

VIDEO - PRAYER-BREAKFAST

3rd draft

31 July 89

How can world peace be achieved? Can prayer and meditation, serving as a foundation for inspired action, play a significant role in the quest for world peace? Is it possible that the very existence of the United Nations is due to the sincere aspirations for peace of people of all cultures and religions around the world over many thousands of years?

The idea of achieving peace through bringing forward the higher qualities of the human spirit has inspired many activities at the United Nations. One example of the cultivation of this spirituality at the United Nations is the minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation which opens and closes each annual session of the General Assembly. Another example is the meditation room at Headquarters in New York which has been in existence since the early days of the United Nations. Dag Hammarskjöld of Sweden, second Secretary-General of the United Nations, devoted a great deal of time and energy to re-designing the meditation room into a meaningful setting to find what he called "the point of rest at the center of our being."

Spirituality has also been the cornerstone of the lives of some of the great leaders of the United Nations. Hammarskjöld took very seriously a life of inward search which was practised outside of the context of organized

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religion. His personal diary, published under the title "Markings," offers a view of his inner self, and the strict, self-imposed principles which directed his outer life of selfless service to humanity. U Thant, the third Secretary-General of the United Nations, was another leader whose character and exemplary service to humanity could be attributed to a deeply spiritual life. A devout Buddhist from Burma, now called Myanmar, U Thant strongly believed that the basic precepts of the great religions, alike in so many ways, were applicable to the work of the United Nations. He was known to say that there was not much difference between a good Buddhist, a good Christian, a good Hindu, a good Jew or a good Moslem.

We now invite you to join members of these five world religions in prayers for peace...

DON'T USE "THE" SUBSTITUTE "A"

A (1) The Jewish Prayer for Peace (JH)

Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that we may walk the paths of the Most High, and we shall beat our swords into ploughshares, and our spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall we learn war any more.

* Small Hmuc Refer to a key
the Prayer ORIGINATOR FROM
v Possible LHM at END as CITATION
NOTE.

A / The Christian Prayer for Peace (N2)

Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be known as the children of God."

"I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."

A / The Muslim Prayer for Peace (N3)

Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations, that we may know each other, not that we may despise each other.

If the enemy incline towards peace, to thou also incline towards peace, and trust in God: for the Lord is the one that heareth and knoweth all things.

And the servants of God Most Gracious are those who walk on the earth in Humility, and when we address them, we say, "Peace."

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A/ The Buddhist Prayer for Peace (N4)

May all beings everywhere plagued with sufferings of body and mind quickly be freed from their illnesses. May those frightened cease to be afraid, and may those bound be free. May the powerless find power, and may people think of befriending one another.

May those who find themselves in trackless, fearful wildernesses - the children, the aged, the unprotected, be guarded by beneficent celestials. And may they swiftly attain Buddhahood.

A/ The Hindu Prayer for Peace (N5)

O God, lead us from the unreal to the Real.
O God, lead us from darkness to light.
O God, lead us from death to immortality.

Shanti, shanti, shanti unto all.

O Lord God Almighty, may there be peace in celestial regions. May there be peace on earth. May the waters be appeasing. May herbs be wholesome, and may trees and plants bring peace to all. May all beneficent beings bring peace to us. May thy Vedic Law propagate peace all through the world. May all things be a source of peace to us, and let Thy Peace Itself bestow peace on all and may that peace

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Since 1970, a group of United Nations delegates and staff have been holding twice-weekly meditations for peace at United Nations Headquarters in New York. These peace meditations are open to people of all religions and ideals, and are led by Sri Chinmoy, the respected spiritual teacher. In the words of Sri Chinmoy, "Each nation has human beings who aspire for a better, more illumining and more fulfilling world. These seekers have expressed their aspiration in and through various fields: spirituality, religion, philosophy, science, music, art, poetry and so forth. The United Nations is not only for the delegates and representatives of the various nations. It is for all those who have aspired and do aspire and will always aspire." "If we say that the United Nations is the result of the twentieth century awakening, then we are mistaken. The United Nations is the outgrowth of the inner awakening of human beings from time immemorial."

- N 1. / CITE + JONAS PAA
- N 2. CITE + CHASE
- N 3. MASON
- N 4. BUDDHIST
- N 5. HINDU