

**The U Thant Peace Award
is presented to
The Honourable Maurice F. Strong**

Impossibility-dreamer and indomitability-doer

**Builder of world-oneness
among humanity's striving peoples
and their all-giving Earth-home**

for his:

**- Flaming lifelong commitment
to the soaring ideals of the United Nations**

**- Glowing reverence
for our beautiful and bountiful Planet Earth**

**- Extraordinary embodiment of
vision - the noblest;
intellect - the keenest;
leadership - the brightest;
service - the fullest**

**all remarkably united
in vibrant dedication
to the goal of a fruitful and ever-blossoming peace
between the self-sacrificing blue-green Earth
and its wondrously multifarious family.**

**With our deepest appreciation, admiration and gratitude
Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations**

2 May 1996

Dear and esteemed Brother-Friend Maurice Strong,

It is with great pride and joy that our Peace Meditation at the United Nations today offers you our U Thant Peace Award.

Dear Brother, you are indeed a chosen instrument of the United Nations and of the Mother Earth. Even in your early childhood, we observe with admiration your love of nature, your boundless interest in this vast world and your burning aspiration to do something great and good for humanity, nurtured by your beloved mother's inspiration to achieve and to serve. A mere building could not suffice as your school; the world itself became your perfect teacher. You took birth in a tiny town in the Canadian prairies, but your global destiny blessed you with vast mental and spiritual horizons. Even in your boyhood your natural leadership commanded the respect of your friends, while your unlimited energy perplexed and perhaps vexed your elders.

Poverty was no stranger to your early life, dear Brother, but you relished adventure and work. Scrubbing decks on a ship at age fourteen, riding the rails across western Canada, even learning the language of silence among the resourceful Inuit in their extremely harsh climate, you were perfectly preparing yourself for your life's crowning task. When you heard about the creation of the United Nations, your imagination was immediately captivated,

and you succeeded in finding a position at the UN's headquarters in Queens. While performing your humble duties as an 18-year-old staff member of the fledgling organization, you were inspired to write in your diary, "I'm most impressed with the United Nations and convinced that therein lies the key to my future."

Who could be more singularly chosen for the United Nations and by the United Nations? But the time had not yet come for you to play your highest role. For some years you had first to excel in several fields. Indeed, your astonishingly brilliant and speedy success in business and your striking leadership in the area of international development assistance multiplied your capacities many times over and commanded the attention of the needful world.

With your great mental speed and keen intuitive vision, you became the pioneer champion of the well-being of our Mother Earth. Characteristically, your dynamic spirit seized the protection of the environment not just as a challenge, but as an opportunity. You said, "I had developed a strong conviction that the emergence of the environmental issue provided a new rationale for international co-operation." What better way to unite the human family than a concerted effort to protect its endangered earth-home? And who better to lead that effort than you, dear Brother?

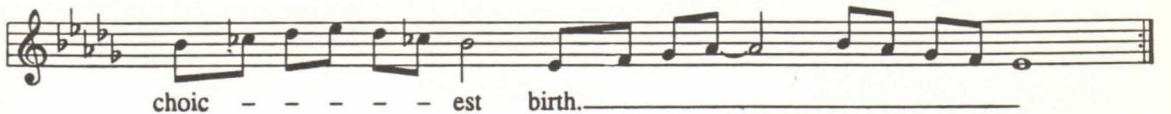
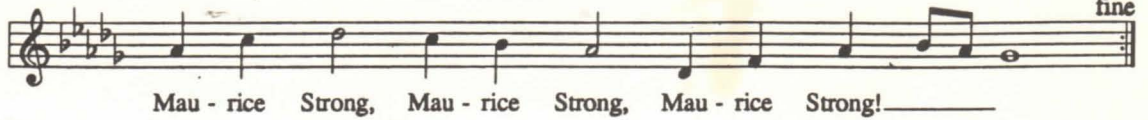
Your shining achievements as Secretary-General of the two United Nations Conferences on environment, your service as the first Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, your leadership of the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa: any one of these and your many other accomplishments would measure the full capacity of another human being, but you have attained them all. What we cherish in you, dear Friend, is the tireless self-giving spirit of your service. Your outer success you have always consecrated to global goals. You convincingly manifest the powerful truth that to unite humanity in the cause of preserving our Mother Earth is not only good, kind and necessary, but also practical, profitable and fruitful.

Dear Brother, you wisely advise us, "A mercantile society without a soul, however successful it may be in material terms, will not be sustainable." And your life's aspiration reaches its highest peak when you proclaim, "I believe the great frontier of the future is the frontier between the individual spirit and the Spirit, the cosmos."

For your vision, for your manifestation and for your inspiration, we are deeply honoured to present to you today, revered Brother-Friend Maurice Strong, our U Thant Peace Award.

MAURICE STRONG

Music and Lyrics by Sri Chinmoy



Sing once with repeats,
then D.C. al fine

Words by Maurice Strong
Music by Sri Chinmoy
February 18, 1992



"Earth is the on--ly home we have;



its fate is li-----ter-al--ly in our



hands."

THE EARTH TIMES

MAY 15 - 29, 1996



NEWSBREAKS

Award for a 'lifelong commitment to soaring ideals'

The U Thant Peace Award was awarded to the Canadian environmentalist and diplomat Maurice Strong for "his lifelong commitment to the soaring ideals of the United Nations."



Strong.

The award, named for the late U Thant, the UN's third Secretary-General, is given to those who have contributed to furthering the cause of world peace. Past recipients include South African President Nelson

Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and India's High Commissioner to Great Britain, L.M. Singhvi.

Strong was given the award during a ceremony earlier this month at the UN Church Center in New York City. Sri Chinmoy, the international peace

advocate, said, "You convincingly manifest the powerful truth that to unite humanity in the cause of preserving our Mother Earth is not only good, kind and necessary but also practical, profitable and fruitful."

Strong said, "I am overwhelmed to receive this honor that bears the name of U Thant, and to receive it from the hands of Sri Chinmoy, who has been for so many years the custodian and guardian of the spiritual roots of the United Nations."

Strong, currently an advisor to the World Bank president in Washington D.C., has served in many capacities at the UN. His last position was as Secretary-General of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil. Prior to that, he served as Under-Secretary General of the UN. Strong is also a member of the advisory council of The Earth Times.

The U Thant Peace Award, given since 1982, is presented by Sri Chinmoy, The Peace Meditation at the United Nations, an association of UN delegates and staff, nongovernmental representatives and accredited press correspondents.



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Edited by
Anne Silverstein

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**SUGGESTED REMARKS FOR VIJAYA, EMCEE OF
MAURICE STRONG U THANT PEACE AWARD PRESENTATION
CHURCH CENTRE FOR THE UN
THURSDAY, 2 MAY 1996 - 3:00 P.M.**

GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TODAY
TO THIS SPECIAL PROGRAMME
HOSTED BY SRI CHINMOY:
THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS
IN TRIBUTE TO MR. MAURICE STRONG.

AND WE THANK YOU, MR. STRONG,
FOR GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTING OUR HUMBLE INVITATION. *

TO BEGIN, AS WE DO WITH ALL OUR PROGRAMMES,
WE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST SRI CHINMOY
TO OFFER A SILENT MEDITATION FOR PEACE.

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(AFTER MEDITATION)

MR. STRONG, IN THIS GATHERING
OF JUST A FEW OF YOUR COUNTLESS COLLEAGUES,
ADMIRERS AND FRIENDS IN THE UN COMMUNITY,
WE WISH TO PRESENT TO YOU TODAY
OUR U THANT PEACE AWARD.

THE U THANT PEACE AWARD
IS OUR SYMBOLIC WAY
OF ACKNOWLEDGING, APPRECIATING AND ADMIRING
DISTINGUISHED ACCOMPLISHMENTS
TOWARD THE ATTAINMENT OF WORLD PEACE.
THE AWARD WAS NAMED
FOR THE LATE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
IN HONOUR OF THIS CONTEMPLATIVE WORLD LEADER'S
EXEMPLARY DEVOTION TO PEACE
IN BOTH HIS PERSONAL AND HIS POLITICAL LIFE.

THE AWARD IS GIVEN TO INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS
REFLECTING U THANT'S LOFTY SPIRITUAL IDEALS.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS INCLUDE

JAMES GRANT, THE LATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF;
MOTHER TERESA; PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA;
AND PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV.

OUR PEACE MEDITATION GROUP

WILL ALWAYS CHERISH THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR U THANT,
WHO PROFOUNDLY ENCOURAGED
SRI CHINMOY'S DEVOTED ACTIVITIES
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS.

TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND
FOR OUR PRESENTATION THIS AFTERNOON,
WE WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU A VERY SHORT FILM
RECORDING U THANT'S PRESENCE
AS GUEST OF HONOUR
AT A PERFORMANCE OF SRI CHINMOY'S PLAY
ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE BUDDHA
IN 1973.

(SHOW VIDEO)

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**WE WOULD NOW LIKE TO REQUEST
THE PEACE MEDITATION CHOIR
TO PERFORM TWO SONGS COMPOSED BY SRI CHINMOY
IN MR. STRONG'S HONOUR.**

(SONGS)

AND NOW, MR. STRONG,
IF YOU WOULD KINDLY COME TO THE PODIUM,
SRI CHINMOY WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT TO YOU
THE U THANT PEACE AWARD.

(AWARD PRESENTATION)

(PRESENTATION OF UN BOOK)

MR. STRONG, SINCE,
BY HAPPY COINCIDENCE,
YOU JUST CELEBRATED YOUR BIRTHDAY
ON THE 29TH OF APRIL,
WE TRUST IT IS NOT ENTIRELY TOO LATE
TO OFFER YOU A BIRTHDAY CAKE!

(AT SOME POINT STRONG MAY WISH TO MAKE REMARKS)

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**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR JOINING US
FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION.
SRI CHINMOY WOULD LIKE TO OFFER EACH GUEST
A SMALL GIFT WITH HIS GRATITUDE.**

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