

PMA 89-030

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Asquata Gould

Programme - 7 February 1989

Mr. Uner Kirdar - "The Human Dimension of Development" *Tennis Court.*

Good afternoon, and welcome to our first special programme for 1989. To begin, I would request Sri Chinmoy to lead us in the Peace Meditation.

Today we are delighted to welcome a special guest and friend, Mr. Uner Kirdar. Mr. Kirdar, who is Director of UNDP's Division of External Relations and Governing Council Secretariat, has been a kind and enthusiastic friend of the Peace Meditation Group for a number of years. He was with UNDP's former Administrator, Mr. Bradford Morse, when Mr. Morse and Sri Chinmoy met right here in this auditorium in 1983, and since that time he has been extremely gracious toward us. In 1985, when the Meditation Group presented the U Thant Peace Award to UNDP, Mr. Kirdar was designated by Mr. Morse to accept the award in a beautiful ceremony on U Thant Island in the East River. At that time he offered some profound reflections on the meaning of international service, and particularly on the spirit of U Thant, who had encouraged him during the early years of his career. We consider the video recording of that significant occasion one of our most treasured mementos.

(next page)

Mr. Kirdar, who is a Turkish national, graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Istanbul, ^{the} undertook post-graduate studies at the London School of Economics, and later received the Doctorate of Philosophy in international law and economics from Jesus College at Cambridge.

Mr. Kirdar held senior positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of his country, which he represented at several UN General Assemblies, at ECOSOC, the UNDP Governing Council ~~and various other international meetings.~~ In 1972, he was seconded by the Turkish Government to the United Nations Secretariat, and in 1978 he was promoted to the highest grade in the Turkish civil service, the rank of ambassadorial assignments.

Following several important posts at the United Nations, Mr. Kirdar ~~was~~ transferred to UNDP, where he has served for more than ten years in his present capacity. He represents UNDP in most intergovernmental UN meetings, and is also responsible for the ~~UNDP~~ Development Study Programme, which seeks to promote greater understanding of development issues, and to stimulate the search for new solutions to problems of development. He has organized several seminars ~~under the auspices of the Development Study Programme,~~ joining together high-level policy makers, international officials, academics and leaders of public and private enterprise.

(next page)

Mr. Kirdar has written extensively for both Turkish and English-language publications and has authored a book on the Structure of UN Economic Aid to Underdeveloped Countries. He has also edited and contributed to three other volumes, and is actively involved in many international foundations.

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As 1988 drew to a close, Mr. Kirdar, with his ever-ready smile and enthusiasm, expressed an interest in sharing with the Peace Meditation Group one of the subjects he considers most important. The Human Dimension of Development, which we feel complements the spiritual dimension of development that we seek to foster. We are deeply grateful to him for making the time to join us today and provided a most auspicious start to ~~our~~ ~~our~~ 1989 at the United Nations. when he addressed members of the Peace Meditation group on ^{the} Human Dimension of Development ^{in 1989}.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Uner Kirdar.

(AFTER KIRDAR'S PRESENTATION)

Now we have a special surprise for Mr. Kirdar: a song which Sri Chinmoy has just composed in his honour.