

Pakistan
World Muslim Congress

Canada
Peace International

Czechoslovakia
World Federation of Trade Unions

Sri Lanka
United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

Ghana
Ghana United National Association

Japan
City of Hiroshima

United Kingdom
World Education Fellowship

COMMENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

"On UN Day 1984, at the State House in Boston, the United Nations Association of Greater Boston participated in this simultaneous testimonial of dedication to world peace. I hope that United Nations Associations throughout the country and the world will find ways to do so in 1985 and in future years."

—John Malcolm Forbes—
Co-director, The Council
For a Nuclear Weapons Freeze
Member, Board of Directors
United Nations Association
of Greater Boston

"Soviet United Nations Association joins you in your belief that someday we may have not only days and weeks but many centuries of peace. . . Appreciating your efforts for the cause of peace."

—Dr. Serguey Gribkov—
Secretary-General
United Nations Association
Of the USSR

In these times of regional and factional wars as well as increased tensions between nations that threaten political and social stability, it's particularly important to focus attention on the urgent need for peace.

This year is the United Nations 40th anniversary and marks the beginning of the International Year of Peace. It is my sincere hope that through the observance of seven minutes of silence we can promote peace.

—Charles Royer, Mayor—
City of Seattle

"We affirm our intention to join the Seven Minutes as an addition to our traditional UN Day

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activities. We intend to canvass the support of religious and political leaders of all denominations and political persuasions in order to make it a non-sectarian observance uniting all peoples."

—Kumaran Fernando—
Secretary-General
United Nations Association
of Sri Lanka

"Seven Minutes of World Peace is an inspiring endeavor to unite the world in peace."

—Dr. Helen Caldicott—
President Emeritus,
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Founder,
Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament

"I hope the Seven Minutes of World Peace will grow eternal world peace."

—Masahiko Ikeda—
Director, Office of the Mayor
Hiroshima, Japan

"The Seven Minutes of World Peace observance and meditation to be held on 24 October 1985 is an excellent idea. Heads of state and all world governments should support it in action, taking into account their peoples' wish for peace.

Moments of prayer, moments of peace unite the peoples of the world and make them realize the oneness of the human family. This is the significance of Sri Chinmoy's noble efforts that I wholeheartedly uphold."

—Zenon Rossides—
Ambassador of Cyprus
to the United Nations

My group or organization plans to participate in the Seven Minutes of World Peace on 24 October 1985. Please send details on participation to the following address:

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____

State or Province _____ Mailing Code _____

Country _____

Signature _____

Please send us _____ additional free brochures.

Please send us _____ free Seven Minutes of World Peace posters.

Return to:

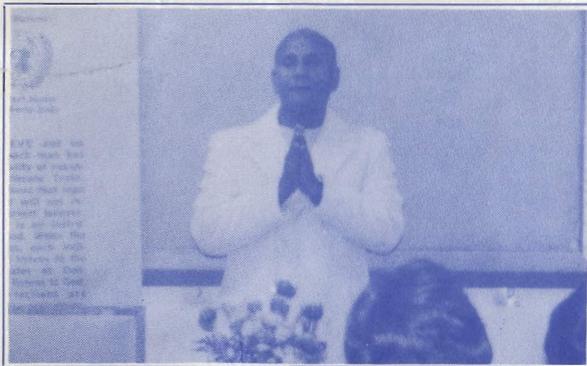
Seven Minutes of World Peace
Room S-765
United Nations, NY 10017



SEVEN MINUTES
OF WORLD PEACE
TO JOIN HUMANITY IN PEACE

24 October 1985

SEVEN MINUTES OF WORLD PEACE . . . TO JOIN HUMANITY IN PEACE



Sri Chinmoy leads 1984 observance of Seven Minutes of World Peace at United Nations Headquarters.

WHAT IS IT?

Seven Minutes of World Peace is a global observance of peace that will join together simultaneously individuals, groups and organizations around the world for seven minutes of silence. This year, Seven Minutes of World Peace will be held from 1:00-1:07 pm Eastern Standard Time on United Nations Day (Thursday, 24 October). This day also marks the beginning of the International Year of Peace and the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

ITS PURPOSE

Seven Minutes of World Peace seeks to focus the attention of the entire world on the urgent need for world peace in the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King and the United Nations itself. The observance offers people in every country a special opportunity to transform their individual longing for peace into a tangible reality. If peace can reign for seven minutes, it is hoped that some day it might endure for seven hours, seven days, seven years and ultimately forever.

THE SPONSOR

The event is sponsored by Sri Chinmoy: The Peace-Meditation at the United Nations in co-operation with United Nations Associations around the world and a broad range of religious, spiritual, educational and peace organizations. The Peace-Meditation at the United Nations is an association of United Nations delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents who believe that a

foundation of inner peace must be established among all peoples—and especially among those working at the United Nations—before outer peace can ever become a reality. Towards this end, the Peace-Meditation has been holding twice-weekly meditations for peace and related programmes at United Nations Headquarters since 1970.

1984 OBSERVANCE

Seven Minutes of World Peace was inaugurated in 1984 with the participation of groups in over 40 countries. The main observance was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, in conjunction with United Nations Day activities there. It featured a meditation led by Sri Chinmoy, leader of the Peace-Meditation at the United Nations.

In the United States, groups around the country held special ceremonies to observe the event. In Boston, for example, representatives of five of the world's major religions read passages from their scriptures related to peace at a Seven Minutes observance held at the State House. In Washington, D.C., a ceremony at the United States Congress included an observance in the offices of Congressman Gary Ackerman and a silent vigil on the steps of the Capitol by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches. In White Plains, NY, the sisters of the Divine Compassion Center organized educational observances at local secondary schools and held a separate prayer session of their own.

Around the world, Seven Minutes of World Peace was observed during an all-night vigil held by peace organizations and religious groups in Uppsala, Sweden. In the Netherlands, some 30 peace, disarmament, spiritual and religious groups joined in the observance. Support for Seven Minutes of World Peace also came from groups in Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Greece, Japan, and the United Kingdom. The United Nations Association of India and the World Muslim Congress of Pakistan were particularly active.

Press coverage was extensive in the Netherlands, where there were major articles in the *Algemeen Dagblad* and the *Haagsche Courant*. Other articles appeared in various publications in the United States.



Leaders of various faiths at the State House in Boston after Seven Minutes of World Peace programme in 1984.

Zeven minuten wereldvrede

Zeven minuten stilte in acht nemen voor vrede. Als meenen over de hele wereld dit eenmaal per jaar op een bepaald tijdstip zouden doen, zullen die zeven minuten van werkelijke wereldvrede uitgroeien tot zeven uren, zeven dagen, zeven jaren en uiteindelijk zeven eeuwen van vrede en meer.

Dit is de hoop van India's Sri Chinmoy. Voor de eerste wereldomvattende poging om vrede te vieren heeft hij woensdag, de 20e verjaardag van de Verenigde Naties, uitgekozen. 's Avonds om kwart over zes Nederlandse tijd zullen mensen in de hele wereld bij elkaar komen om te mediteren, te bidden of te denken aan vrede. Hiervoor zijn betrouwen geschreven aan staatschefs, vredesbewegingen, kerken, synagogen, scholen, en universiteiten. Aan regeringen is gevraagd om alle vijandige acties te staken gedurende die periode.

Sri Chinmoy heeft vanaf 1978 een vredesmeditatiecentrum in het gebouw van de Verenigde Naties in New York. Sinds die tijd begeleidt hij delegaties en medewerkers van de VN bij het mediteren over vrede. Ook is hij de inspirator van een groot aantal conferenties die diplomaten bijeen brachten, hoge

VN-functionarissen en kerkelijke leiders om te praten over wereldvrede.

De Indiër, die talloze boeken heeft geschreven, schildert en diverse muziekinstrumenten, ten bespelle, organiseert in New York tevens twee-weeklijke vredesmeditatie. Student Wim Gerretsen volgt die al een paar jaar. De laatste keer was hij in augustus in New York. 'Toen ook is het idee ontstaan, voor de zeven minuten wereldvrede', vertelt hij. 'Aanvankelijk werd gedacht aan de verjaardag van de VN, maar we vonden het plan zo goed dat we, hoewel op korte termijn, er dit jaar al mee wilden beginnen.'

In de afgelopen weken heeft Gerretsen allerlei organisaties in Nederland aangeschreven. Zo'n achttien mensen hebben inmiddels toezegging mee te doen aan de zeven minuten wereldvrede. Een van de plaatsen



• Sri Chinmoy

Gedicht
Wim Gerretsen, die Engels

studeert, kwam in 1978 voor het eerst in contact met Sri Chinmoy. 'Ik had een gedicht van hem gelezen en dat sprak me zo aan dat ik hem een brief heb geschreven. Later ben ik naar New York gegaan.'

'Vrede begint in het hart van de mens', zo luidt die boodschap van de Indiër. 'Hij legt niemand iets op', zegt Wim Gerretsen. 'Bewoont zichzelf ook als een soort zoekende, maar wil iemand die een stapje verder is en die anderen kan helpen een soort evenwicht te vinden tussen de uitdrukkelijke innerlijke wereld. Hij probeert een verbinding te leggen tussen het dynamische westen en de rust van het oosten. Chinmoy wil dat je met beide benen stevig in de maatschappij blijft staan, maar dat je vanuit meditatie iets probeert te veranderen.'

Valeria Gerretsen is de Indiër niet uit op een groot aantal volgelingen. 'Het enige wat voor hem telt is de boodschap van de vrede. Die zeven minuten zijn een eerste aanzet. En iedereen kan er mee meedoen. 'Thuis kun je tenslotte ook stilte in acht nemen'.

HOW CAN I OR MY ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATE?

You can participate as an individual, by setting aside these seven minutes for your own personal observance of peace. You can also join in the activities sponsored by local groups or organizations, which can be located by contacting the focal point closest to you on the enclosed list. You can also contact us, and we'll tell you about what is planned in your region.

Seven Minutes of World Peace has no political affiliations or point of view other than the universal human desire for harmony among nations and peoples.

The following is a partial list of the organizations, groups and individuals which participated in or expressed support for the 1984 observance of Seven Minutes of World Peace.

The Netherlands
Fellowship of the Inner Light in Europe
National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the Netherlands
Pro Mundi Vita
Share International
Stichting TARA

United States
Divine Compassion Center
Prison Fellowship International
Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches

Greece
I.A.E.S.T.E.