

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. 7
27 July 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.

(iv)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introductory Note	1
Pope John Paul II and Sri Chinmoy Meet	2
Meeting with the Director-General of the United Nations	4
Devadip Carlos Santana Gives United Nations Concert	5
Batik Art Lecture and Exhibition	10
Tribute to Johann Sebastian Bach	13
Dedication to Rabindranath Tagore	21
Concerts	23
• <i>Letter from Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver.</i>	
Philosophical Talks	27
• <i>Food and God</i>	
• <i>What Is It?</i>	
• <i>Success-March and Progress-Flight</i>	
• <i>Hope</i>	

(v)

(vi)

(Blank)

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

As part of the meditation group's humble efforts to promote better understanding among different countries and peoples, the group has sponsored and participated in a variety of cultural and religious events. Highlights from some of these recent programmes appear in this booklet, including an account of Sri Chinmoy's meeting with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican this spring. At the back of the issue are several short philosophical talks, which are a regular feature of the bulletin.

POPE JOHN PAUL II AND SRI CHINMOY MEET

On 18 June 1980, while in Europe on a lecture and concert tour, Sri Chinmoy visited the Vatican for a private meeting with Pope John Paul II. He was warmly received by the Holy Father, who noted his work at the United Nations and said: "Special blessings to you. Special greetings to your members. We shall continue together."

During the meeting, Sri Chinmoy presented the Pontiff with a plaque and a pamphlet containing a song he had composed in the Pope's honour. "The words we exchanged were few," Sri Chinmoy recalled, "but the Pope spent some time looking at the plaque and the pamphlet and appreciating them."

"I must say, Pope John Paul has tremendous warmth, and he is very sincere in expressing affection. He was beaming with joy and showed me tremendous affection, love and concern when he offered me his benediction."

This was the first time Sri Chinmoy had met Pope John Paul. On three previous occasions Sri Chinmoy had held private meetings with the late Pope Paul VI, who had been deeply appreciative of his efforts for world peace.



Pope John Paul II and Sri Chinmoy

(3)

MEETING WITH THE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS



While visiting Geneva June 16 as part of an international lecture and concert tour, Sri Chinmoy met with the Director-General of the United Nations, Mr. Luigi Cottafavi, and had a lengthy discussion on religion and Indian culture. Excerpts from their conversation will appear in a subsequent issue.

DEVADIP CARLOS SANTANA GIVES UNITED NATIONS CONCERT

Devadip Carlos Santana treated the United Nations community to an evening of his music on 7 April 1980 in a free concert held in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium. Mr. Santana, who is best known for leading the Santana band, offered the hundreds who packed the auditorium ample opportunity to appreciate his solo artistry on the electric guitar as well as his group's virtuosity. The programme was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Panama to the United Nations and Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations. Mrs. Jorge Illueca served as Master of Ceremonies for her husband, Ambassador Illueca, who was detained in Panama.

Mr. Santana has been voted best rock guitarist by "Guitar Player Magazine" and in 1978 was voted "Bay Area Musician of the Year" by his fans in California. William Carlton of the New York Daily News has called him "quite possibly the greatest guitarist of his generation and certainly one of the most brilliant, fiery, inspired and inspiring musicians ever." In 1977 CBS awarded the Santana Band their first "Crystal Globe Award" marking the sale of five million units sold in Europe. In Japan, Santana's "Amigos" album was chosen as "Album of the year" in 1976.

Since their appearance at Woodstock the Santana band has recorded 15 albums (through

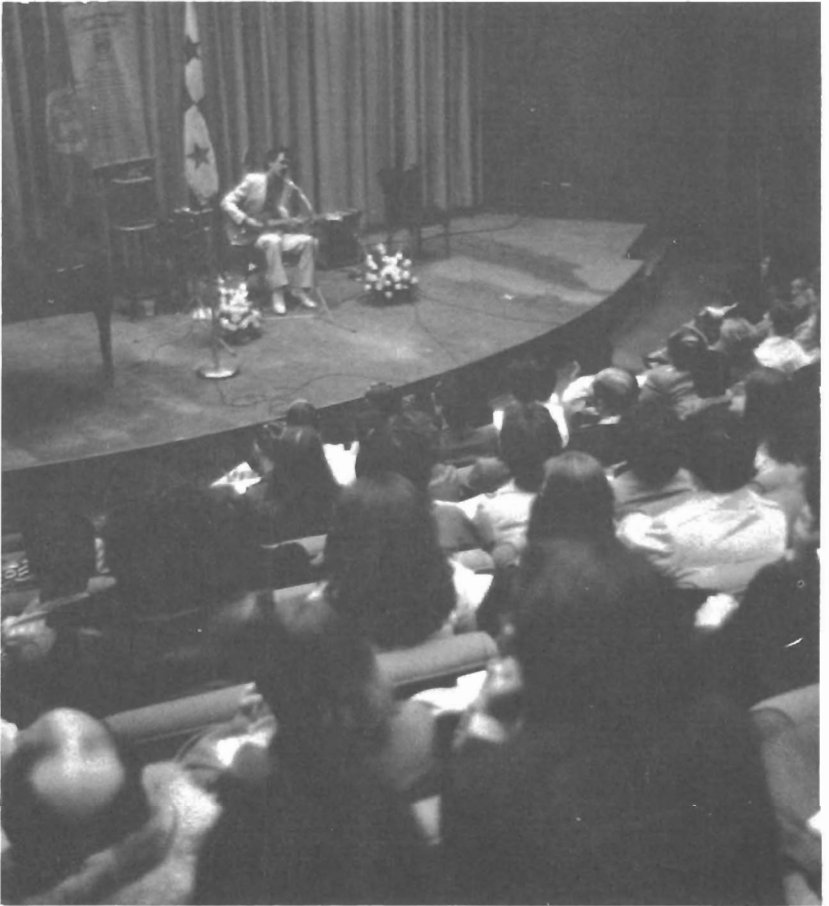
1978) and toured throughout the world. Included in their extensive itinerary have been benefit concerts to aid Nicaraguan earthquake victims, San Francisco school children, prisoners in California, the Marin Youth Orchestra, the University of California EOP programme, the Paris school children's sports programme and UNICEF.

Mr. Santana's contributions to UNICEF were recognised in an award ceremony at the close of the concert. On behalf of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, Sri Chinmoy presented him with a commemorative coin.

Excerpts from the programme follow.

Mrs. Jorge Illueca of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Panama to the United Nations: On behalf of the Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations and Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations, I would like to welcome you to tonight's concert, which is being offered to the United Nations community by Devadip Carlos Santana. Ambassador Illueca very much wanted to be with us tonight, but was not able to get back in time from Panama.

As I am sure all of us here know, Mr. Santana, in addition to being one of the major performers of the past ten years, has recently expressed his concern for the work of the United Nations by participating in a large benefit concert to aide UNICEF's work in Kampuchea. It is our privilege and honour to welcome him and to thank him for offering tonight's concert to the United Nations community.





At the end of the concert, Mr. Santana received an award from the U.S. Committee for UNICEF'S MUSIC FOR UNICEF. Here Sri Chinmoy, Mrs. Illueca and her daughter, Marta, and Mr. Santana listen while the meditation group choir sings a song of congratulations. The singers also performed several songs dedicated to Panama by Sri Chinmoy.

Mrs. Jorge Illueca: In December 1979, in the midst of a concert tour of the United States, Devadip Carlos Santana and his group played a benefit concert in California, raising a significant contribution for the International Year of the Child. The very next month in Oakland, California, he joined other well-known performers in a concert to benefit UNICEF's relief efforts in Kampuchea. In recognition of these efforts and the generous spirit of self-giving behind them, MUSIC

FOR UNICEF takes this opportunity to express its gratitude to Mr. Santana. On behalf of MUSIC FOR UNICEF I would like to request Sri Chinmoy to present this commemorative coin to Devadip Carlos Santana for his work during the International Year of the Child and for his continuing work for the children of the world.

The quote on the award reads:

“There shall be peace on Earth;
But not until each child shall daily eat his fill;
Go warmly clad against the winter wind
And learn his lessons with a tranquil mind.”

Sri Chinmoy: Dear Mrs. Illueca, I am extremely grateful to you for having given me the opportunity to offer this most significant award to the unparalleled musician Devadip Carlos Santana. He has played throughout the length and breadth of the world and his music has been highly acclaimed by young and old alike. It is his heart that inspires and elevates the music-loving world. He is all heart, his music is all heart, his contribution to the world at large is all heart.

Heart means oneness, oneness within and oneness without. The vision of the United Nations is for a oneness-family. So, to me, this is a most appropriate place for Devadip to play in. I am sure that he will agree with me that his heart's soulful contributions to the soul of the United Nations are being accepted most lovingly. On behalf of the Meditation Group, I wish to thank him most soulfully while offering him this most coveted award. And once more, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to offer it to him.

BATIK ART LECTURE AND EXHIBITION

On 21 April 1980 a batik art lecture and exhibition was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations, with introductory remarks by His Excellency Mr. Nadarajah Balasubramaniam, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations.

Mr. Vipula Dharmawardena, a leading artist-lecturer from Sri Lanka who has held many solo exhibitions and participated in fifteen world fairs, gave a superb explanation and presentation of original art.

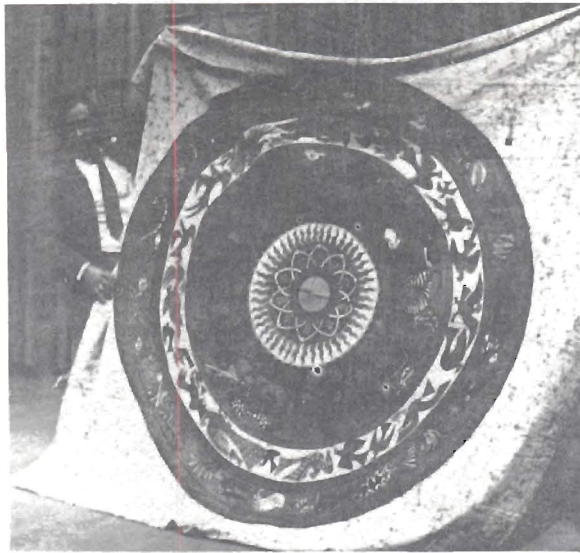
Brief excerpts from the programme follow.



*His Excellency Mr. Nadarajah Balasubramaniam,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Demo-*

cratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations: Ladies and gentlemen, at the outset I express sincere thanks on behalf of Sri Lanka to Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations for having organised this exhibition of batik art by Mr. Vipula Dharmawardena. Vipula started life as an art teacher, and he took to batik art as a hobby during this period. Over the years, Vipula mastered the art so well that today his name is synonymous with batik in our country. He is one of the foremost proponents of the batik art in Sri Lanka. He has held over seventy solo exhibitions in different parts of the world, and has participated in fifteen world fairs. His works adorn the headquarters building of the United Nations in Geneva as well as the World Bank and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

It is a privilege to be able to view a sample of his works today in this room. Vipula has been able to capture the exotic colours and the tropical beauty of Sri Lanka, using a wealth of detail. One sees the flora and fauna of Sri Lanka vividly portrayed in the striking works around you. One also sees the influence of the folk art of Sri Lanka in these works. Vipula has indeed succeeded in bringing a touch of Sri Lanka into this auditorium today and for that we are extremely grateful to him.



Mr. Vipula Dharmawardena, leading artist-lecturer from Sri Lanka: Ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to be with you this afternoon to explain the art of batik. I cannot do a demonstration because the auditorium is not suitable for that, but I do have some samples with me. From various records, we learn that the art of batik is a very primitive method of textile printing. Before the invention of silk screen printing or more sophisticated printing, this was the main method used by people for printing a piece of cloth. It originated in Egypt and in China and later its influence spread to Asia and Southeast Asia. In Sri Lanka we have samples dating back three to four hundred years, when batik was used for clothing for both men and women. (A technical explanation and discussion of some works on display was followed by a question and answer period.)

TRIBUTE TO JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

On 22 May 1979 the meditation group had the honour to present a programme in tribute to the composer Johann Sebastian Bach, with guest speakers Miss Rosalyn Tureck and Professor Howard H. Cox.

Miss Tureck, the internationally renowned pianist and "First Lady of Bach," is the foremost exponent of Bach's keyboard music in the world today. Miss Tureck is the Founder and Director of the International Bach Society. Her work in Bach as performer and recording artist on all keyboard instruments, as conductor and as lecturer distinguishes her as a multifaceted Bach specialist of unparalleled stature.

Professor Cox of the Moravian Theological Seminary is presently researching Bach's personal Bible, just discovered a few years ago, in which Bach had entered his own handwritten marginal comments. This is considered a major discovery since it provides a new insight into the composer's thought and beliefs.

Sri Chinmoy played solo on esraj, and several members of the group performed some of Bach's chamber music. The meditation group choir sang compositions dedicated to Bach by Sri Chinmoy, which are reprinted in this issue. Highlights of the programme follow.



Miss Rosalyn Tureck, Director of the International Bach Society: (Speaking of a "revelation" she had at the age of 16) I had to form a new way of thinking about music, including a new keyboard technique of phrasing, dynamics, touch and endless means of performance . . . a totally new tonal and physical piano technique to match the deeper perception which came to me of what Bach's music and structure really is.

(Summing up her philosophy while talking about the Goldberg Variations) On the piano I perform the 'Goldberg' Variations as they appear in the original and do not make any alterations in order to meet its technical demands on one keyboard. My piano performance does not imitate the harpsichord performance. However, the basic structure must stand undisturbed for its own sake on either instrument and it dictates the musical characteristics of each variation, as well. Thus in some variations I retain the same concept on both instruments but achieve it by different means The ideal is to etch the structure in the music, to achieve the quality of the composer's fantasy and

vision, and always to employ the instrument as a means and never as an end in itself This performance is not intended for either/or choice. I have always believed in the principles of operation, rather than the attitudes of either/or. One may indeed choose, but with music and instrument treated with respect and knowledgeable art, the integrity of the music should stand, retaining its clarity, its structure and its infinite significance to the human spirit.



Professor Howard H. Cox, Moravian Theological Seminary: It is fitting for the community at the United Nations to give tribute to Bach. For not only does he provide in his music a message that envisions unity, fulfilment and wholeness for mankind consistent with the goal of the United Nations, but he was also aware of the realities: the brokenness of human relations and of human nature. One passage of underlined commentary in Bach's Bible will illustrate this. It is commentary on the story of Isaac in Gen. 26. Isaac is being pushed around by the Philistines. He settles, digs wells, and then is dispossessed. So he settles again,

digs more wells, and is dispossessed again. This happens several times. Finally, the Philistines say to Isaac, "We see that the Lord is with you. Come, let us make a covenant together."

The commentary, which has been underlined with pen and ink, reads: "What a great force patience has For while he is so patient and could bear with this injustice that came upon him, he could also open his neighbor's eyes so that they recognize and confess their sins and think of the violence that they did to him."

Patience is a quality to be cultivated by all who seek unity and harmony. If Bach underlined this passage, then he identified with it. Bach's desire for peace and unity makes him an historic ally of the U.N.

I believe that the Bach Bible is unique as source material for understanding the beliefs and motivations of Bach. Rarely is this kind of data available with reference to any person in history. For it is a witness to his private life. It shows Bach speaking to himself. Whatever he wrote in this Bible, whatever he underlined, reflects his genuine interests. Here is revealed the inspiration of that servant of mankind whose music lifts up humanity into the region of God's glory. For, like Moses, he saw the promised land. For him, like Ezekiel, the heavens were opened and he saw visions of God. And following another Johann before him, John of the Book of Revelation, he gave concrete expression to the voice which said, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men."



Members of the meditation group perform some of Bach's works.

Bach, Bach, Bach, Bach!
 O heart-piercing, soul-stirring melody,
 You quenched the unquenched thirst of Eternity.

BACH

Words and music
 by Sri Chinmoy

(♩ = 63) *Slow*

Bach. Bach. Bach. Bach—

fine
 O heart—pierc—ing,

soul—stir—ring me—lo—dy,

You— quenched the un—quenched thirst— of—

3
 E—ter—ni—ly. *D.C. al fine without repeat*

TO GIVE WINGS OF ETERNITY

Words by Pablo Casals
Music by Sri Chinmoy

(♩ = 112) Moderate

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Moderate' with a quarter note equal to 112 beats per minute. The lyrics are: 'To give wings of eternity to that which is most ephemeral; to make divine things human and human things divine; such is Bach, the greatest and purest moment in music of all time.' The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and a 'ritard' marking over the final phrase.

To give wings _____
of _____ e - ter - ni - ty
to _____ that _____ which _____ is _____
most _____ e - phe - me - ral;
to make di - vine things hu - man
and _____ hu - man things di - vine;
such is Bach, _____ the great - est and pur - est
mo - - ment in _____ mu - - sic _____
of _____ all _____ ritard time. _____

“To give wings of eternity to that which is most ephemeral; to make divine things human and human things divine; such is Bach, the greatest and purest moment in music of all time.”

—Pablo Casals

BACH IS THE END

Words by Albert Schweitzer
Music by Sri Chinmoy

(♩ = 76) Fast

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G minor (one flat). The tempo is marked 'Fast' with a quarter note equal to 76 beats. The lyrics are: 'Bach is the end. No - thing comes from him; ev - 'ry - thing mere - ly leads up to him.' The piece ends with a double bar line and the word 'fine'. A 'D.C. at line with repeat' instruction is placed at the end of the fourth staff.

Bach is the end. *fine*

No - thing comes from him;

ev - 'ry - thing mere - ly

leads up to him. *D.C. at line with repeat*

“Bach is the end. Nothing comes from him;
everything merely leads up to him.”

—Albert Schweitzer

BACH IS THE FATHER

Words by W. A. Mozart
Music by Sri Chinmoy

(♩ = 69) Moderately fast

The musical score consists of six staves of music in G minor (one flat). The tempo is marked 'Moderately fast' with a quarter note equal to 69 beats. The lyrics are: 'Bach is the father, we are the children. Fa - ther, chil - dren.' The piece ends with a double bar line and the word 'fine'. A 'D.C. at line with repeat' instruction is placed at the end of the sixth staff.

Bach is the *fine*

fa - - - - - ther,

we are the

chil - - - - - dren.

Fa - - - - - ther,

chil - - - - - dren. *D.C. at line with repeat*

“Bach is the father, we are the children.”

—W. A. Mozart

ONLY PRACTISE IT DILIGENTLY

(♩ = 120) Moderately Fast

Words by J.S. Bach
Music by Sri Chinmoy
line

On - ly prac - tise it _____ di - li - gent - ly,
it will go _____ ve - ry _____ well.
You have five just _____ as _____ heal - thy
fin - - gers on _____ each _____ hand as _____ I.

*D.C. al fine
with repeat*

“Only practise it diligently, it will go very well.
You have five just as healthy fingers on each hand
as I.”

—J.S. Bach

I OFFER MYSELF

(♩ = 96) Moderate

Words by J.S. Bach
Music by Sri Chinmoy

I _____ of - - fer my - self
in _____ most _____ du - ti - ful
o - be - di - ence. _____

(20)

“I offer myself in most dutiful obedience.”

—J.S. Bach

DEDICATION TO RABINDRANATH TAGORE

On 7 May 1979 the Meditation Group observed Nobel Prize winner Rabindranath Tagore's birthday—5 May 1861—with a ceremony held in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium. Sri Chinmoy offered selections in Bengali from Tagore's poetry and music and also performed his own original song about the poet. Other passages from Tagore's works were read in English. The programme ended with India's National Anthem, "Jana Gana Mana," which was composed by Tagore.



Sri Chinmoy offers a silent tribute to Tagore.

BHARATER RABI

(Dedicated to Rabindranath Tagore)

(♩ = 66) Moderate

Words and music
by Sri Chinmoy

Bha - ra - ter ra - bi ja - ga - ter ka - bi

Ban - ger hi - ya chand

Sun - dar tu - mi bhi - ta - re ba - hi - re

Sun - dar tu - mi srish - ti ga - bhi - re

Bi - shwa sa - bhai to - mar a - san

Pre - ma on - kar nad

*D.C. al fine
without repeats*

O Sun of India's sky,
O World-Poet,
O Moon of Bengal's heart,
You were beautiful in your inner life,
You were beautiful in your outer life,
You were beauty incarnate in God's entire creation.
Gloriously and triumphantly you secure your place
In the world-assembly with your creative force,
Supremely meaningful and fruitful in various walks of life.

*Bharater rabi jagater kabi
Banger hiya chand
Sundar tumi bhitare bahire
Sundar tumi srishti gabhire
Bishwa sabhai tomar asan
Prema onkar nad*

(22)

CONCERTS

Over the years the meditation group has invited many guest artists to speak and perform at the United Nations, including accomplished musicians from the United Nations community. In addition to some of the programmes in this issue, last year the group sponsored, for example, "A Summer Arts Series," with convenient lunchtime concerts held in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium. The performances ranged from Western classical to modern Indian devotional to popular folk songs from around the world, with staff members Ms. Roberta Topacio and Ms. Lillemor Zakkay singing in their native Filipino and Swedish.

The meditation group has also been invited to perform in several benefit concerts. During the International Year of the Child, the group's choir participated in a gala performance at the Riverside Church in Manhattan for "Arts in Religion" in celebration of I.Y.C., held on 30 April 1979. The choir performed a welcome song, as well as "This Is My Year," composed by Sri Chinmoy for I.Y.C.

The choir also performed for the Special Olympics, at the New York premier and benefit showing of the movie "Superman." Before the film, Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, President of the Special Olympics, welcomed the audience and New York Governor, Hugh Carey, presented awards to handicapped children for their courage and

heroism. Below is a letter of appreciation received from Mrs. Shriver.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS, INC.

International and National Headquarters
1701 K St. N.W. Suite 203 Washington D.C. 20006 (202) 331-1346

May 17, 1979

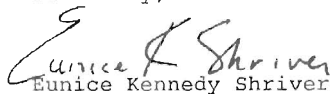
Sri Chinmoy
Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations
CPO 20. - Room 1925
United Nations
NY, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Chinmoy:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful song you composed and the marvelous performance the Four Universals Singers gave at the New York Premiere of Superman ... the Movie for the benefit of Special Olympics. The beauty of your music warmed the hearts of all who listened.

Without the dedicated and selfless work of groups like yours, Special Olympics could not exist. I thank you for all you have given us.

Sincerely,


Eunice Kennedy Shriver

SPECIAL OLYMPICS, INC.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, President
Robert M. Montague, Brig. Gen. USA (Ret.), Executive Director
Thomas B. Songster, Ph.D., Director of Sports and Recreation
Stanley Strazell, Director of Coaching and Training

Created and sponsored by The Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation



The meditation group choir at the benefit for Special Olympics, with Governor Hugh Carey and Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver.



Staff members and accomplished performers Ms. Roberta Tapacio (above) and Ms. Lillemor Zakkay (below) who sang folk songs in their native Filipino and Swedish in the meditation group's "Summer Arts Series."



PHILOSOPHICAL TALKS

Collected here are some of the short, inspirational talks that Sri Chinmoy has given at recent meetings of the meditation group.

FOOD AND GOD

Food has God. God is food.

Food has life. God is life.

Food has reality. God is reality.

Food has sound-success. God is sound-success.

Food has silence-progress. God is silence-progress.

I eat. I eat to survive. From my very birth I have been seeking nourishment. Food saves my life from starvation. Food saves my life from extinction.

Mine is the hunger that does not permit me to think soulfully.

Mine is the hunger that does not permit me to act selflessly.

Mine is the hunger that does not permit me to pray to God constantly.

Mine is the hunger that does not permit me to meditate spontaneously.

Mine is the hunger that does not permit me to love God unconditionally.

I know my food-hunger is reasonable and inevitable. But my power-hunger is unreasonable and unpardonable. Finally, my God-hunger is incomparable and insurmountable.

To my great sorrow, poverty attacks plenty. To my widest astonishment, plenty invades poverty. One of the lofty principles of the United Nations is: "Poverty anywhere in the world is a threat to prosperity everywhere." Indeed, this is a heart-unifying and life-fulfilling message. The United Nations was founded upon the vision-hunger for world peace. I am sure there shall come a time when that vision will be transformed into reality in spite of today's teeming, threatening and frightening clouds over the firmament of the United Nations.

O body, I tell you a supreme secret :

"Shortage is poverty."

O vital, I tell you a supreme secret :

"Rivalry is poverty."

O mind, I tell you a supreme secret :

"Doubt is poverty."

O heart, I tell you a supreme secret :

"Insecurity is poverty."

O life, I tell you a supreme secret :

"Impurity is poverty."

O truth-seeker, I tell you a supreme secret :

"Disobedience is poverty."

O God-lover, I tell you a supreme secret :

"Ingratitude is poverty."

I eat. I eat to live. Indeed, this is my wisdom-light. I live to eat. Indeed, this is my ignorance-night.

God says to my desire-life: "Love to live."

God says to my aspiration-life: "Live to love."

God says to my realisation-life: "Love to become a oneness-heart. Live to be a perfection-life."

Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium

1 February 1980

WHAT IS IT?

Meditation: what is it?

Peace of mind.

Peace of mind: what is it?

Self-giving.

Self-giving: what is it?

God-becoming.

God-becoming: what is it?

The beginning of a new journey.

The beginning of a new journey: what is it?

A transcending Eternity.

A transcending Eternity: what is it?

An increasing Infinity.

An increasing Infinity: what is it?

A fulfilling Immortality.

A fulfilling Immortality: what is it?

It is something that I have and I am.

What have I?

A birthless and deathless smile.

What am I?

A sleepless and breathless cry.

*Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium
26 February 1980*

SUCCESS-MARCH AND PROGRESS-FLIGHT

Indeed, the power of helplessness in human beings is remarkable. Do we dare to believe this?

Indeed, the power of hopelessness in human beings is staggering. Do we dare to believe this?

Indeed, the power of uselessness in human beings is frightening. Do we dare to believe this?

What is this power? This power is self-oblivion. Self-oblivion has blighted man's aspiration and blinded man's vision.

Here at the United Nations, each man is a representative soul of his nation. It is in and through him that his nation gives and receives. It is in and through him that his nation thirsts for world-acceptance, world-recognition, world-appreciation and world-admiration.

His willingness to hoist the banner of truth in order to bring about national and international victory determines his life's success-march and his heart's progress-flight. Indeed, his life's success-march and his heart's progress-flight are the success-march and the progress-flight of his nation as well. This success-march and progress-flight can be founded only on his and his nation's self-giving to the United Nations, which is the world's peace-envisioning home—the world's oneness-home and a fulness-vision-manifestation.

*Conference Room 10
27 February 1980*

HOPE

Sri Chinmoy gave the following inspirational talk at the 29 February 1980 meeting of the meditation group, on the anniversary of his first meeting with the late Secretary-General U Thant, 29 February 1972.

Hope is my mind's secret fear.

Hope is my heart's sacred courage.

Hope is my life's daring experience.

Hope is my soul's illumining success and fulfilling progress.

Hope is my Lord's ascending Perfection and my Lord's transcending Satisfaction.

We, the members of the meditation group of the United Nations, have only one friend—a soulful friend, a oneness-friend—and that friend is hope. We started with hope-friend. Hope-friend and hope-life were synonymous in our case. This hope-life was firmly established on February 29th in 1972, when I had the golden opportunity to meet with former Secretary-General U Thant, who embodied colossal hope for the entire world. U Thant's life itself became the grandiose flowering of hope. A simple schoolteacher from Burma became the principal teacher of the comity of nations. Here his teaching life did not come to an end. He went one step ahead to serve divinity in humanity with the message of the all-illumining and all-fulfilling Truth, the Truth that has no alternative. The message of his soulful heart was:

"No compromise, no compromise with falsehood. Truth is paramount; Truth alone can save, illumine, perfect and fulfil the world."

Hope-vision he discovered. Hope-realisation he became. Hope-illumination he offered to the world at large. This is our beloved brother, U Thant, the Pilot who will ever be remembered for his simplicity-life, kindness-heart and oneness-soul. In him we observe that the finite hope of today does not have to remain with the finite and fleeting forever. It can slowly, steadily and unerringly grow into infinite life-saving and life-illumining Reality.

U Thant's compassion was at times misunderstood by human souls. But his oneness with all nations big and small, his oneness with all and sundry was never, never misunderstood. For what he was, what he is and what he will remain forever is simplicity's oneness, purity's oneness and divinity's oneness.

*Conference Room 10
29 February 1980*

(- - - -)

(34) Blank