

Meditation at the United Nations

United Nations:



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

Monthly Bulletin of
Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations

Vol. VIII, No. 6
27 June 1980

INSIDE FRONT COVER- BLANK

MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

**MONTHLY BULLETIN OF
SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION
AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

Since January, 1973, Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations 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.

Editor: Gail Silver

Assistant: Merri Weisbrot

For information please write:

Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations
GPO 20 — Room 1931
United Nations, New York 10017

Copyright © 1980 by Sri Chinmoy

Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations is 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.

SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

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.

(iii)

EDITOR'S NOTE

Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations is an association of U.N. delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents, who believe that inner reflection and meditation can bring us in touch with the founding spirit of the United Nations and inspire renewed dedication to its ideals.

The main focus of our activities, both in New York and in Geneva, is our twice-weekly meditations, which provide an opportunity for quiet, spiritual renewal in an atmosphere reflective of the highest purposes of the world organisation. In addition, through an ongoing series of conferences and symposia, we provide forums where ambassadors, Secretariat officials and staff, religious leaders and other world-minded individuals can share and reinforce their spiritual vision for the United Nations.

The Meditation Group was founded in 1970, when interested staff members invited the distinguished spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy to conduct non-denominational meditations at New York Headquarters. Since then, the Group's membership has grown considerably and its expanded activities have been warmly received by the U.N. community.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

"The Inner Role of the United Nations"	1
• <i>A talk at the U.S. State Department</i>	
<i>Open Forum</i>	
Tenth Anniversary Celebrations	14
• <i>Ceremony in the Chapel</i>	15
• <i>Anniversary Luncheon</i>	17
Letters	28
• <i>From Secretary-General Waldheim, Mrs.</i>	
<i>Waldheim and Ambassadors</i>	

(v)



Sri Chinmoy addresses the U.S. State Department Open Forum. To his left is the Forum Chairman, Mr. Paul D. Molineaux.

(vi)

THE INNER ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The U.S. State Department invited Sri Chinmoy to come to Washington on 6 June 1980 to address its "Open Forum," a policy discussion group inaugurated during the Vietnam War to acquaint policymakers with different points of view on critical issues of the day. Sri Chinmoy was asked to speak on the inner role of the U.N. The talk, which Sri Chinmoy also delivered at U.N. Headquarters on 13 June 1980 as part of his Dag Hammarskjold lecture series, is reprinted here.

THE SECRETARY'S OPEN FORUM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE • WASHINGTON D.C. 20520



April 6, 1980

Mr. Sri Chinmoy
c/o Mr. John Graham
USUN
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Chinmoy:

Pursuant to a conversation I had recently with Mr. Graham, we are delighted that you will be able to meet with the Open Forum on Friday, June 6, during your visit to Washington.

The inner role of the United Nations is clearly a matter to which we devote too little attention.

In order to properly advertise the meeting a week or so in advance, I will also need a few expository sentences, and some basic biographic information on yourself.

I will plan to meet you at the State Department "Diplomatic Entrance" (C Street and 22nd Street Northwest) at 1145. We begin promptly at 1200. At 1300 we will break for lunch with about eight interested Department officers.

We are looking very much forward to meeting with you and hearing and discussing your views.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Molineaux
Chairman

When I speak *of* the United Nations, my mind, heart and soul immediately compel me to speak of the United States in the same breath. When I speak *for* the United Nations, my mind, heart and soul are immediately blessed by the prosperous and generous soul of the host state—the Empire State, New York.

The term ‘united’ has always had a special appeal to all human souls, and this transcendent idea has remained in vogue down the sweep of centuries. There was a time when America was under the repressive yoke of Great Britain. Then America fought dauntlessly and sleeplessly for its rightful independence. At first, the newly liberated Americans and their beautiful, vast land were sadly wanting in oneness. But there came a time when a new dawn of oneness-glory broke upon the glowing and illumining horizon. Americans felt the supreme necessity of a ‘united’ country, and the thirteen colonies gradually, steadily, unerringly and selflessly became unified. Similarly, although at the present time peace is not reigning supreme in the United Nations, there shall definitely come a time when peace-flood will inundate the ‘united’ nations around the globe.

* Who could have envisaged that the thirteen colonies would one day develop into such a powerful country—fifty states standing indivisible, united by none other than the Hand of the Supreme Being? For the United States, the heart-throbbing and life-illuminating song ‘united’ had its birthless and deathless origin in the hearts of the great Americans whose names are synonymous with the lofty principles of liberty, justice and oneness. The founder of the nation, George Washington; the vision-luminary, Thomas Jefferson; the wisdom-sun, Benjamin Franklin; and the tireless fighter, John Adams: these powerful luminaries, along with others, bravely dreamt of unity for the thirteen colonies.

Again, it was a great son of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, who had the pioneer-vision of the League of Nations—the hallowed source of the United Nations. Some people are of the opinion that the League of Nations totally collapsed and failed, but I cannot see eye to eye with them. The League of Nations did not fail. We must view the League of Nations as the loving mother and the United Nations as her most promising child. When parents leave the earth-planet, their children often manifest more aspiration-light, more vision-power and more manifestation-delight than the parents themselves were able to do. Unmistakably, it is from the dying parents that a bright new light comes to the fore. When the children successfully offer much more than their parents to the world at large, we never think that the parents were hopeless and useless in comparison. On the contrary, we perceive a most significant inner connection, inner link and inner growth between them. We see that

the children are marching and progressing in their parents' footsteps. Here we can safely say that Woodrow Wilson's League of Nations actually offered its wisdom-light to its future child, the United Nations.

As I said before, to me, the United States and the United Nations are divinely destined to run abreast. Not in vain is the headquarters of the United Nations in the United States—in New York, the capital of the world. This dynamic and fascinating world capital draws the world's attention at every moment. Is there any place that can be more appropriate than New York City to house the vision of universal oneness, which is in the process of being realised and manifested in the heart and soul of humanity?

True, at times the United States and the United Nations are not on good terms. But each knows perfectly well that the one adds tremendous value to the other in terms of prestige, recognition, self-awareness and oneness-perfection. Inwardly they know that they truly need and deserve each other. In silence, unreservedly the United States gives the United Nations confidence-light. In silence, unreservedly the United Nations gives the United States oneness-height. Being a seeker, in my silence-heart I feel that the concept of the United Nations has verily come from the United States, unconsciously if not consciously, for the United States had this united feeling two hundred years ago, whereas the United Nations is only thirty-five years old.

At the present moment of evolution, the United States says to the United Nations, "If you take my help, you have to use it in my own way."

The United Nations says to the United States, "I am ready to take your help and I shall remain most grateful to you. But if I use your help in your own way, then I will be totally lost in the comity of nations. Whatever you can afford to give me, please give me unconditionally."

The United States immediately responds, "Oh no, I do not want to give you my help unconditionally. I have a right to know whether or not my momentous and generous offering is being utilised properly. As it is my bounden duty to help your supreme cause, O United Nations, I feel that it is also your bounden duty to accept my wisdom-sun on rare occasions."

The United Nations says, "Sorry to stand firm in my belief, O United States. One day you will be blessed with the real joy of unconditional self-giving, which is always without a second."

The inner role of the United Nations amuses the intelligentsia, inspires the world-peace lovers and nourishes the world-oneness servers. God has showered His choicest Blessings upon the inner role of the United Nations. When we contemplate on the idea of 'role', we immediately think of either responsibility or challenge. But when it is a matter of inner role, there is no such thing as responsibility or challenge; there is only one self-giving Divinity which is breathlessly growing into a self-becoming reality.

The United Nations is often misunderstood. Perhaps its fate will always remain the same. But is there anybody who is not misunderstood, including poor God? Misunderstanding is the order of the day. But that does not and cannot prevent the

United Nations from making its soulful self-offering in the creation of a Oneness-Home for all.

The United Nations has been marching resolutely and triumphantly towards its inner goal. Indeed, the remarkable leadership of its four Secretaries-General has made its outer success and inner progress not only convincing but also fulfilling. Our present Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim, throws considerable light on the inner role of the world organisation: "... we are not faced with many separate problems, but with different aspects of a single over-all problem: the survival and prosperity of all men and women, and their harmonious development, physical as well as spiritual, in peace with each other and with nature. This is the solution we must seek. It is within our power to find it."

Secretary-General Waldheim's predecessor, the Supreme Pilot of the United Nations—U Thant—valued unreservedly the inner or spiritual obligations of the United Nations. Him to quote: "I have certain priorities in regard to virtues and human values . . . I would attach greater importance to moral qualities or moral virtues over intellectual qualities or intellectual virtues—moral qualities, like love, compassion, understanding, tolerance, the philosophy of live and let live, the ability to understand the other man's point of view, which is the key to all great religions . . . And above all, I would attach the greatest importance to spiritual values, spiritual qualities."

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld offered the hallowed message-light that each individual has a responsibility to his own inner role. According to him, each individual must strive inwardly as well as outwardly to achieve abiding peace: "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?"

Illuminating leaders from all over the world who are serving the United Nations remind us of the undeniable fact that the earth cannot exist without the world body—the United Nations—in spite of its apparent failings and problems. Secretary-General Trygve Lie's precious message ran: "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."

The outer role of the United Nations is greatness remarkable. The inner role of the United Nations is goodness admirable. The supreme role of the United Nations is fulness adorable.

Greatness our mind desperately needs. Goodness our heart sleeplessly needs. Fulness our life breathlessly needs.

Greatness surprises the curious world. Goodness inspires the aspiring world. Fulness fulfils the serving world.

Greatness is blessed with an outer challenge. Goodness is blessed with an inner promise. Fulness is blessed with an integral perfection. Challenge awakens, promise expedites and perfection immortalises our varied capacities.

Greatness is sound-amplification. Goodness is silence-enlightenment. Fulness is God-Satisfaction.

The pillars of the United States, its Presidents, call upon us to dedicate ourselves to the most signi-

ficant cause that the United Nations embodies. Needless to say, the world organisation is God's gracious experiment and precious experience. Such being the case, we must feel an inner obligation to participate in this aspect of God's cosmic Drama. The late President John F. Kennedy spoke not only to his fellow Americans but to all his fellow beings when he proclaimed: "My fellow inhabitants of this planet, let us take our stand here in this assembly of nations. And let us see if we, in our own time, can move the world towards a just and lasting peace."

President Carter has also powerfully encouraged his country to remain part and parcel of the United Nations. He tells us the true truth that real leadership and continuous service to mankind are inseparable: "There is no possible means of isolating ourselves from the rest of the world, so we must provide leadership. But this leadership need not depend on our inherent military force, or economic power, or political persuasion. It should derive from the fact that we try to be right and honest and truthful and decent."

The favourite son of New York, Senator Daniel Moynihan, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, expresses his country's sincere awareness of the sublime necessity of the United Nations: "While there have been some calls to boycott the General Assembly, or not to vote in it, there have been but few calls for withdrawal from the United Nations. It is almost as if American opinion now acknowledged that there was no escaping involvement in the emergent world society."

The United States' Special Ambassador to the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, Elliot

Richardson—a heart of peace and a life of light—encourages, strengthens and spreads a global viewpoint: “. . . the interdependence of the world is an increasingly visible fact, and I believe that out of that fact is bound to emerge in due course a compelling—and comparably inspiring—concept of the opportunities for global cooperation.”

A staunch supporter of the United Nations, indeed, the donor of the land upon which the U.N. stands, Nelson Rockefeller vividly draws the parallel between the roots of the United States and the roots of the United Nations: “The federal idea, which our Founding Fathers applied in their historic act of political creation in the eighteenth century, can be applied in this twentieth century in the larger context of the world of free nations—if we will but match our forefathers in courage and vision. The first historic instance secured freedom and order to this new nation. The second can decisively serve to guard freedom and to promote order in a free world.”

As the Declaration of Independence of the United States is an unparelled discovery, even so is the Charter of the United Nations. The U.S. Declaration of Independence and the U.N. Charter are humanity's two aspiration-dedication-realities. The beacon-light of the Declaration of Independence shows countless human souls the way to their destined goal: “. . . We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among

Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed . . .”

The United Nations Charter bravely and heroically proclaims these rights for all of humanity, and speaks to “reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom . . .”

Concern for and satisfaction in the towering achievements of the United Nations may be a confidence-trip into the unknown, but never into the unknowable. The greatest messenger of the Catholic world, Pope Paul VI, during his visit to the United Nations in 1964, eloquently expressed the inner role of the United Nations: “The Church considers the United Nations to be the fruit of a civilisation to which the Catholic religion . . . gave the vital principles. It considers it an instrument of brotherhood between nations which the Holy See has always desired and promoted . . . The convergence of so many peoples, of so many races, so many States, in a single organisation intended to avert the evils of war and to favour the good things of peace, is a fact which the Holy See considers as corresponding to its concept of humanity and included within the area of its spiritual mission to the world.”

When Pope John Paul II visited the United Nations in October 1979 and spoke to the General Assembly, Secretary-General Waldheim introduced

him thus: “. . . your presence among us on this historic occasion is particularly encouraging since it dramatically reaffirms the great spiritual values which you represent and which inspire the Charter.”

Pope John Paul II indeed reaffirmed the value of the inner United Nations and the spiritual dimension of world politics when he told the General Assembly: “An analysis of the history of mankind, especially at its present stage, shows how important is the duty of revealing more fully the range of the goods that are linked with the spiritual dimension of human existence. It shows how important this task is for building peace and how serious is any threat to human rights.”

The composer of the immortal “Hymn to the United Nations,” the late Maestro Don Pablo Casals, reminds us that individuals and their countries undeniably need the United Nations. He gives an inspired call for us to selflessly play our parts in the inner and outer roles of the United Nations: “Those who believe in the dignity of man should act at this time to bring about a deeper understanding among people and a sincere rapprochement between conflicting forces. The United Nations today represents the most important hope for peace. Let us give it all power to act for our benefit. And let us fervently pray that the near future will disperse the clouds that darken our days now.”

The outer role of the United Nations is a colossal hope. The inner role of the United Nations is a generous assurance. The supreme role of the United Nations is a prosperous satisfaction.

Hope is a growing plant. Assurance is a blossoming tree. Satisfaction is a delicious fruit.

At the present stage, the United Nations is a growing plant which is only thirty-five years old. Is it not absurd for us to expect the United Nations to solve the overwhelming problems of centuries? Let the child-plant grow and glow, smile and cry. Then there shall come a time when this tiny plant will grow into a huge tree, with countless leaves, sleepless flowers and spotless fruits—sheltering, inspiring and nourishing all those who desperately need its protection-shelter, rejuvenation-inspiration and satisfaction-nourishment.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The meditation group celebrated its tenth year of inner and outer service to the United Nations community on 14 April 1980 with a programme of music and meditation, followed by an anniversary luncheon. At the first ceremony, held in the Chapel of the Church Center for the United Nations, members of the meditation group thanked Sri Chinmoy for his decade at the U.N. of tireless work for world peace, since delegates and staff first invited him to lead meditations in 1970. At the luncheon, Ambassador Illueca of Panama, Ambassador Hepburn of the Bahamas and Ambassador Rossides of Cyprus, as well as Mr. Ghandikota V. Subba Rao, Senior Officer of the Energy Unit of DIESA, and Mr. Donald Keys of Planetary Citizens, spoke about the importance of meditation in relation to the work of the U.N. Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Jeff Kamen, U.N. Correspondent for WPIX-TV.

Following are excerpts from both programmes.

Ceremony in the Chapel

After the programme of music and meditation, Mr. Donald Keys, President of Planetary Citizens, spoke and Mr. Kwadwo Ofose-Benefo of DIESA presented Sri Chinmoy with a U.N. Flag. Mr. Anselmo Evans then offered Sri Chinmoy flowers on behalf of the group.



Mr. Donald Keys, President of Planetary Citizens: Sri Chinmoy, members of the meditation group, friends, the United Nations is thirty-five years old this year. This unprecedented mission of Sri Chinmoy is ten years old—nearly one third of the life of the United Nations. The world may know it not, or perhaps someday the world will treasure and understand what has occurred here in this continuous act of divine intercession on behalf of the soul of the United Nations and through the United Nations on behalf of the soul of humanity.

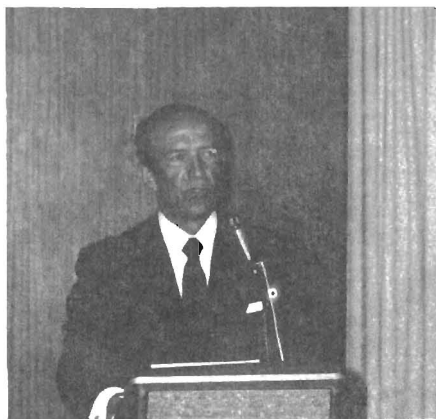
This continuous and unstinting act of divine grace has given us to understand more deeply the meaning of peace, the meaning of harmony, the meaning of unity, of oneness and love. It remains for us to appeal and to pray, dear and beloved Sri Chinmoy, that He who has sent you and whose divine emanation you are, may allow you to be with us for yet another decade, for the benefit of humanity, of which we are a part, and that we may continue to play this act in the divine *Lila* in which our years are set.



Mr. Kwadwo Oforu-Benebo, General Analysis and Policies Division, DIESA, United Nations:
 Dear Sri Chinmoy, on behalf of the meditation group I am very happy to present you with this U.N. flag. This gift to you is symbolic of your dedication to world peace, harmony and oneness of the human family. We are deeply privileged to be associated with you in your divine mission. We thank you so much for dedicating your life to serving humanity at large and the United Nations here in New York, as well as your centres throughout the world.

Anniversary Luncheon

Below are highlights of the anniversary luncheon, which the meditation group offered in gratitude for the participation and support of its friends in the United Nations community over the past ten years.



H.E. Dr. Jorge E. Illueca, Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations: Honourable Sri Chinmoy, distinguished members and friends of Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations, we gather today on the happy occasion of the tenth anniversary of Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations to pay a tribute of recognition to the outstanding service rendered by this group to the United Nations ideals and aspirations.

We all realize that, according to the Charter of the United Nations, the main purpose of this world organisation is to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations in order to assure to all peoples

the right to self-determination, the promotion of their own national and cultural development in their own way and the respect of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

The greatest religions of mankind proclaim that man contains something independent of the flesh and his basic survival: his consciousness and moral capacities, his essential personality—the soul. In the daily struggle between power and liberty, at the level of individuals or at the level of nations, we must find a democratic balance that can only be obtained through this beautiful worship of the human soul, practised by Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations. International peace and security can only endure in a United Nations system based on the principles of justice and international law. Mankind needs more people with noble thoughts such as those men and women that form Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations. They are always spreading feelings of unity, completeness and spiritual satisfaction.

They honour the old proverb that “you can only make others better by being good yourself.” They are good and they have made us better. They believe, as so well stated by a great American, “that prayer is the peace of our spirit and stillness of our thoughts, the evenness of our recollections, the sea of our meditation, the rest of our cares and the calm of our tempest.”

In its tenth anniversary, we offer our best wishes to Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations.

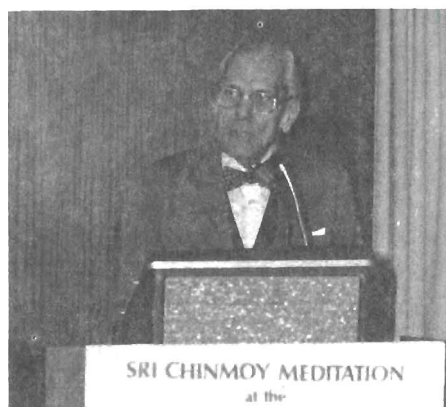


H.E. Mr. Davidson L. Hepburn, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations: Thank you Mr. Master of Ceremonies. Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, today I am indeed honoured to be here once again with the Sri Chinmoy meditation group. I must admit that when I got up this morning, I certainly was not feeling very well and I thought I could not possibly attend the luncheon today. But the moment I came into the room and I began to talk with a few people here, I felt a sense of peace, a sense of calmness that I think one normally does not get during the hectic days of working at the United Nations. And I am sure this came from the kind of presence that we have in this room today.

Over and over again people ask me, "Do you think that the United Nations is serving a function in our world?" and sometimes it is difficult to answer this question. But I often say that without the United Nations we would probably have greater problems. The decade of the seventies was a very difficult one. We had problems, we had trials, we

had tribulations, we had all kinds of difficulties everywhere. But I think the United Nations kept a kind of balance. Having the United Nations to talk about peace, whether or not we were able to see it in any tangible form, certainly helped to make nations feel that it was necessary to work much more closely together. In the decade of the eighties I hope that we can continue to build on the kind of example that has been set in the United Nations and that we will be able to sift through the rhetoric—if one might call it such—and find the good things that come out of what is being done at the United Nations, and then try to use them towards bringing about a much more peaceful and stable world.

I am sure that with a group like this one here and the kind of challenge and impetus that you give to us at the United Nations, we certainly can help to make it a much better place to be. I am very thankful for having met the members of the the meditation group. I cannot attend the meditations on a regular basis, but I think that the calm that I see on some of your faces must filter through to me by something like osmosis. I congratulate you for the work that you are doing and I especially congratulate your leader, who has been, I think, very instrumental in keeping the United Nations on a very firm footing. Thank you for having me here today.



H.E. Mr. Zenon Rossides, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations (emeritus) : Sri Chinmoy, Excellencies and friends, it is a deep pleasure for me to attend this meeting as I have attended previous ones because I feel very deeply in my heart that this meditation group, apart from cultivating the peace that comes from meditation, performs a very vital function of the United Nations. We are at a time when the intellect of man has become bankrupt and we need the spirit of man to get humanity out of the mess which the human intellect has created through the progress of science and technology. The more knowledge we have, the more sense of responsibility is demanded from us. To have that sense of responsibility we need strengthened moral values within us to help us meet the challenges of an advanced technological world.

The intellect of man can go towards good or evil. It is more bent on evil in relation to technological progress because this progress has primarily been

the result of the preparation for war. But the enemy now, in this nuclear age, is the nuclear weapon itself, threatening the whole of humanity with destruction. Guidance can only come from the spirit of man because this spirit is linked with the universal mind. The spirit of man will always lead us in the right direction. Sri Chinmoy, in this ten years, has been working at the United Nations for peace through meditation, which means bringing forward the spiritual side of man. This is why I believe that we need more and more of Sri Chinmoy, and that Sri Chinmoy should be the official centre of meditation at the United Nations.

I am reminded of a poem by T.S. Eliot where he says, "Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?" We now have tremendous knowledge enabling us to travel into space and to create nuclear weapons that have grown in their destructive capacity. This is our knowledge, but where is the wisdom which we have lost because of this knowledge? And even this knowledge has been lost in the confusion created by a mass of information. In this unfortunate situation, the tides suddenly clear up the moment we turn to the spirit. When I think of the spirit of the United Nations, I herald the work of Sri Chinmoy, who embodies this spirit that we need. I am very glad to see more and more attendance from distinguished Ambassadors and others working within the United Nations community because we want to have the spirit permeate all functions of life in New York Headquarters and everywhere. We must all work so that this meditation group can realise these important objectives in the United Nations. Thank you.



Mr. Ghandikota Subba Rao, Senior Officer, Energy Unit, DIESA, United Nations: Sri Chinmoyji and friends, I am really privileged to be asked to pay a tribute to this group's activities over the years.

In the beginning I used to wonder what the United Nations had to do with meditation. Then, when I saw these faces every week gathering under the leadership of the personality of Sri Chinmoy—who embodies the values of meditation—I was slowly but steadily drawn and attracted towards the group. I wondered more and more about the impact and the contribution that this group would make. Over the last few years I have come in touch with several of the members of the group and I have also been able to participate in a very small way in the proceedings of some of the group's functions.

Meditation, that inner discipline which is essential for the elevation of the mind, is a great gift. It is a great gift to us from the spiritual seers, from the sages of the past who have handed down

through great scriptures—which are the heritage of all mankind—the methodology, the techniques and above all the animation and the direction and the guidance which we all need to practise meditation. We have to move from the grossest, to the grosser, to the subtler, to the subtlest and beyond the subtlest. And this movement from the external grossness to the inner delicacy of the enriched mind is, I think, the main contribution that meditation makes. Those who practice it may seem, to some people, to be sitting with their eyes closed doing nothing, but I have no doubt that they are really recharging, as it were, the batteries of the world for peace, for harmony, for the evolution of mankind in the right direction. And this is an enrichment to the individual, to the environment and above all to the peace of mankind.

We are so very happy today to again pay tribute to this group for having made us more aware of the potentialities of meditation, and above all to the leader of this group, who has given us the invaluable guidance which we all need in this path. Thank you very much.



Mr. Donald Keys, President of Planetary Citizens: Sri Chinmoy, Excellencies and friends,

the United Nations is thirty-five years old this year, and this unprecedented mission of Sri Chinmoy and the meditation group is ten years old, which means that the meditation group and this mission have extended over nearly one third of the life of the United Nations. It is an historically unprecedented mission, for, among other things, the United Nations is unprecedented.

As I was sitting here looking out the window, I saw a small bird hanging on for dear life in one of the usual gales of wind that we have on the U.N. Plaza. It reminded me how the United Nations is tossed in the winds of the world, maintaining itself through some inner stability, and how the work of Sri Chinmoy has made such a mighty contribution and continues to make such a mighty contribution to that inner stability. From this work we have learned a great deal more and have received a great deal more of the energies of love, of unity, of harmony and of peace. They have become more available through this act of intercession for those of us who are trying to play our part, to make our contribution through the United Nations framework. This act of intercession has served the soul of the United Nations for a decade, and through the soul of the United Nations it has served humanity for a decade, in ways which have been so sensitively described by the excellencies who have preceded me here.

It may be that the world will never be aware of or understand the significance of this ongoing act of grace, or it may be that some day the world *will* understand. Be that as it may, it remains for us to appeal and to pray that for yet another decade we may have with us in this role he who is present with us and ask that the Creator who sent him and

whose emissary he is, may permit him to be with us yet another period of time in this difficult era in world history, this part of the divine Game, the divine *Lila*, in which our days are set.

Thank you very much.



Distinguished guests greet Sri Chinmoy: (above) H.E. Nadarajah Balasubramaniam, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations; (below) Mr. David M. Thomas, former Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations; (right) Mrs. Gillian Sorensen, Commissioner of the New York City Commission to the U.N.





(27)

LETTERS

Following are some of the letters the meditation group has recently received from ambassadors and officials of the United Nations, some in regard to the tenth anniversary celebrations.



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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'Kurt Waldheim', is placed above the printed name.

Kurt Waldheim

Sri Chinmoy
New York



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2 June 1980

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

I should like to thank you for sending me those nice flowers on the occasion of my return from Europe.

You may be sure that this thoughtful gesture as well as your good wishes were greatly appreciated.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,


Kurt Waldheim

Sri Chinmoy
New York

(30)

Note received from Mrs. Kurt Waldheim

28 March

Dear Mr. Korman,

I want to thank you
and Sri Chün-may very
much for the lovely
spring flowers you so
kindly sent me. I
was very touched by
your thoughtfulness.

We wish you both
happy Easter

With kind regards
Lissy Waldheim

(31)

Note received from Ambassador Davidson Hepburn
of the Bahamas

April 15, 1980

Dear Kevin

Please know that my stay at the luncheon yesterday gave me unequalled calm and relaxation. I have never experienced such freedom from tension, or perhaps I have been too busy with mundane matters to notice. I left knowing that I could face any challenge with confidence.

Let me extend through you to Sri Chinmoy and members of the Meditation Group at the United Nations my sincere gratitude. I am convinced, more and more, that your Meditation Group is rendering an invaluable service to the community and indeed the world.

May the decade of the '1980's bring about a greater sense of spiritual awareness and a more concerted effort to promote unity, peace and universal stability.

Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.
Davidson Hepburn

THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

May 1, 1980

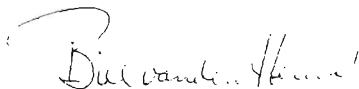
Blessed Friend:

Thank you for your letter of April 25. It was a great honor for me to participate in the program honoring the late Jesse Owens. He was an American hero who will inspire many generations of the world's children.

May I also thank you for your thoughtful message and beautiful flowers which your emissary, Jeff Kamen, delivered to my home last night in the wake of the Security Council assault which left me drenched in red paint. I must have carried over some of the tranquil inspiration of our memorial program on April 22, because the assault left me only with a sense of pity and concern for the irrational violence shown by my attackers.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,



William J. vanden Heuvel
Ambassador

Sri Chinmoy
GPO 20-Room 1931
United Nations
New York, New York 10017



*Permanent Mission of The Bahamas
to the United Nations*

Ref. No. BM/300/12

8 May, 1980

Dear Sri Chinmoy:

Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for your kind words and the photograph which accompanied your letter of April 25, 1980.

I will add it to my collection of fond memories at the United Nations.

With best wishes for continued success,

Yours Sincerely,

Davidson L. Hepburn
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations
GPO 20-Room 1931
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017