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Sri Chinmoy honoured

By A. BALU

Express News Service

WASHINGTON, April 23

The Indian spiritual teacher, Sri Chinmoy, was honoured with rich tributes to his service to the cause of peace at a public function in New York on Friday marking the silver jubilee of his arrival in the United States.

The US chapter of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan felicitated Sri Chinmoy for "spreading tirelessly" India's message of "love, peace and harmony" all over the world. He was also conferred honorary patronship of the Bhavan.

Sri Chinmoy, 57, a poet, author, composer, artist and spiritual leader, has worked for peace for a quarter of a century for the past 19 years he has been leading twice-weekly meditations for peace at the United Nations. He came to the United States from India on April 13, 1964.

In receiving the Bhavan's honorary patronship, Sri Chinmoy said: "India, My India, to your eternity's silence-heart my aspiration-heart bows and bows."

The large gathering at Sri Chinmoy's silver jubilee dinner heard personal and written tributes from dozens of luminaries in the world of politics, the arts, culture and sports.

Chairman of Bharatiya Vidya Bha-

van, Mr C. Subramaniam, called the Bhavan's recognition of Sri Chinmoy "perhaps the greatest achievement of the Bhavan USA in its seven year history."

Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita, in a message, commended Sri Chinmoy for his "activities to enrich human life," while Canada's Prime Minister Mulroney cited Sri Chinmoy's work in "furthering the spirit of understanding and sharing."

The former US Ambassador to India, Senator Daneil P. Moynihan, called Sri Chinmoy our ambassador of peace and inner goodness for a quarter of a century and "truly a citizen of the world".

Senator Conrad Burns said "Your dedication towards peace on our planet is something that deserves our country's highest praise".

The UNICEF chief, Mr James P Grant said the work of the United Nations "is enhanced by his presence amid its deliberations". Later in the programme, Narada Michael Walden presented Sri Chinmoy presented Sri Chinmoy with the Emmy award he recently received for his song "one moment in time". There was also an award from the New York Road Runners Club, the world's largest running club, which praised Sri Chinmoy for "his innovative leadership, enthusiastic support and dedicated service to the world of running". The Sri Chinmoy marathon team spon-

sors hundreds of races a year and is sponsoring the 71-country peace run that was launched on April 21.

Rev Donald S. Harrington, senior Minister Emeritus of the Community Church of New York, presented Sri Chinmoy with the Bhavan plaque naming him an honorary patron. In his remarks, Rev. Harrington said when he was a student, his college president advised him to "know something about everything and everything about something". He added "I am almost tempted to say that Sri Chinmoy knows everything about everything".

The evening's programme included several songs of Sri Chinmoy's students.

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