

Draft statement for Item 2 of Provisional Agenda

42nd Session of the General Assembly

Temporary President: **(President Choudhury)**

"Before executing the procedures in Rule 62 prescribing a minute for silent prayer or meditation, I wish also to draw our attention to the proclamation of the General Assembly in resolution 36/67 of 30 November, 1981, which identifies this day as the International Day of Peace.

"Almost twenty years ago, in 1968, Sri Chinmoy was invited to give a meditation and talk to the United Nations community. Since 1970 he has regularly led the Peace Meditations for delegates and staff here at the United Nations. I have invited him to be with us today, recognizing that we who play an active role in this hallowed assembly of nations depend so much on the prayers and good will of all of the unseen people who work in this house and around the world for the fruition of the goals of the United Nations.

"We are the heirs of those who have gone before us: those whose inspiration and dedication founded this institution; those who dedicated their lives to pioneer regional and global efforts - such as the League of Nations. We have a sacred duty entrusted to us by all who aspire for peace. As Sri Chinmoy reminds us, 'The United Nations is the outgrowth of the inner awakening of human beings from time immemorial. It is for all those who have aspired and do aspire and will always aspire.'

"I now request Sri Chinmoy to lead us in a meditation for peace and I invite the representatives present to stand and join in a moment of silent prayer or meditation."