activities common to such celebrations are being revived and performed on suitable occasions so that Malaysians can be aware and be proud of their rich cultural heritage.

KENNEDY: THE UNIVERSAL HEART

On 22 November 1977 the Meditation Group held a programme and concert in soulful remembrance of the late President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, marking fourteen years since the day of his assassination. The evening, part of which was televised live by WNBC-TV, included tributes by Ambassador Kennedy of Ireland and Ambassador Rossides of Cyprus, as well as several songs about Kennedy written by Sri Chinmoy. The full programme of speeches and songs is available in booklet form. Brief excerpts from some of the speakers follow.



Sri Chinmoy: President Kennedy, prince of high idealism, freedom incarnate, lover of humanity, distributor of God's Light, dreamer of man's oneness-family in God's Existence-Reality, to you our gratitude-heart bows.



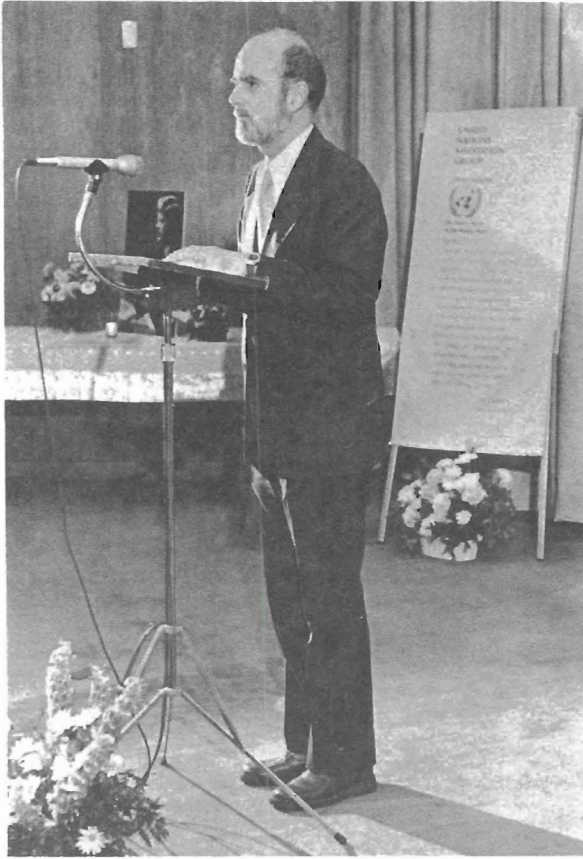
His Excellency Dr. Eamonn Kennedy, Permanent Representative of Ireland: No one is really gone from us as long as his hopes live on in all our hearts. No one has really left us as long as the ideals he lived and worked for are shared by ordinary, decent people in every land. The hopes John F. Kennedy kindled for the deprived and the downtrodden, not only here but abroad, march on.



His Excellency Mr. Zenon Rossides, Permanent Representative of Cyprus: He was loved by the people because of his spiritual element—not because of what he did, but because of what he was, what his mind was. People feel when there is a spiritual element present, and they are attracted by it. They are attracted and they have confidence because of it. The spirit in man is what gives value to the human being, a value that makes him different from other creatures on this planet. Kennedy was endowed with this spirituality.



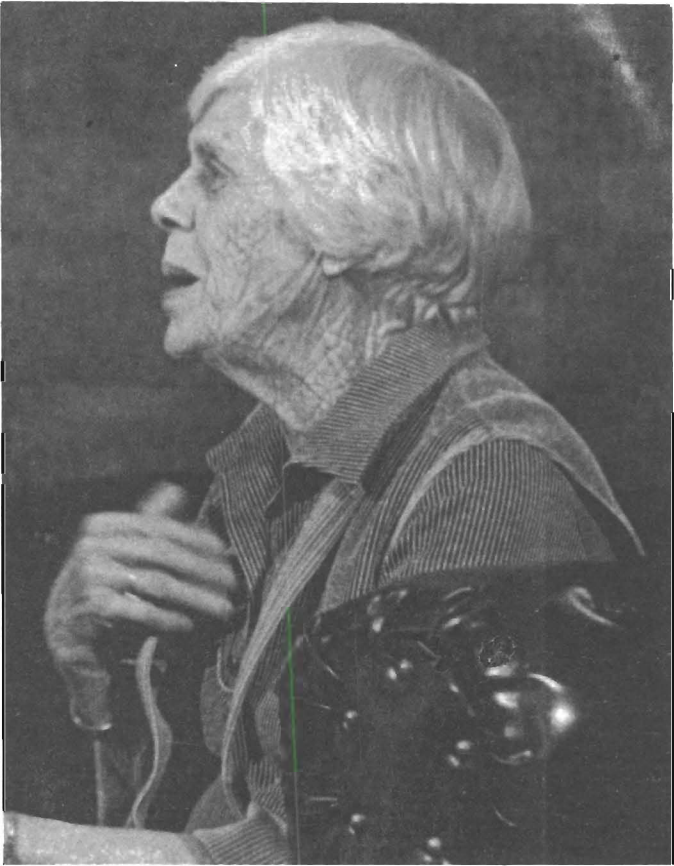
Ms. Patricia Reilly, Representative of ACTION: When John Kennedy sponsored the Peace Corps in 1961, he could not have envisioned the personal identity he would always have with this organisation. It was, after all, approved by Congress and funded by the Foreign Aid budget. But to thousands of people, particularly overseas, it will always be Kennedy's Peace Corps. It has been called the living memorial to his memory, for through the Peace Corps he touched the lives of people in the developing world in a very personal way. They saw in the sponsor of the Peace Corps a man who empathised with their condition and did something tangible about it.



Mr. Donald Keys, Planetary Citizens: No such great person as John Kennedy leaves this world in such a way without the occurrence of something which we do not yet fully understand. Somehow what he was and what he is becomes universalised and, in a rarified essence, qualitatively becomes the property of us all. We are grateful that John Kennedy came. We are grateful for John Kennedy's time among us. And we are grateful for the heritage of John Fitzgerald Kennedy which lives among us.



Mr. Jeff Kamen, WPIX-TV: I am here because I owe a great debt to John Fitzgerald Kennedy, like countless young Americans do. It really wasn't until his inaugural address that it even occurred to me, as a person, that I owed something to someone other than myself. Somehow, while I was sitting there with those earphones on my head, taking in the President's speech to excerpt it for transmission to the outside radio stations for which I worked, something triggered inside of me—something good, something decent, something profound. Those are important times. With the Grace of God we all have those moments. John Kennedy gave me one, my first one.



Statement received from Mrs. Lillian Carter: I'm really happy about that [the 22 November 1977 commemorative programme]. I think it's the greatest thing you can do—to pay tribute to the greatest President we've had so far—up to Jimmy. I really think it's a wonderful thing to do. You couldn't have picked a better man to pay tribute to than Kennedy.

Statement received from Senator Edward M. Kennedy: I appreciate very much your kind invitation to attend the special tribute to President Kennedy on November 22nd. Although I would like to join you this evening, previous commitments in Boston will make it impossible for me to accept. My family is deeply touched by your remembrance of President Kennedy.

With best wishes and my thanks for the book of poetry by Sri Chinmoy.

Statement received from His Eminence, Cardinal Terence J. Cooke, Archbishop of New York: All Americans recall John F. Kennedy as a man of peace and justice. His concern for minority Americans should prompt us to renew our own zeal for those of God's family who are less fortunate.

The Catholics of New York remember President Kennedy in their thoughts and pray that he may enjoy the eternal Peace which eludes us all on earth.

Statement received from Ms. Betty Williams of Ireland (awarded the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize with Ms. Mairead Corrigan): Sorry I can't be with you. It is not because I don't want to, but the pressure of work does not allow it. To all those who work for humanity I send my regards and a simple message: Love and Peace.

U.N. DAY CELEBRATIONS

U.N. DAY CELEBRATION AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

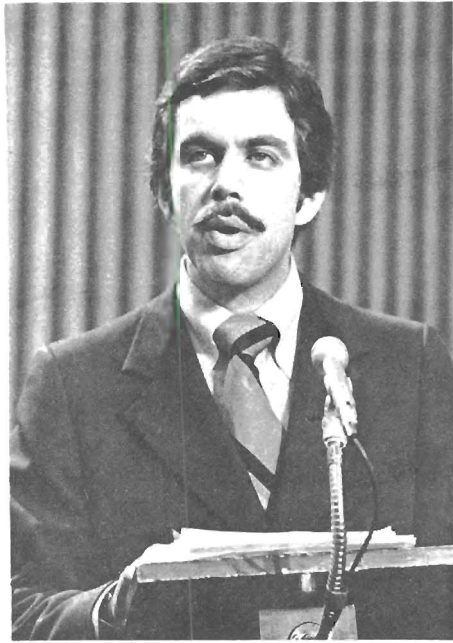
This year the U.N. Meditation Group cooperated with U.N. Agencies and NGO's to organise a U.N. Day Celebration on 23 October 1977 on the Dag Hammarskjold Plaza at United Nations Headquarters. The U.N. Day Fair included performances by folk dance troupes from the Philippines, Turkey and India. There were also booths selling food and crafts from different nations.

Following are excerpts from several talks given that day by speakers from the U.N. community.

Mr. Martin Beyer of UNICEF: Children are the first to suffer from poor living conditions; therefore, UNICEF tries to help out in these situations by providing supplies, technical assistance and guidance. In order to promote the interest in children and an understanding of their situation all over the world, the United Nations, that is, most of the governments of the world, agreed to make 1979 the International Year of the Child. The support from our fellow citizens is very important both for the International Year of the Child and for the day-to-day work of UNICEF.



Mr. Martin Beyer of UNICEF



Mr. Jeff Kamen, WPIX-TV U.N. Correspondent: I have been covering the U.N. for fifteen years and I have learned much. This is a story about the time I censored myself. I don't remember the day, week or month that I received word that there was a story about mass starvation in a few small nations, but they were forbidding the people in those countries to speak out. I got in touch with the proper U.N. agency and they told me directly the story that thousands of people were starving and desperate to get emergency food. But they asked me to hold the story. They said that if the story broke here in New York and the story that I was to tell was transmitted back home, the leaders of

those countries would refuse emergency aid and send out a story that there was no starvation. I was then faced with the decision of whether to tell the truth as I knew it and risk the destruction of thousands of people or to keep quiet. I did not tell the story. The food went in there. Had the story been told, it might have choked off the supply.

We don't usually think of the U.N. as doing any life-saving. It is imperfect, like most of us, like any other institution. It is loaded with political exaggerations. But the good story about the U.N., the one written between the lines, is how it day and night benefits humanity.

Mr. David Dull, Representative of UNA-USA:
There has been a very strong resident support of the United Nations in this country since 1945 and it continues today. Because of this support, the Carter Administration has decided to make a commitment to the United Nations in a way we haven't seen in several previous administrations. Carter has decided that the forum of the U.N. is a means by which the United States can take constructive measures towards world peace. We in UNA are very happy to be part of that process.

UNA coordinates various efforts on U.N. Day. More than a thousand communities this year will be celebrating U.N. Day. We also work throughout the year to build public support for the U.N. and U.N. policies.



Mr. David Dull of UNA

I am delighted to be here today. This is a great observance, a lot of fun. The organisers have really done a great job. On behalf of our people in UNA, I would like to present the 1977 U.N. Peace Medal to Ken Peck for the U.N. Meditation Group.



The New York Times/Crestor Higgins Jr.

U.N. DAY FESTIVAL: A dazzling array of visitors attended U.N. Day at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, as aroma of exotic foods filled the air. Above, Turkish dancers; below, Indian dancer and baby sitter with charge.



UNA-USA AWARD TO SRI CHINMOY

The Director of the U.N. Meditation Group, Sri Chinmoy, has under his guidance about sixty centres for meditation around the world. Students from many of these centres organised local athletic events on U.N. Day, calling attention to the significant role of the United Nations in our world today and urging support for its ideals.

In appreciation of this "public service in promoting the nationwide observance of U.N. Day 1977," the UNA-USA presented Sri Chinmoy with its Distinguished Service Award.



United Nations Association of the United States of America

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Presented to

Sri Chinmoy Kumar Ghose, Director, United Nations Meditation Group

*in appreciation of public service
in promoting
the nationwide observance of*

UNITED NATIONS DAY 1977

Henry Ford II
U.S. National Chairman for UN Day 1977
By Appointment of the President of the United States

Robert H. Ritzer, President

U.N. DAY OBSERVANCES IN PUERTO RICO

While in Puerto Rico on U.N. Day, Sri Chinmoy was able to observe one of these relay runs. In San Juan he received an award from the Mayor of San Juan for his dedicated activities in support of the United Nations during a ceremony on October 25 attended by members of the Consular Body from several nations.



Sri Chinmoy receives a plaque and proclamation from the Honourable Dr. Hernan Padilla, Mayor of San Juan, for his U.N. Day related activities in Puerto Rico.



Sri Chinmoy's students in Puerto Rico pose under the U.N. Day banner after completing their 32-kilometre U.N. Day relay marathon, which started at the University of Puerto Rico and finished at the San Jose Square in San Juan.

The following article about U.N. Day activities in Puerto Rico appeared in the San Juan newspaper, El Mundo, on 22 October 1977:

16-A EL MUNDO — SABADO, 22 DE OCTUBRE DE 1977.

VARIEDADES / ARTE / CULTURA



Sri Chinmoy interpreta sus composiciones originales en el clásico instrumento indio llamado *veera*. Chinmoy ofrecerá conciertos y meditaciones

públicas en Casa Blanca, San Juan y en el Museo de Arte, en Ponce.

Festean Aniversario de la ONU

El Centro Sri Chinmoy de Puerto Rico se une activamente a la celebración del trigésimo segundo aniversario de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas e invita al público a las siguientes actividades:

El lunes 24 de octubre, el presidente del Centro Sri Chinmoy de Puerto Rico presentará un tele-maratón de 22 kilómetros. Miembros de las centros Sri Chinmoy del mundo tendrán una actividad similar en sus respectivos países. En Puerto Rico los participantes saldrán de la Universidad de Puerto Rico y cubrirán las montañas Pico de León, Roosevelt, San Juan, General Nazario Rivera, St. de Infantería, Barba.

Centers McLeary, Ashford y terranaras en la plaza, San José en San Juan. El ese mismo día, a las 9:00 de la noche, el maestro Sri Chinmoy ofrecerá una meditación pública en el Centro Sri Chinmoy, ubicado en la calle Doncella 21, de Punta Las Marias en Bayamón.

El martes, 25 de octubre a las 11:00 de la mañana se llevará a cabo la ceremonia conmemorativa del Día Internacional de las Naciones Unidas en la Casa Aleida de San Juan. A las 8:00 de la noche, Sri Chinmoy dirigirá una meditación pública y un concierto de música espiritual en el Museo de Arte de Ponce.

El miércoles, 26 de octubre, a las 8:00 de la noche en Casa Blanca se ofrecerá el segundo "Sri Chinmoy Sangit" de Puerto Rico un concierto de música y canciones, originales del maestro Sri Chinmoy interpretadas por varios músicos puertorriqueños. La entrada a las actividades antes mencionadas es libre.

Sri Chinmoy trabaja activo y desinteresadamente en las Naciones Unidas. En dicha sede internacional, él dirige meditaciones a los delegados y el personal y también ofrece mensajajes en la Serie de Conferencias "Pog. Humanskypód sobre la P'ce Mundial. Su filosofía in-

cluye la meditación como un instrumento práctico para alcanzar paz interna y por ende la paz mundial.

U.N. DAY MARATHONS AROUND THE WORLD

Following are some highlights of the activities sponsored by various Sri Chinmoy Centres in celebration of U.N. Day.

AUSTRALIA

In Australia fourteen U.N. Day runners from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and New Zealand undertook a 320-kilometre non-stop relay run from Canberra to Sydney to raise about one thousand dollars for UNICEF. The morning of 23 October 1977 the runners left Parliament House with a torch symbolising a rekindling of the ideals on which the U.N. was founded and were met the following morning at Town Hall by the Governor, Sir Roden Cutler, and Lord Mayor, Leo Port.



Passing the torch in Goulburn, Australia.

23 OCTOBER 1977

The article below appeared in the West Australian on 23 October 1977.

Riding for the U.N.

Eight young people will set out tomorrow to cycle 1600km in 24 hours in honour of the 32nd birthday of the United Nations Organisation.

They will wear track suits of sky-blue and white—the colours of the U.N.

U.N. Week will include universal children's day on Wednes-

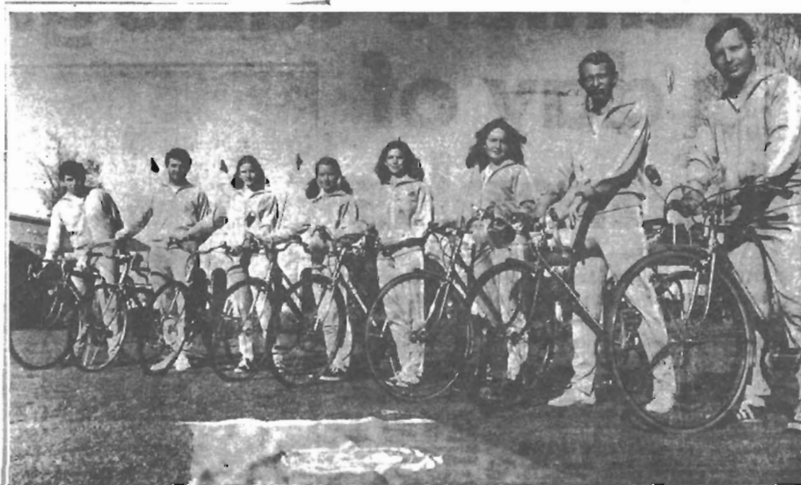
day and an Austcare Freedom from Hunger door-knock appeal next Saturday.

The cyclists will leave from Winthrop Hall tomorrow about 11am.

Their ride will end at a U.N. flag-raising ceremony in front of Council House in St Georges Terrace at noon on Monday.

The riders have not been sponsored but will ride as a gesture towards the U.N.'s aims and ideals.

They will carry a scroll from an interfaith service at Winthrop Hall to deliver to the Lord Mayor, Mr Ernest Lee-Steere, at the flag-raising ceremony.



The cyclists (from left): Roderick Bothwell; Angelo Goudas; Meredith Bennett; Sally Colerain; Lalita Johnson; Pauline Hood; Denny Farrow and Syandan Johnson.



United Nations Association of Australia W.A. Division

306 Murray Street, Perth, Telephone ~~22-5077~~ 321 7030

PATRON: HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR WALLACE KYLE G.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.O., D.F.C.
VICE-PATRON: SIR THOMAS WARDLE

PRESIDENT: E. Cyril Gare

28th October, 1977

Mr. Ian Johnson & the Sri Chinmoy Team,
7 Bedford Ave.,
SUBIACO 6008

Dear Ian,

Please accept the thanks of the UN Association as well as my personal thanks for the inspiring and challenging contribution that you and your team made to the effectiveness of both the Inter-Faith Service and the Flag Raising Ceremony during UN Week.

Certainly you helped in giving publicity to the cause of U.N. which otherwise would not have been forthcoming. The cycling adventure was an ambitious effort carried out triumphantly and the meaningful contribution of the Group at the Interfaith Service was appreciated by all present.

May God bless you all abundantly in the UN Cause of Peace & Goodwill among people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. Lloyd Semple', with a stylized flourish at the end.

L. LLOYD SEMPLE
Executive Director



THE UNICEF COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIA

UNICEF COMMITTEE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

69 CLARENCE ST., SYDNEY 2000 ◦ PH: 29 6241 ◦ G.P.O. BOX 3824

7 October 1977

Miss Carol Watt
Sri Chinmoy Centre of Sydney
P. O. Box 592
Double Bay, 2028, N.S.W.

Dear Miss Watt,

The UNICEF Committee of Australia and the New South Wales Division of the United Nations Association of Australia are pleased to endorse and commend the fine initiative of the Sri Chinmoy groups in arranging the United Nations Day Runners' Canberra-Sydney relay during U.N. Week later this month.

The fact that the U.N. Day Runners are seeking to raise \$1,000 for UNICEF, the largest international agency working for improvement in the lives of millions of deprived children in more than 100 Third World countries, makes your efforts doubly commendable.

Since UNICEF relies entirely on voluntary contributions from people in developed countries like Australia, we would strongly urge that all the firms and groups from whom you seek sponsorship give thoughtful consideration to your request - and perhaps respond with a worthwhile two or three figure contribution.

We greatly appreciate your efforts. We wish the United Nations Day Runners every success. And we thank all those whom you approach for support in anticipation of their corporate goodwill and generosity.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

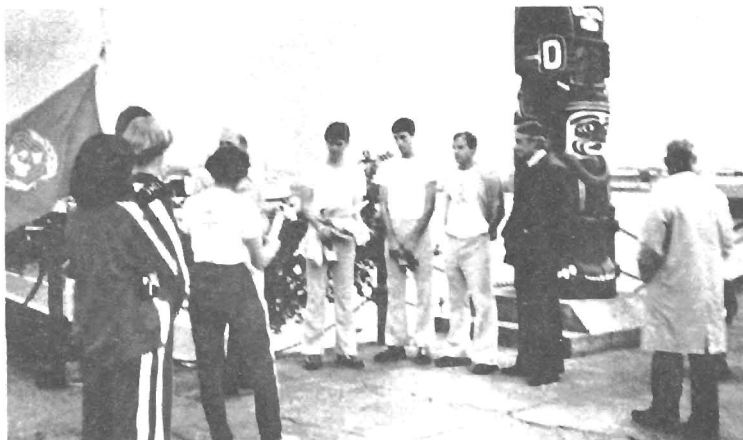
E. V. Wilhelm, A.O.,
President, UNICEF Committee of N.S.W.

G. Logan,
President, United Nations Association of
Australia, N.S.W. Division

CANADA

In *Toronto*, eight members of the Sri Chinmoy Centre ran a relay of 32 kilometres, carrying a symbolic baton containing the U.N. flag and the Preamble to the U.N. Charter through the city, commemorating the 32 years of the U.N.'s existence. The runners started from the Toronto branch of the United Nations Association and in the course of the run visited the consulates of India, Haiti, Italy, Australia, Senegal and the U.S.A., where they exchanged a U.N. flag for the consulate's national flag.

In *Victoria, B.C.*, arrangements were made with the local United Nations Association to hold a United Nations Flag-raising Ceremony on 24 October near the Parliament Buildings, after a 32 kilometer relay run by members of the Sri Chinmoy Centre.

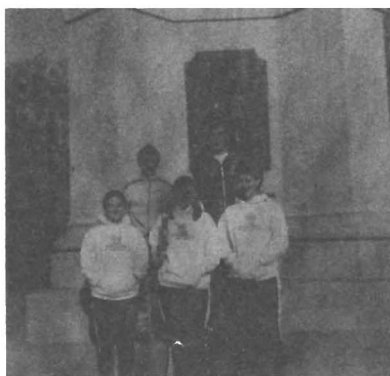


U.N. Day Ceremony in Victoria, B.C., near Parliament Building.

Similar relay runs were held in *Montreal* and *Quebec City*.



A dedicated runner passes the UNICEF office in Montreal during the 24 October U.N. Day run.



U.N. Day runners in Quebec City, 24 October 1977.

ENGLAND

Centre members in *London* organised a run in Hyde Park on 23 October. Twenty runners participated to complete a combined total of 160 miles.

FRANCE



Runners in Paris.

GERMANY

In *Augsburg*, eight runners from different parts of Germany met together for a 32 kilometer relay run, starting at the UNICEF office in Neusäss.



On the run in Augsburg, Germany.

SWEDEN

Center members from *Stockholm* and *Uppsala* participated in the Swedish U.N. Day run.

SWITZERLAND

A 32 kilometer relay run was held in *Zurich* on 24 October.

U.S.A.

The *Chicago* Sri Chinmoy Centre celebrated United Nations Day on 23 October by holding a 32 mile relay run through Chicago's lakeside parks, concluding at the Buckingham Fountain.

Similar runs took place in *Seattle, Washington; Eugene, Oregon; Santa Barbara, California; Miami, Florida; Philadelphia, Pa; and Washington, D.C.*

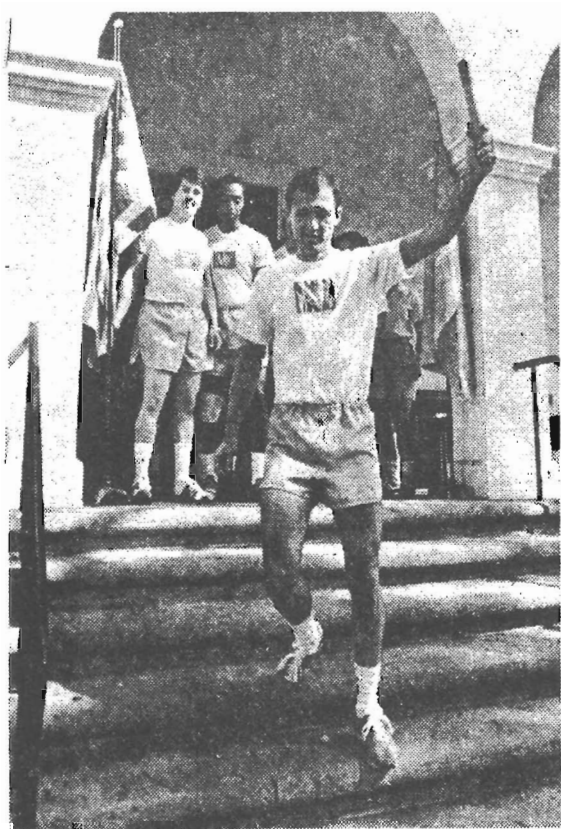
6-D * THE MIAMI HERALD Sunday, Oct. 23, 1977



— RICHARD JOHNSON / Miami Herald Staff

CARRYING the United Nations banner, a runner begins the trek from the Marriott Hotel to the Torch of Freedom in Bayfront Park to focus attention on United Nations Day Monday. Ina Pliske of the Miami-Coral Gables chapter of the United Nations Association was one of a half dozen runners making a portion of the 32-mile trek Saturday. Meeting at the Marriott, the group heard an address from Assistant to the U.N. Secretary General Robert Ryan, on the U.N.'s efforts for disarmament and world peace.

Santa Barbara News-Press, Tuesday, 25 October 1977 (picture taken after the Mayor read out the 1977 U.N. Day Proclamation).



UN RELAY DAY

Santa Barbara runners yesterday took part in a 32-mile relay race to honor the United Nations on its 32nd birthday. John Harter, above, carries the baton as he leaves City Hall after UN Day ceremonies. Similar relays were held throughout the world. — News-Press photo



R U.N.ner

Lincoln Polissor ran a leg of a 32-mile relay run on Beach Drive Southwest yesterday in observance of the 32nd birthday of the United Nations. Polissor and four other runners from Sri Chinmoy, a meditation group which supports the U.N., ran the relay here while similar relays were run yesterday in other parts of the world. The run began at the United Nations Center, 1410 Fifth Ave., and ended at the Flag Pavillion at the Seattle Center by way of Alki and Seward Park. A United Nations Flag was presented to Center officials at the end of the run. — Staff photo by Cole Porter.



The City Manager of Eugene, Oregon receives a banner from two U.N. Day runners.



U.N. Day runners in Philadelphia, 24 October.

(-----)