

U THANT PEACE AWARD



• 28 September 1991 •

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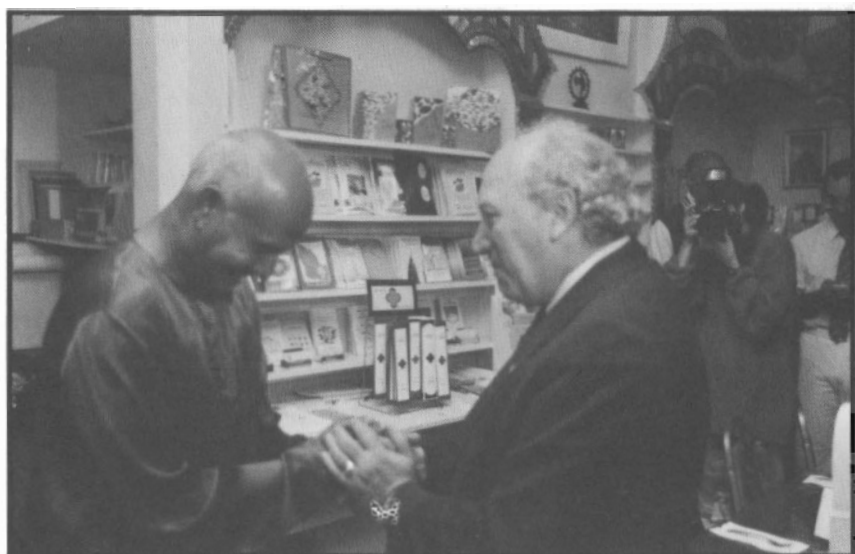
Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations is an association of UN delegates, staff, non-governmental organisation representatives and accredited press correspondents holding twice-weekly peace meditations and other programmes at United Nations Headquarters.

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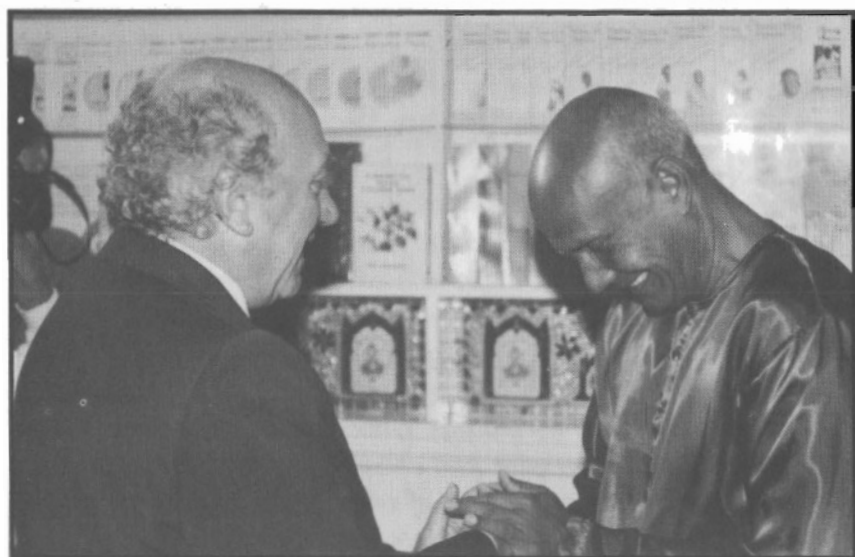
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U Thant, the third UN Secretary-General, himself a life-long practitioner of meditation, appreciated Sri Chinmoy's work and encouraged his dedication to the spiritual idealism of the world body. The Peace Meditation Group arranged to have a small island in the East River, directly facing the UN, renamed in honour of U Thant. In 1982, the Meditation Group established the U Thant Peace Award to acknowledge and encourage distinguished accomplishments toward the attainment of world peace, reflecting the lofty spiritual ideals and vision of the late Secretary-General.



Sri Chinmoy greets Professor Guido de Marco at Annam Brahma Restaurant, Queens, New York.



PRESENTATION OF U THANT PEACE AWARD TO PROFESSOR GUIDO DE MARCO

On 28 September 1991, Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations presented the U Thant Peace Award to the Honourable Professor Guido de Marco, President of the Forty-fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as Deputy Prime Minister of Malta and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Justice.

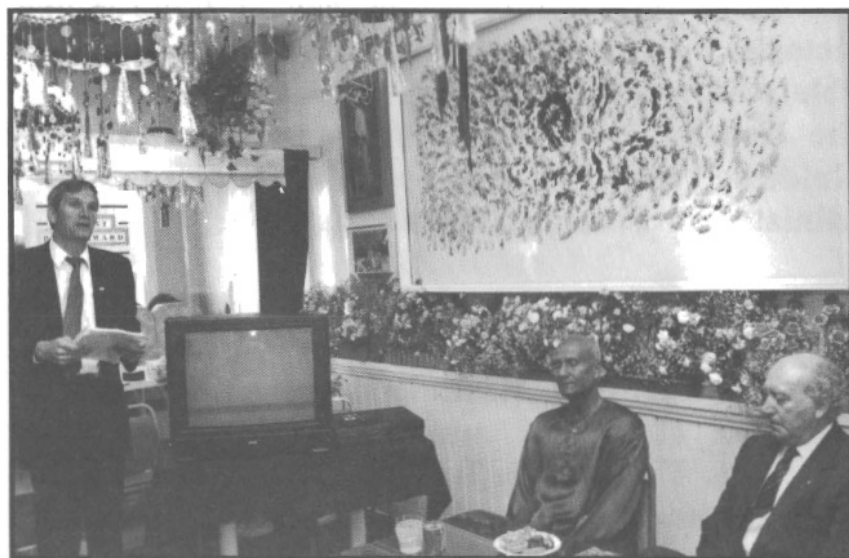
Below is a transcript of this presentation as well as excerpts from an informal conversation that followed between Professor de Marco and Sri Chinmoy.

Mr. Adhiratha Keefe, Master of Ceremonies: Last year was a remarkable one for the United Nations and the world community; it was one of failures and victories, of war and peace. Throughout this remarkable year, a remarkable man served as President of the General Assembly—the Honourable Professor Guido de Marco, Deputy Prime Minister of Malta and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Justice.

During the 45th General Assembly, Dr. de Marco offered the world community a caring, concerned and yet dynamic leadership at a time when the evolution of a new multipolar environment was emerging. This unique leadership came at the point when the world community was ready to recognise its own increased spiritual dimension and inherent unity.



Mr. Adhiratha Keefe serves as Master of Ceremonies.



Under Professor de Marco's guidance, this new perception of the world was paralleled in the General Assembly. He saw the General Assembly as a forum within which a unified spirit merged the spiritual depth of the East and the dynamic development of the West. Through personal example, Professor de Marco exemplified this synthesis in all that he did, from practical reform proposals to his quest for humanitarian priorities. He offered a unique vision, a combination of dedication and action in an interdependent peace-loving globe.

Professor de Marco has come to the United Nations in the course of a long and illustrious career of service to his country and to the international community. Educated in philosophy, economics and Italian, he later obtained the degree of Doctor of Laws, distinguishing himself as both a practitioner and a professor of criminal law at the University of Malta.

He has served in the Parliament of Malta and has held high posts in the National Party. In 1967 he represented Malta at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, thus expanding the geographic scope of his profound concern.

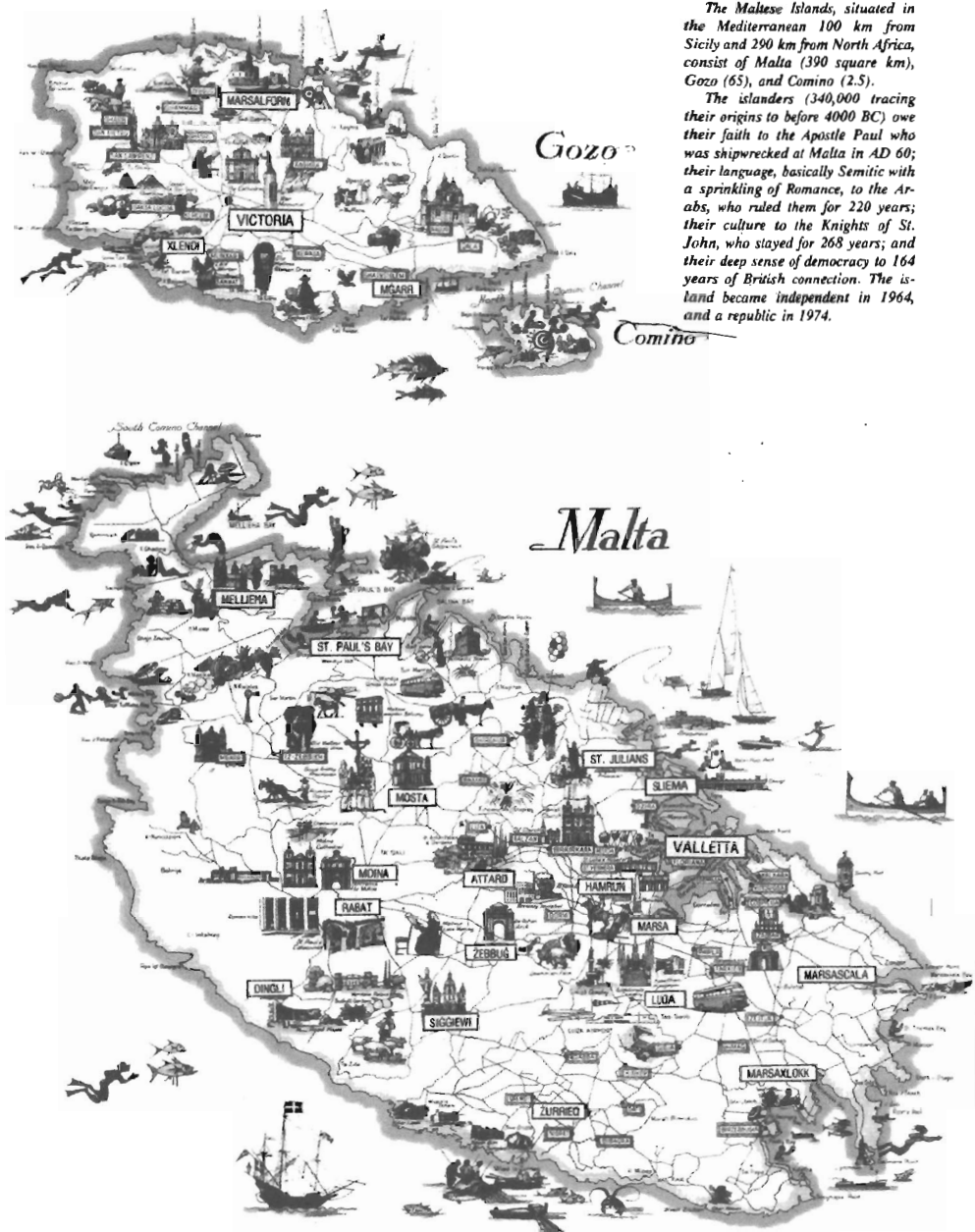
Professor de Marco has long been a champion of human rights, serving as defense counsel in many cases and also incorporating the principles of human rights into Maltese domestic law, which was a precursor to his later extensive work to encourage human rights in international law.

THE MALTESE ISLANDS

Malta is a treasure trove of arts, history and stark beauty out of all proportion to its size.

The Maltese Islands, situated in the Mediterranean 100 km from Sicily and 290 km from North Africa, consist of Malta (390 square km), Gozo (65), and Comino (2.5).

The islanders (340,000 tracing their origins to before 4000 BC) owe their faith to the Apostle Paul who was shipwrecked at Malta in AD 60; their language, basically Semitic with a sprinkling of Romance, to the Arabs, who ruled them for 220 years; their culture to the Knights of St. John, who stayed for 268 years; and their deep sense of democracy to 164 years of British connection. The island became independent in 1964, and a republic in 1974.



Professor de Marco has actively participated in a number of international associations and conferences and has consistently revealed the rare qualities of a genuine global visionary. He has often stated his support for the basic rights of freedom of association and assembly, so important to democratic institutions. Coming as he does from a small, multi-cultural nation, Professor de Marco has perhaps always enjoyed a unique international perspective. We perceive in him a brilliant mind and a devoted heart that embrace the entire world with the same intensity, understanding and concern as they embrace his own island nation.



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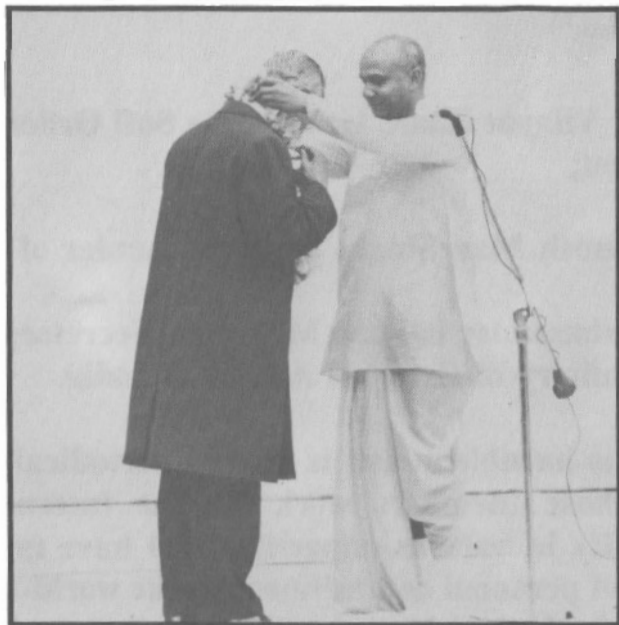
Thus, it is a privilege for us today to offer to Professor Guido de Marco the U Thant Peace Award. The U Thant Peace Award is a symbolic presentation by Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations to acknowledge and encourage distinguished accomplishments toward the attainment of world peace. Recipients of the award must reflect the lofty spiritual ideals of the late Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant. Previous recipients of the U Thant Peace Award include:

- UN Ambassador Zenon Rossides of Cyprus, for his life-long emphasis on spiritual values as a basis for world peace and his efforts for national security and disarmament. This concern for security and disarmament is echoed in the recent speeches of Professor de Marco;
- Dr. Jorge Illueca, President of the 38th Session of the UN General Assembly and President of Panama, for his personal example in supporting the ideals of the UN Charter and his long-term service in international relations and international law;
- The United Nations Development Programme, for its sustained practical commitment to world progress through integral development and its dedication to the fulfilment of each nation's unique potentialities;

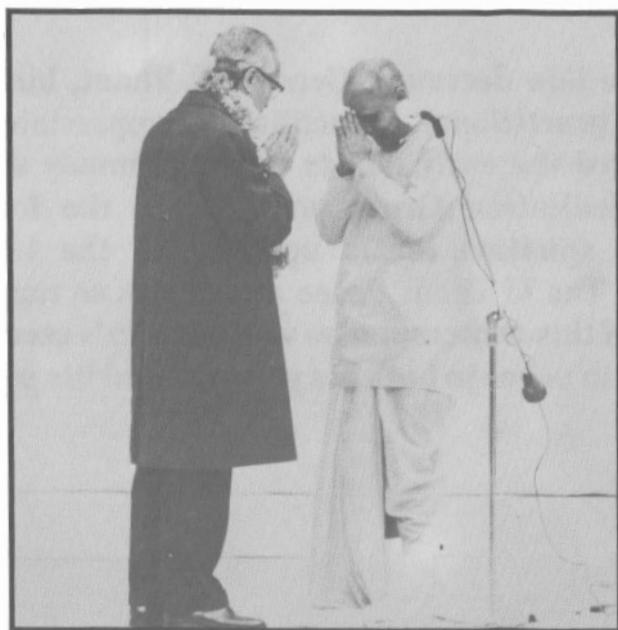
- **Pir Vilayat Khan, Head of the Sufi Order in the West;**
- **Ganesh Man Singh, Supreme Leader of Nepal;**
- **Ambassador Lakhan Mehrotra, Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India.**

This humble award is offered periodically by a group whose members work for the international community in various capacities and have made an additional personal commitment to the world-uniting goals of the United Nations. The award seeks both to inspire and to support the pursuit of the highest ideals of international service. We consider the support which the Meditation Group offers through this award as part of our own contribution to the spreading of these ideals.

The late Secretary-General U Thant, himself a life-long practitioner of meditation, appreciated and encouraged the early efforts of Sri Chinmoy and the Peace Meditation Group to bring to the fore the powerful spiritual ideals upon which the UN was founded. The U Thant Peace Award was so named in honour of this contemplative world leader's exemplary devotion to peace in both his personal and his political life.



Sri Chinmoy garlands U Thant on 25 May 1973, when he was guest of honour at the premiere of Sri Chinmoy's play, Siddhartha Becomes the Buddha.



In the present day it is becoming ever more clear that a brilliant mind lacking the guidance of a luminous heart may prove to be a dangerous weapon rather than a constructive tool. On the road to peace, great minds may clash, but when governed by good, wise and magnanimous hearts, they can work tirelessly together in the spirit of oneness. Many in the General Assembly have commented on Professor de Marco's wisdom, and we feel here, once again, his magnanimous heart. In the words of U Thant, "Pure intellectual development unaccompanied by a corresponding moral and spiritual development will lead mankind from one crisis to another. Moral qualities of friendship, humility and the desire to understand the other point of view are as important as intellectual excellence."



U Thant was, himself, an ideal exponent of this integral life. He made time every day for silent contemplation in the midst of his pressing duties as Secretary-General. His example continues to remind us that an awakened inner life is possible, practical and, indeed, essential for the peace-builders of today. It is thus extremely fitting that we invoke his name today in honouring Professor Guido de Marco, who once again proves that a truly practical and effective life dedicated to world-transformation derives its boundless power and inspiration from the luminous spiritual heart.



Former Secretaries-General Dag Hammarskjöld and U Thant.

In Sri Chinmoy's recent publication *War: Man's Abysmal Abyss-Plunge*, he writes, "War is the utter disgrace-failure of hostile minds."

In his speech to the General Assembly during the general debate on 26 September 1991, Professor de Marco said, "Taking up arms is in one respect also a sign of failure—the failure to find alternative, non-violent means of solving our differences."

We would like to quote several particularly inspiring and eloquent excerpts from Professor de Marco's recent remarks to the General Assembly which demonstrate the breadth of his vision and the depth of his wisdom.

Members of the Peace Meditation read excerpts from Dr. de Marco's recent speeches.

Professor de Marco unites the idealism of the past with the realism of the present:

"I believe in a second-generation United Nations, a United Nations rooted in the principles and aspirations which went into its foundation 45 years ago, but taking nourishment from the breathtaking developments in international relations that have been occurring in recent years and have gathered even greater momentum over the last few months."

And again, in a different context:

"Great sensitivity to the past and realism today are fundamental in reaching solutions which are to be based on the unacceptability of the use of force and the need to take account of all legitimate concerns and aspirations."

Professor de Marco outlines a bold and visionary new sphere of responsibility for the Trusteeship Council:

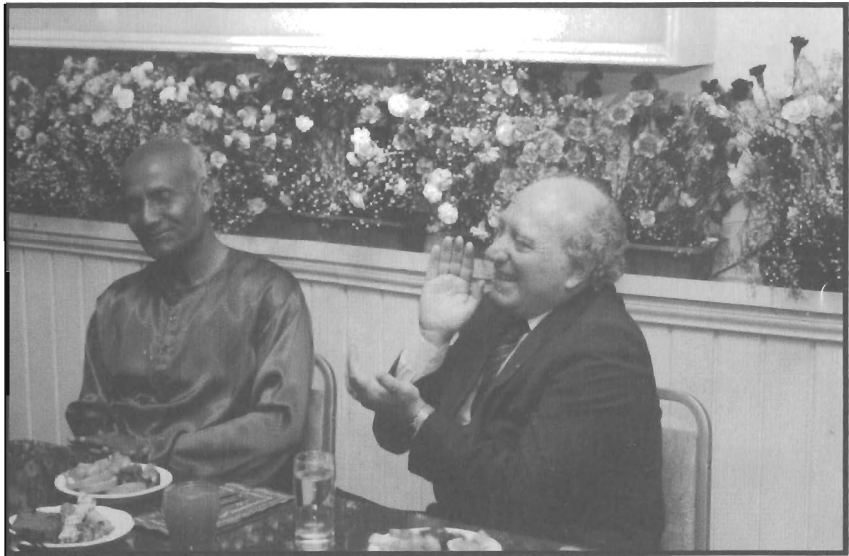
“May we suggest that, in addition to its role under the Charter, the Trusteeship Council should hold in trust for humanity humanity’s common heritage and its common concerns: the environment; the protection of extraterritorial zones and of the resources of the sea and of the seabed; the climate; and the rights of future generations.”

Professor de Marco vividly echoes U Thant’s stirring words about the parallel development of mind and spirit:

“Though we may have moved away, in our efforts at economic development of the Third World countries, from the ‘dismal science’ mentality by introducing the ‘human face’ dimension, may we perhaps add to this notion the notion of a face which is both human and honest?”

Professor de Marco’s words convey the force of truth with the power of poetry:

“The peace that we are striving for, and for which millions have died, is peace in freedom. This is our commitment to the United Nations. This is our shared privilege. This is our common responsibility.”





In reflecting on his far-reaching experiences during the past year, Professor de Marco emphasises the supreme importance of individual commitment:

“I experienced another dimension of the personal dedication and commitment which the United Nations has such tremendous capacity to generate: the unknown heroes of today, young men and women—including many from diverse non-governmental organizations—who are dedicating the best years of their lives to the service of those, who for many, may appear to be forgotten by humanity.”

Malta is a country tiny in size but vast in scope and vision. Thus, it seems that Professor de Marco was nurtured by a land of world-uniting concern. In his words:

“Malta’s foreign policy is to project to other nations its true identity by strengthening confidence and respect for the political norms of a pluralistic society and of a democratic environment where mutual respect and equal rights for all are encouraged and upheld.”

Mr. Adhiratha Keefe: Professor de Marco, to us, your friends and admirers of the Peace Meditation Group at the United Nations, and to Sri Chinmoy's students and friends around the world, you embody and express the ideals which we hold dear and seek to symbolise with our U Thant Peace Award. In and through you, your geographically small but spiritually powerful nation exerts a soulfully commanding influence on the course of world events. You have set forth imaginatively, brilliantly and clearly the diverse mechanisms needed to meet the challenges of the new world order.

You have reminded us of the crucial link between human rights and peace. You have shown that the human dimension must be the essence of our solution to the great global problems of today, and that the face we show to the world must be not only human but also honest. Richly endowed with Malta's heritage of far-reaching education and diplomacy, you take the concerns of your nation and the concerns of the world as your very own, illuminating them with your knowledge, wisdom and compassion.

Like you, we in the Peace Meditation Group firmly believe that the dedicated commitment of one individual, one group, one society or one nation can and will inspire and energise the world toward the establishment of a fruitful and lasting peace.

And so, it is our privilege to request Sri Chinmoy to present the U Thant Peace Award to His Excellency Professor Guido de Marco, for:

- **his exemplary dedication to the complementary goals of peace and human rights;**
- **his determined effort to revitalise the UN General Assembly, which symbolically unites the human family;**
- **his remarkable synthesis of the highest qualities of the powerful intellectual mind and the soulful spiritual heart in a lifetime of devoted and illuminating service to his nation and to the world at large.**



Sri Chinmoy presents the U Thant Peace Award.





After the presentation, singers sang a song composed by Sri Chinmoy in Professor de Marco's honour, as well as songs composed by Sri Chinmoy to Professor de Marco's own words.

**GUIDO DE MARCO:
PEACE-HOME-RESIDENT**

**Guido de Marco, General Assembly President,
A permanent Peace-Home-resident.**

Super-powers-nest: Malta, your fondness-clime.

No war, no, no, one world in fulness time.

**Guido's unique mind-height, Guido's heart-depth
Carry human rights to fulfilment-length.**

—Sri Chinmoy



GUIDO DE MARCO: PEACE-HOME-RESIDENT

Words and Music
by Sri Chinmoy
Dec. 7, 1990



Gui-do de Mar-co, Ge-ne-ral As-sem-bly Pre---si---dent.



A per---ma---nent Peace - Home - re---si---dent.



Su-per-pow-ers-ness: Mal-ta, y-our fond---ness -



clime.



No war, no, no, one world



in ful-ness -time.



Gui-do's u---nique mind - height, Gui--do's heart - depth



Car-ry hu--man rights to ful-fil-ment -



length.

Sing once with repeats,
once without repeats,
then D.C. al fine with repeat.

**THE FOLLOWING QUOTATIONS OF
PROFESSOR GUIDO DE MARCO
HAVE BEEN SET TO MUSIC BY SRI CHINMOY**

A TURNING POINT IN HISTORY

The world is in--deed__ at a turn--ing__ point
in his-----t'ry. The ques-tion is ____
"In wh---ich di---rec-----tion are__ we turn-----ing?"

The image shows three staves of musical notation in a key with four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics placed below the notes. The first staff starts with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note, then a series of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff continues with quarter and eighth notes. The third staff concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The world is indeed at a turning point in history. The question is, "In which direction are we turning?"

- Guido de Marco

HUMAN RIGHTS

Hu-man rights know _____ no boun--da---ries.

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in the same key and time signature as the first piece. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Human rights know no boundaries.

- Guido de Marco

FUTURE GENERATIONS

Fu-ture ge-----ne-ra-tions w-----ill look _____ back
and judge us by ____ o-----ur a-----bi-li-ty
to match words__ with__ deeds. _____

The image shows three staves of musical notation in the same key and time signature. The melody is composed of quarter and eighth notes, with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of the third staff.

Future generations will look back and judge us by our ability to match words with deeds.

- Guido de Marco