## OUR FIRST TEN YEARS



SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

MEDITATION AT THE UN 27 MAR 1980 VOL VILT NO.3

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## INSIDE FRONT COURCE (BUTTER)

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#### OUR FIRST TEN YEARS

#### With gratitude and appreciation to a lot of people who made it happen . . .

In the midst of the urgent, high-powered environment of United Nations headquarters, Sri Chinmoy has been working quietly to provide an atmosphere of inner peace for delegates, staff and others accredited to the world organisation.

Since 1970 his twice-weekly hour of inter-faith silence and the inspirational programmes of his meditation group have drawn participation from a wide variety of diplomats.

It was the late Secretary-General U Thant who welcomed and understood Sri Chinmoy's desire to serve the United Nations community and Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim has encouraged him to continue his work in support of the highest ideals of the United Nations Charter.

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This collection of historical moments is being issued as the 27 March 1980 volume of *Meditation at the United Nations,* the monthly bulletin of the meditation group, Vol. VIII, No. 3, to mark our tenth anniversary on 14 April 1980.



"We want only peace, peace. You are praying for peace. I know what you and the group are doing for us. I know it. I can feel it."

> Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations (16 July 1976)



 $(\mathcal{I})$ 

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



27 March 1980

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 1980 and for the nice words you addressed to me.

You may be sure that your support of my endeavours in the interests of peace and international co-operation and your commitment to the aims and ideals enshrined in the United Nations Charter are most appreciated.

I was very interested to learn that this year marks the tenth anniversary of the programmes which you have conducted for United Nations delegates and staff. I should like to take this opportunity to wish you and the members of the Meditation Group all the best for the years to come.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Kurt Waldheim

Sri Chinmoy New York



"Whoever speaks to me about you is all appreciation and admiration; and I personally feel that you have been doing a most significant task for the United Nations."

> U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations (1961-1971) (29 February 1972)

"Father had always cherished the time he spent with you for he found in you love and tranquility. He shared with you the importance of morality and spirituality in this complex and troubled world, and he was always inspired by your humility and dedication for the enlightenment of the inner self."

> Aye Aye Myint-U, Daughter of U Thant (from her remarks for publication in Sri Chinmoy's book, U Thant: Humanity's Cry and Divinity's Smile) (15 January 1977)

"I am deeply convinced that all of us who work for the United Nations must maintain our sense of dedication and idealism. We are, after all, privileged to serve an Organisation whose Charter embodies the highest aims of humanity. . . I know well that it is easy to talk about dedication and idealism but much harder to maintain them in all the wearisome difficulties of everyday life."

Kurt Waldheim

"Pure intellectual development unaccompanied by a corresponding moral and spiritual development will lead mankind from one crisis to another. Moral qualities of friendship, humility and the desire to understand the other point of view are as important as intellectual excellence."

U Thant

"Our work for peace must begin within the private world of each one of us. To build for man a world without fear, we must be without fear. To build a world of justice, we must be just. And how can we fight for liberty if we are not free in our own minds?"

Dag Hammarskjold

"The one common undertaking and universal instrument of the great majority of the human race is the United Nations. A patient, constructive, long-term use of its potentialities can bring a real and secure peace to the world."

Trygve Lie

#### DIPLOMATIC WORLD BULLETIN

# **Diplomats Honor Dr. King**



Silent meditation on the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at King Day observance in Dag Hammarskjold Auditoreum, January 15. Left to right: Mexican Journalist Luis Olivarrieta, Ambassador Tommy Koh of Singapore, Ambassador Donald McHenry of the U.S., Sri Chinmoy who organized event, Ambassador Niaz Naik of Pakistan and Carl B. Stokes, WNBC T.V., former Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio.

Forty-eight hours after the United Nations condemnation of Soviet the blitzkrieg in Afghanistan, three diplomats who figured prominently in the General Assembly's landslide vote against the Russian aggression, joined Sri Chinmoy and his meditation group at the U.N. to celebrate the spirit of non-violence on the 51st anniversary of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ambassador Donald McHenry of the U.S. opened the King Day observance declaring, "it is particularly fitting that we should gather on these grounds to commemorate the birth of Dr. King and more importantly the philosophy by which he lived and the message he left to mankind. "He looked upon the American Constitution in the same way we at the United Nations ought to look upon the U.N. Charter: not necessarily something one achieves immediately but rather a series of goals towards which one can work.

"Dr. King never despaired of achieving the American dream outlined in the Constitution and I think we should not despair of achieving the world dream outlined in the Charter."

Ambassador Tommy Koh of Singapore, a young, highly regarded leader of the nonaligned movement, revealed that he had been, "deeply affected by Martin Luther King's teaching, his courage and his charismatic leadership," and had been so inspired by Dr. King that when he finished his graduate studies at Harvard in 1964, Mr. Koh spent the summer working to help the poor of the Roxbury, Mass. ghetto.

Niaz Naik, Pakistan's Ambassador, an Islamic scholar and veteran diplomat, said of the martyred Nobel peace prize winner, "his message of universal brotherhood and equality of man speaks for the collective conscience of humanity."



Mrs. Coretta Scott King, widow of martyred Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Martin Luther King, Jr., joins in a moment of silence before offering some per sonal insights into her late husband's vision of civil rights and world brotherhood. Among the participants in the January 1977 programme are Ambassador Abdel Meguid of Egypt, Ambassador L.O. Harriman of Nigeria, and Ambassador Salim A. Salim of Tanzania.



"We see the United Nations through Sri Chinmoy's eyes as a church of mankind, dedicated to worshipping the aspirations of men, women and children of all races, nationalities and political and religious beliefs, for a better life . . . As such, the United Nations should become a sanctuary of moral and spiritual values as a better foundation of peace."

> Jorge E. Illueca, Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations (27 June 1979)



"Your activities in the spirit of service to the international community add inner glory to the United Nations."

> Zenon Rossides, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations (12 September 1978)



General Assembly President Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania receives the meditation group's first Human Rights Award.



THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 March 1980

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

On my return to New York from my trips to the Gulf and South America, I found your card sending me greetings on my birthday. It was very thoughtful and kind of you to do so. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your kind gesture and continued expressions of friendship and brotherhood.

Yours sincerely,

Salim Ahmed Salim



"Your message and my message are the same." (22 March 1972)

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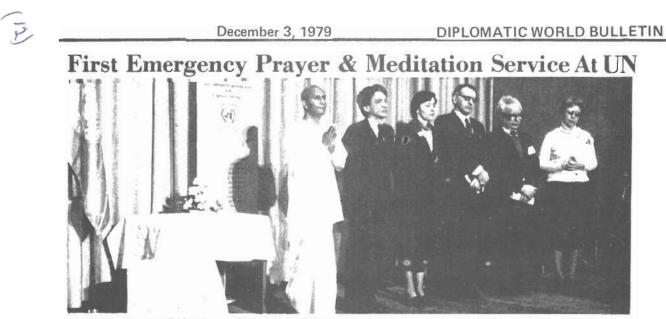
"I want to tell you that I am truly proud of your service to the United Nations." (27 June 1973)

Pope Paul VI The Vatican



"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."

Archbishop Giovanni Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations (23 September 1977)



UNITED NATIONS -- Representatives of four of the world's largest religious denominations gathered for Iran hostages on short notice at the U.N.'s Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium on what might be best described as an emergency hostage prayer service. (Left to right, Sri Chinmoy, Herbert Rickman, Dr. Julie Loranger, Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rauf, and Sister Janet Richardson.

The first "emergency prayer and meditation service" ever to be held at the United Nations was convened in an atmosphere of high tension recently, before the first group of hostages was released.

Representatives of four major faiths gathered on short notice in Dag Hammarskjold Auditoreum to ask God's grace and guidance to intercede on behalf of a speedy resolution of the peace-threatening hostage situation.

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, president of the American Jewish Committee spoke for the group when he declared, "we must make a stand for the sanctity of individual human life and against the using of human life as a political bargaining' chip...Not to do so invites more hostage situations and leads to ultimate human tragedies such as the destruction of the Cambodian people."

Hindu-Yogi Sri Chonmoy, who convened the emergency meditation and prayer service said "The world has long known America's military power; world is now seeing America's heart power as it proceeds with patience and restraint in this hostage crisis."

Sister Janet Richardson represented the Holy See and Dr. Mohammed Abdul Rauf, director of the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C. also offered a prayer of hope for the hostages.

Mayor Ed Koch sent his special assistant, Herbert Rickman to represent the City of New York, host to the U.N.. Rickman declared, "the best thanksgiving present the world could receive this year, is the safe release of all the hostages."

J.

#### I PRAY FOR YOU

I pray for you O U.N. soul. I pray for your Victory's golden crown. Your sun shall burst Our bondage frown. No cry, no sigh, No darkness role.



Words and music by Sri Chinmoy

(14)



"You certainly express with great eloquence the universal spirit of the United Nations."

> Elliot L. Richardson, Special United States Ambassador to the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (11 September 1978)

"I am very happy to be here with the meditation group, which, under the very outstanding leadership of Sri Chinmoy, is working to support the spiritual values of the United Nations."

> Piero Vinci, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations (5 December 1978)

> > \* \* \*

"For words to be really meaningful, they must be the outward expression of thoughts of inner value. I believe this is something your group is striving to achieve."

> Isao Abe, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations (5 December 1978)

"In my opinion, the period that is observed by the meditation group offers a good opportunity for spiritual communion. Man is no less spiritual than physical, and therefore needs some time to commune with God."

> David M. Thomas, Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations (13 March 1978)

> > \* \* \*

"You have very outstanding individuals who know how to communicate spiritual ideas . . . What you are doing is worthwhile. I think I am one of those individuals who need this: I need meditation; I think we all need it."

> Alfonso Moreno-Martinez, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations (2 November 1977)



Ref. No. 3M/300/12

13 September, 1979

Dear Mr. Keefe:

Tribute to The Bahamas

As we have transacted, in person or by telephone, almost all of the negotiations regarding the contents of your letter of August 30, 1979, I hope that you will forgive my delay in replying.

In any event, the purpose of this letter is to express on behalf of the Bahamas Government and people profound gratitude and appreciation for the unselfish tribute extended by the Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations. Our Foreign Ministry has been apprised of your kindness.

We received very good reports about the entire programme and I am sure that the event has helped to establish understanding among nations and strengthen existing links of friendship and unity.

Flease accept my sincere wishes for continued success in a most worthwhile endeavour.

Yours sincerely Davidson.

Hepburn EPRESENTATIVE PERMANENT

Mr. A. Kevin Keefe Programme Coordinator Sri Chinnoy Meditation at the United Nations United Nations, Room A-6242

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"The Spirit of man should become prominent in the United Nations. If the Spirit prevails, then everything is possible."

> H.E. Mr. Zenon Rossides Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations

> > \* \* \*

"Everything that is great or noble in this world is the product of meditation. Meditation is not something static. At the United Nations meditation is a prelude to action, because action is only justified when it is in harmony with the ideals of peace, social justice and economic development, which are a constant guide to our great family of nations."

> H.E. Dr. Jorge Illueca Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations

> > \* \* \*

"I think the best way we can pay tribute to U Thant is by keeping alive his highly spiritual message. For me, the message is one that called for a radical change in our political thinking as well as in our moral approach to life and to the problems that we all face today."

> H.E. Mr. Piero Vinci Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

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### OUR GRATITUDE TO NEW YORK'S LEADERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS ENCOURAGEMENT



"It is my conviction that the work you are doing with the United Nations deserves the support of this community and deserves the assistance of New York in any way that we can offer it."

> Gillian Martin Sorensen New York City Commissioner to the United Nations (10 March 1980)

"To Sri Chinmoy, whose contributions as spiritual leader, meditation teacher, musician, artist and poet have been an inspiration to thousands of New Yorkers . . . I commend this fine humanitarian on behalf of all our citizens."

> Edward I. Koch, Mayor City of New York (16 August 1978)

\* \* \*

"I commend you and the meditation group on your dedication today of U Thant Island, a symbol of world peace . . . I share your hope and dream that U Thant Island will remind us all of the neverending and essential quest for peace around the world."

> Hugh L. Carey, Governor State of New York (16 September 1977)

\* \* \*

"I could have used a lot of these moments of meditation during these last months and years . . . I want to thank you very much for your kindness and your warmth and your expressions."

> Abraham D. Beame, Mayor City of New York (1974-1978) (28 September 1977)



At a memorial service held by the Meditation Group at U.N. Headquarters, 2 February 1979, New York Senator Jacob Javits (above) and former New York City Mayor John V. Lindsay (below) offer moving personal accounts of the late Nelson Rockefeller, who donated the land on which the United Nations stands.



DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN

733 THIRD AVENUE TWENTY SECOND FLOOR NEW YORK NEW YORK 1001?

#### Uniled States Senate WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Dear Sri Chinmoy:

I write to extend my greetings and my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of your arrival in the United States.

As United States Ambassador to your native India, as Ambassador to the United Nations -- where you have served so selflessly and so well -- and now, as United States Senator from New York, I have followed your important work in America with growing admiration. You have brought joy and spiritual enlightenment to countless Americans, and indeed, to the people of many nations, and for this, we are all very much in your debt.

Please do accept my very best wishes for many more happy and successful years.

Sincerely,

son

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

(13)

"I think we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Sri Chinmoy and the meditation group . . . for their contribution and sustaining influence in the United Nations."

> David Rowe, Political Adviser United States Mission to the United Nations (3 May 1977)

> > \* \* \*

"I am grateful to you for your efforts to give the work of the United Nations a spiritual interpretation and dimension. You are thus following in the path of Dag Hammarskjold and U Thant, who were deeply convinced of the spiritual character of the United Nations and saw in it the renewed story of the total dimension of man."

> Robert Muller, Secretary Economic and Social Council, United Nations (9 December 1977)

> > \* \* \*

"I am delighted with the quality of people that you have . . . I consider myself privileged to have worked with them."

> Colonel H. A. Trimble, Chief United Nations Security and Safety Service (26 September 1977)

"Over the years I've heard many speeches about my grandmother, many talks both formal and informal, recalling what she said and what she did, but I must tell you with all my heart that the silent meditation followed by the singing is the most accurate and true expression we could ever give to Eleanor Roosevelt."

> Curtis Roosevelt, Senior Programme Officer, DIESA, United Nations (1 December 1978)

> > \* \* \*

"The very kind and reassuringly committed disposition of each one of you made it a real pleasure to work with you."

> Jack C. S. Ling, Director Information Division, UNICEF (16 December 1976)

\* \* \*

"I do want to congratulate you . . . on a beautiful piece of work. For me the meditation group established just the right mood for a very special observance."

> Mrs. Guido Pantaleoni, Jr., President United States Committee for UNICEF (31 October 1975)

"We are most grateful to the meditation group and to all of the others who participated in this event. It is . . . the wonderful feeling which your group expresses."

> Henry R. Labouisse Executive Director, UNICEF (30 November 1976)

\* \* \*

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

> Sylvia Fuhrman, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNIS (22 June 1977)

> > \* \* \*

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

> Martha Lackner, United Nations World Environment Day Co-ordinator (10 June 1977)

"It has been an unfathomable joy to me to come to serve the United Nations, its spirit and its purpose. It has been an unbelievable blessing to find here so magnificent a spokesman, guide, teacher and constant inspiration as we have all found in Sri Chinmoy."

> Donald Keys President, Planetary Citizens 31 January 1978

\* \* \*

"In its own extremely dignified and gentle way, the Meditation Group has consistently offered a space of tangible inner peace for all who seek it. Attending and participating in its programmes have helped broaden the vision of at least one correspondent."

> Jeff Kamen WPIX-TV United Nations Correspondent 1 March 1980

"This is my year, this is my year! I am the world-child, God-prize dear."

A children's choir in Washington, D.C., sings "This Is My Year," written by Sri Chinmoy as part of his participation in the U.N.'s International Year of the Child.



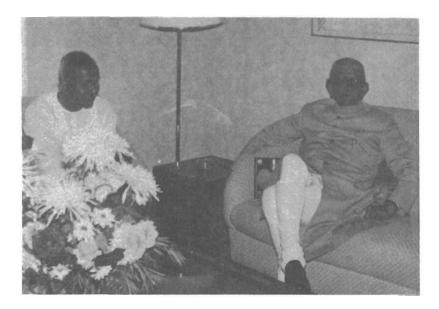
"In thanking you again, we wish you continued success in your 'magnificent obsession' to spread love, caring and commitment, to spread an important peace which we all desire in the United Nations."

Estefanwa Aldaba-Lim, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative for the International Year of the Child, United Nations (27 March 1979) Mrs. Estefania Aldaba-Lim, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative for the International Year of the Child, accepts a painting by Sri Chinmoy inspired by the Year of the Child, presented by Ambassador Rikhi Jaipal on behalf of the Indian Government.



"There can be no higher religion than our common allegiance to humanity, which is inherent in the Charter of the United Nations, and which indeed, if I may say so, is the message that is implicit in the teachings of Sri Chinmoy."

> Rikhi Jaipal, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations (27 March 1979)



"I hope you will unite the United Nations. The United Nations is called 'United Nations,' but they are not yet united. So you have to unite them."

> Morarji Desai Prime Minister of India (12 June 1978)

"I deeply appreciate your blessings and your kind sentiments. It has been a pleasure and a privilege for me to know you here."

> C. V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination United Nations (6 July 1978)

> > \* \* \*

"I am most thankful that you are still here in the United States performing a magnificent role in the service of Mother India and the whole mankind."

> L. L. Mehrotra, Consul-General of India (8 November 1977)

> > \* \* \*

"That stream of spiritual disciplines for the discovery of the fulfilment of man has run for many ages in India. Here we see an expression, an embodiment, a personification of that stream, in Sri Chinmoy."

> Ghandikota Subba Rao Senior Officer for Energy DIESA, United Nations (31 October 1978)



Muhammad Ali and Sri Chinmoy discuss religion and art while Ali was visiting the United Nations to present a painting to the Secretary-General for the International Year of the Child, 30 January 1979. "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."

> H.E. Dr. Carlos P. Romulo Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines

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"When we are clear in heart and mind – only then shall we find courage to surmount the fear which haunts the world."

Albert Einstein

\* \* \*

"I am a man first, an artist second. As a man, my first obligation is the welfare of my fellow men. I will endeavour to meet this obligation through music—the means which God has given me--since it transcends language, politics and national boundaries."

Pablo Casals



An honourary medal is presented to Sri Chinmoy by Mr. Fred Lebow, President of the New York City Road Runners Club, during a reception held at the United Nations for Olympic and World Class Runners, 22 October 1977.

United Nations Association of	the United States of America
DISTINGUISHED	SERVICE AWARD
Presen	sed to
SRI CH	IINMOY
in appreciation of in prom the nationwide of	oting
UNITED NATIO	ONS DAY 1979
O. Pendleson Thomas U.S. National Chairman for UN Day 1979 By Appointment of the President of the United States	Linda Zwingeberg Linda zwingeberg National UN Day Coordinator



"You are a miraculous model of the abundance in the creative life that we lesser mortals seek, and I can only hope that I may some day . . . participate in that cosmic fountain of stillness and profound energy which you inhabit."

> Leonard Bernstein (31 October 1977)



"I am most grateful to you for granting me the most wonderful moment of my life . . . Bless you, bless you, bless you! Thank you, thank you!"

> Maestro Don Pablo Casals Composer of "Hymn to the United Nations" (5 October 1972)



In loving memory of Ambassador Allard K. Lowenstein of the United States, who was a regular participant in our programmes, especially those centered on human rights. "When the power of love replaces the love of power, man will have a new name: God."

## O UNITED NATIONS

O United Nations, O U.N., You are the world-body Crying for the world-soul. And you are the earth-life Longing for oneness-goal.

In the heart of your glowing dream, Big brothers and brothers small Shall smile, sing and dance – O Vision-Perfection in all.

Words and music by Sri Chinmoy



O UNITED NATIONS



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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. For information please write: Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations GPO 20 — Room 1931 United Nations, New York 10017

This booklet is published by Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations, an association of U.N. delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents.

This information is presented as a service and does not necessarily represent the official views of the United Nations or its Agencies.

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