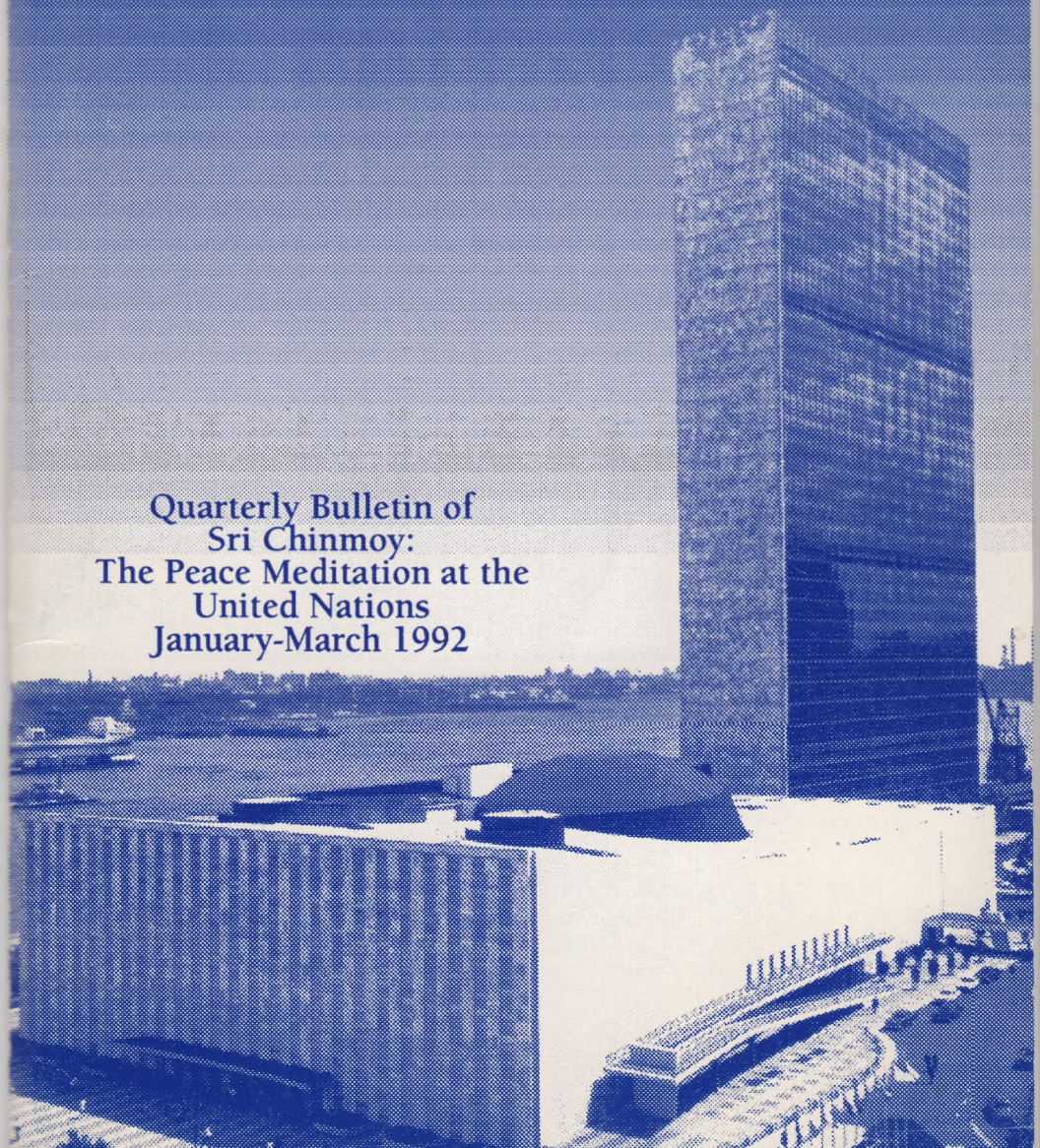


MEDITATION *at the* UNITED NATIONS

Quarterly Bulletin of
Sri Chinmoy:
The Peace Meditation at the
United Nations
January-March 1992



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UNITED NATIONS**

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EDITORS' NOTE

Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations is an association of UN delegates, staff members and non-governmental organisation representatives who believe that the quest for world peace must encompass not only political, economic and social issues but also a broader, spiritual dimension. Through its twice-weekly meditations and other programmes for peace, the Group focusses on the spiritual values inherent in the UN Charter and the opportunities, through meditation and inner reflection, for all of us to better serve them.

The Meditation Group regularly sponsors symposia in which ambassadors, UN officials and religious leaders express their own dreams of peace to inspire others in both their personal and professional lives. The Group also holds commemorative programmes, concerts, films, meditation classes and athletic events.

The Group's leader, Sri Chinmoy, is an internationally respected philosopher, lecturer, author and spiritual teacher with an inter-denominational approach to meditation. In 1970 he was invited by United Nations staff to serve as leader of a meditation group then starting up at UN headquarters.

This bulletin chronicles the Peace Meditation's programmes at the United Nations, which are often held in cooperation with delegations of Member States and staff associations. The publication also includes some of the peace-related activities of Sri Chinmoy, who also serves as the head of a non-governmental organisation—the Sri Chinmoy Centre—recognised by the United Nations Department of Public Information.

INTRODUCTION

"The United Nations is a cry, a movement, a forward march, a forward adventure," says Sri Chinmoy. "The United Nations is crying for peace, and this very act of crying is its real capacity."

Although keeping in touch with an inner cry for peace through twice-weekly silent meditation sessions is fundamental to the members of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations, the Group also participates in the "adventure" of the United Nations through other activities as well. With this issue of *Meditation at the United Nations*, the Editors are happy to resume publication of the Group's news bulletin, which details some of these activities, and which originally appeared monthly from 1973 through 1982.

In addition to news, each issue of *Meditation at the United Nations* will include some of Sri Chinmoy's answers to questions from UN staff members asked during the Group's meetings at headquarters.

This issue covers activities in the first part of 1991. Activities for the rest of 1991 will appear in the next issue.

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A CONVOCAnON FOR PEACE

On 16 January 1991, shortly after the Security Council deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait had passed, United Nations staff gathered at New York headquarters for an emergency "Convocation for Peace," organised by the Staff Council. Staff Committee President Lowell Flanders told the standing-room-only crowd that the convocation had been called to "express our support for peace, and what the Secretary-General has tried to do."

The convocation began and ended with a moment of silence and included several songs by the UNSRC Singers. Mr. Flanders requested Mr. Adhiratha Keefe, as Chairperson of the New York UNICEF Staff Association and UNICEF Representative to the United Nations Staff Council, to address the staff who were present. Mr. Keefe, who is also Programme Coordinator for the Peace Meditation Group, ended his remarks with the following message of hope for the New Year by Sri Chinmoy:

The daring competition-success-might of the human mind is wisely going to surrender to the caring illumination-progress-delight of the divine heart.

The inner voice is whispering the supreme Message-Light for humanity's perfection-life. Let us listen. We can listen. We must listen!

Hurtful is the outer adventure-capture-march.
Fruitful is the inner adventure-rapture-dive.

The outer world belongs to the supremacy-fighters. The inner world belongs to the oneness-lovers. God's ultimate Perfection-World will bless and embrace the oneness-lovers with fondness and pride, and reject and forget the supremacy fighters.

God the Creation, in breathless Sound, asks God the Creator: "O where are You?" God the Creator, in fathomless Silence replies: "I am inside Your Oneness-Fulness-Peace-Blossoming Dream-Reality."

REMINISCENCES BY MR. ROBERT MULLER

After joining a Peace Meditation on 1 February 1991 while visiting New York, Mr. Robert Muller, currently Chancellor of the University for Peace, was moved to offer some reminiscences about his many years of service at the United Nations. Below is a brief excerpt from the remarks of the former Assistant Secretary-General, who has always been a strong advocate of spiritual ideals and is a long-time friend of the Meditation Group.

Mr. Robert Muller, Chancellor, University for Peace: It is wonderful to see so many of my old friends. I have always been so happy that Sri Chinmoy is a spiritual presence at the United Nations. The United Nations cannot succeed if it does not have a spiritual dimension.

That was the conclusion of Dag Hammarskjöld, who became a mystic here in this house. If you read his *Markings*, you will see that at the beginning he never mentions God, whereas at the end, he has a daily dialogue with God. Before he died, he also said that we have tried to make peace, but we have not succeeded, and we will not succeed if there is not a spiritual renaissance in the world.

Of course, then there was U Thant, who was so close to you, who held that there was no difference between spirituality and life. He could never understand the Western world, where you keep spirituality for the church on Sunday and the rest of the week you live a material, intellectual and nonspiritual life. For him every moment from morning to evening was spirituality at its highest. He never forgot that spirituality is the highest dimension of life. I myself became more spiritual thanks to the influence of U Thant and of Sri Chinmoy, and it has helped me in my life quite a lot.

I remember U Thant once said that whenever he travelled to capitals around the world, they took him each time to visit the monument to the unknown soldier, but not once in his

life had he been taken to the monument to the unknown peacemaker. Now we have a monument to peace in Costa Rica, on the grounds of the University for Peace, and when visitors come we take them to this monument to the unknown peacemakers.

Costa Rica is a very magnificent country. We hope that it can become a model for the world—a model of peace through total demilitarisation, a model of human rights and democracy, and a model of the environment. Mr. Maurice Strong, who visited us a few weeks ago, intends to create an Earth Centre in Costa Rica, and we are offering the campus of the University for this. Costa Rica has had no army since 1949, and as a result they are the most prosperous country in Central America.

Our proposal to make Central America a zone of peace was accepted at the last meeting of the Presidents of Central America. They are all going to teach peace systematically. I have been asked to go to Nicaragua, where we are establishing a National Commission of Peace Education, not only for the schools, but also including the media and different religions and professions. Five ministers have signed a declaration that they will now teach peace as has never been done by any country on earth—a complete strategy of peace education in Central America. And what we are trying to do there for Central America has to spread to the rest of the world.

In a certain way, today is my last day at the United Nations, because I came to pack. I have 38 cartons of papers which are not needed by the archives and they will be shipped to Costa Rica to have a Margarita and Robert Muller Library and Centre. Just this morning I saw Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who signed a very important letter for us regarding the future of the University for Peace. When I told him that I was very glad that he gave his signature because it was my last day in the United Nations, he said, “**I**t will never be your last day at the United Nations. This place will always be your home.”

MOMENTS OF PEACE IN *UN/DTCD*

On 4 February 1991, staff members of the Development Administration Division of the United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development took a break to enjoy some "moments of peace" during a lunchtime concert by the Peace Meditation choir. The event was organised by Ms. Nirjhari DeLong, a staff member in the Division, who together with her colleagues, participates in a brief meditation on a daily basis.

PIANO RECITAL

Mr. Surashri Paradis of the Programme Planning and Budget Division-and an active member of the Peace Meditation Group-performed piano renditions of Chopin, Debussy, Scarlatti and Bartok for UN staff in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium on 14 February 1991. The concert was the first in the new year sponsored by the UNSRC Music Appreciation Club, for which Mr. Paradis serves as Vice-President.

AWARD PRESENTATION BY THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS
FOR WORLD PEACE

On 22 February 1991, Professor Charles Mercieca, Founder and Executive Vice-President of the International Association of Educators for World Peace, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations. After explaining the background and philosophy of his organisation-whose more than 20,000 members are dedicated to the idea of using education as a tool for world peace-Dr. Mercieca presented Sri Chinmoy with four awards in recognition of his work for peace. Following are excerpts from his speech.



Professor Charles Mercieca, Founder and Executive Vice-President, International Association of Educators for World Peace: First of all, I want to tell you how I got involved in peace work. It did not just happen. I come from the island of Malta. When I was five or six years old, the Second World War started. Some of you may recall that Malta was the most bombarded country in World War II. Every week another village or town was demolished by bombardment. I was playing with relatives of mine one day, and the next day

I saw them dead. At that age I could not figure out why these things were happening. I made up my mind that if I survived the war, I would do something in my life to avert or at least postpone the repetition of a similar experience for others.

After I graduated-I earned three degrees, including a Ph.D.-I kept on studying, going from university to university and from country to country until finally I accumulated what I thought was enough experience to start working. From 1967 to 1969, I decided to see for myself what teachers in the world think about world peace. I feel that the philosophy of Sri Chinmoy is actually what the new generation of teachers is looking for-something that fills them from the inside, and not giving them everything from the outside while leaving them empty on the inside.

The International Association of Educators for World Peace came into existence in 1969. Now the organisation has over 20,000 members in 58 countries.

Peace, of course, is a product of attitudes. It is not something found in Heaven or in a particular place, such as a church. Peace is something that is found inside the individual person. You have to bring it forward from the inside. The germ of peace is in every person. Even the most wicked people on earth also have the germ of peace inside them, although it may be suffocated. It may be covered with rust and dust so deep that you cannot even suspect that it is there, but it *is* there. Peace education is the process of bringing out the germ of peace so that it can grow and develop.

Unless teachers are trained in peace education, the schools, colleges and universities in this nation and in all countries can never be used as effective instruments to promote peace on earth.

Education for peace does not consist of a series of lectures exhorting listeners to lead a good life. It does not consist of a set of courses in human relations offered by a university to get credit for graduation. It does not consist of conventions

organised by civic organisations whose sole purpose is to obliterate war. It does not consist of teaching and promoting a traditional set of values. It does not consist of trying to create a utopian society which enjoys the utmost perfection of laws, politics and social relations. It does not consist of training a society to become willfully and voluntarily subservient to the state, or indoctrinating the bulk of the population with certain political, philosophical or religious beliefs, or of building a peaceful society while ignoring completely the past history of human conflicts, which led constantly to hatred and war.

On the contrary, education for peace means the capability to solve every problem one encounters in life without resorting to violence. It means the determination to succeed in life not at the expense of others. It means the full control of man's aggressiveness in social relations. It means the development of individual responsibility that would enable an entire nation to become self-sufficient. It means the restructuring of educational priorities so as to make peaceful living the most important element of the educational process.

Education for peace means the promotion of cultural understanding for a better understanding of human behaviour. It also means the implementation of a philosophical system that puts top priority on the universal welfare of people. Seneca, the philosopher who lived nearly 2,000 years ago, in the year 42 A.D., said there would never be peace on earth unless we educate every person to look at the world and say, "*Omnis orbs terrarum patria mea est,*" which means, "The whole world is my native land." We must first be citizens of the world. Our allegiance must go first to planet earth and then to the country to which we belong, because without the planet earth, there would not be any United States, China, India, Malta or France. Planet earth is more important than an individual country. The whole is more important than the part.

Now it is my great pleasure to present a few awards to Sri Chinmoy. The first is a Diploma of Honour from the World

Peace Academy, a division of the International Association of Educators for World Peace. This Diploma, which is recognised by the United Nations, is given to Sri Chinmoy in recognition of his support for the ideals of world peace through understanding, communication and a firm commitment to resolve issues by negotiation.

The next award I would like to give to Sri Chinmoy is the Diploma of Honour of the Association. When the Association was started, this was the first award that we instituted. We wanted to give it to special people whose presence influences the whole world. And I'm glad to tell you all, especially Sri Chinmoy, that U Thant was one of the persons who received this Diploma of Honour. Pope Paul VI, who came here to the United Nations, also received this award. It is given "in recognition for outstanding service to the community and notable concern for all people."

The next award I would like to give Sri Chinmoy proclaims him "Dharmaraja," which means "King of Dharma." He is only the second person to receive this award; the first person to receive it was Dr. Seo Kyung Bo, who was the head of the Zen Buddhists in Southeast Asia and is now the Plenipotentiary Envoy of the International Association of Educators for World Peace to the United Nations. To receive this award, a person must be not just spiritual, but far, far above the rest. That is why we do not give this award very often.

And the last award I would like to offer to Sri Chinmoy is called the "Fountain of Universal Peace Award." He is the first person to receive it. You know what a fountain is: from it water constantly flows out. Water symbolises life. So the "Fountain of Universal Peace" is a person from whom peace emanates; peace flows out constantly from him to others. We felt it was very appropriate that Sri Chinmoy would be the very first one in the history of our organisation to receive this award. Thank you.

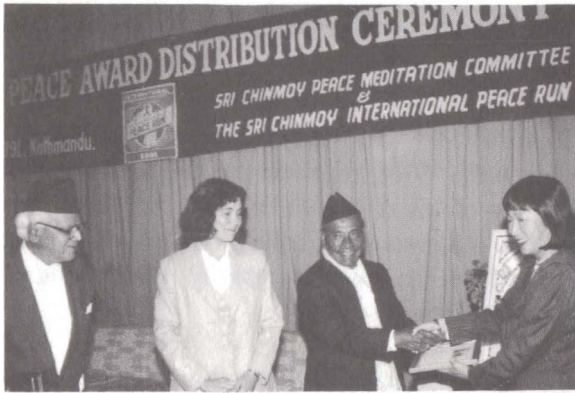
U THANT PEACE AWARD

The U Thant Peace Award is a periodic presentation by the Peace Meditation Group to acknowledge and encourage work for peace. The late United Nations Secretary-General U Thant, a life-long practitioner of meditation, encouraged the early efforts of Sri Chinmoy and the Peace Meditation Group to bring forward the spiritual ideals upon which the United Nations was founded. The U Thant Peace Award is given in honour of this contemplative world leader's exemplary devotion to peace, in both his personal and political life.

PRESENTATION TO GANESH MAN SINGH

On 13 March 1991, RE. Mr. Ganesh Man Singh, Nepali Congress Supreme Leader, received the U Thant Peace Award for his:

- Lifetime commitment to democratic government in his country, providing a radiant example to other nations;
- Constant dedication and sacrifice for a higher cause, with complete disregard for his own needs in the face of great personal danger;
- Devotion to the Nepali Congress, of which he was one of the chief architects; and
- Sterling personal qualities of honesty, simplicity, tenacity and matchless courage, with which he has inspired his countrymen and women to powerful yet peaceful action and unmistakably proved that a lofty goal can be attained despite overwhelming odds.



*The award is presented on behalf of Sri Chinmoy: **The Peace Meditation** at the United Nations by the American Ambassador to Nepal, H.E. Ms. Julia Chang Bloch, as part of the events connected with Peace Run '91 in Kathmandu.*

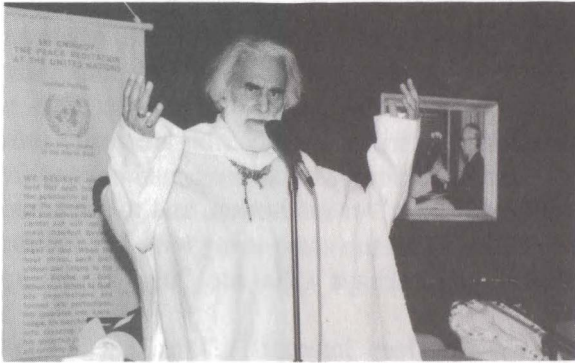
PRESENTATION TO PIR VIIAYAT KHAN

On 5 April 1991, Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan, Head of the Sufi Order in the West, received the U Thant Peace Award in recognition of his efforts to bring about peace, harmony and religious understanding among all peoples. Following are excerpts from the award ceremony, which took place at United Nations Headquarters.

Sri Chinmoy: My heart's oneness-brother, I am supremely blessed by your most gracious presence here. My students, my friends and the members of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations are all being blessed by your divinity's transcendental heights. In offering this award, we are being spiritually blessed and divinely honoured by you.

Sri Chinmoy presents the award, which reads: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations is deeply honoured to present the U Thant Peace Award to the Venerable Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan, Head of the Sufi Order in the West, for his:

- Lifetime devotion to the cause of world peace and unity;
- Exceptional and exemplary synthesis of the highest achievements of Eastern mysticism and Western intellectual pursuit;
- Sustained commitment to the integrated perfection of the individual;
- Encouragement of harmony through the creative arts;
- Illuminating manifestation of the message of oneness among the great world religions.



Pir Yilayat Khan: Sri Chinmoy, ladies and gentlemen, dear ones, I can't tell you how very deeply moved I am by this token of friendship coming from the heart and from the soul of a very, very dear friend of mine. I must say that since I first set my gaze upon Sri Chinmoy, since that moment of encounter, he has always remained prevalent in my heart and soul. He has been a source of inspiration, especially during the trials of life. There are moments when one needs to be able to feel one has a friend somewhere who is sharing the same kind of responsibilities as one is oneself. That deeper friendship is much more than friendship. It is a real sharing at the soul level **between** those of us who are dedicated to conveying spiritual teaching to our fellow beings. It is so very deep that it is very difficult to describe.

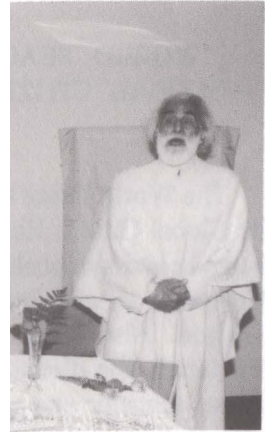
My father Hazrat Inayat Khan said, "There is no friendship as great as that between people who are united in a spiritual ideal." It is, I would say, the guarantee of world peace. The participation of the spiritual ideal in the social and political fields in the world has never been seen quite as clearly as it needs to be. The impact of religion upon people throughout the world is so considerable. I am not competent, of course, to speak about economic and political issues, but religion is something that goes deep into the heart of the people. When they feel that their leaders or those who have taken some responsibility in guiding their lives have found unity among themselves, then of course they will follow suit.

So we have to set the example. Therefore, whatever there is between Sri Chinmoy and me is so very important in its implications in the world today. Of course, this is only possible amongst spiritual leaders who are really universal, and I consider Sri Chinmoy to have reached beyond frontiers of the particular "ism" or institution, and to have become a cosmic teacher. I feel the same thing with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who always calls me "my cosmic spiritual brother."

Those are the deep interconnections that are going to germinate and reach further and further. Need I say just how difficult it is to establish a basis for peace in the world today? We must not underestimate, of course, the spiritual aspect. I am thinking again of a friend of mine who is both a Catholic priest and a Hindu, who said that to be a teacher in our time, one has to have one's roots in one's tradition and the branches of one's tree reaching out and mingling with those of other beings. I think this is what is happening today. It is a great wonder that it is taking place at this time. On the one hand, there is so much decadence and violence in the world, while on the other hand there seems to be a deeper unity taking place at some level. We hope that eventually it will have its repercussions.

I have had the great privilege of visiting some of the illumined souls in the world, particularly in India, in the Himalayas. I must say that the beauty and power of those beings is something so absolutely unique. Sometimes I used to wonder whether it is possible to develop those qualities living in the kind of world in which we live, until I heard again the words of my father, who said, "When I came to the West, I wanted to prove that one can develop spirituality in the middle of life." That is the challenge before us, the big responsibility: to live in the world, and at the same time never forget the Presence of God.

This is what I feel so strongly in Sri Chinmoy. I think the deep link between us is that God is always present. And that makes all the difference.



Later that month, on 30 April 1991, Pir Vi/ayat Khan returned to the UN to share some spiritual songs with Sri Chinmoy and members of the Peace Meditation Group during a meeting at the United Nations.

WORLD PEACE UNIVERSITY PRESENTS
GLOBAL CITIZEN HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The World Peace University presented Sri Chinmoy with its Global Citizen Humanitarian Award at its second annual banquet and symposium entitled "Peace and the Planet: Our Challenge of the '90s," held 15 March 1991 in Eugene, Oregon. Also honoured with other awards were Howard Frederick, the director of PeaceNet; Eulalia Bernard, Costa Rican educator and performer; and Debra Latham, founder and General Manager of Radio for Peace International. Below are excerpts from remarks made by Dr. Richard F. Schneider, University Chancellor, and the response made by Sri Chinmoy.



Dr. Richard F. Schneider, Chancellor, World Peace University: Tonight we honour a man who is an individual for all the seasons. Sri Chinmoy is an extraordinary human being who is leaving a remarkable mark on the world with his many talents, which he offers in the service of humanity without reserve. His list of achievements and output of effort is amazing by any standard. He is a world-class weightlifter and runner; a writer of over 700 books of poems, essays, stories and dramatic works; a painter of thousands of

inspirational paintings; a musician who plays several instruments and has held concerts on **five** continents; and a lecturer and meditation leader of enormous respect and renown.

Central to all his work and effort is the tremendous depth and aim of his spiritual teaching. He has influenced and inspired tens of thousands with his clear vision, beautifully articulated values and his unceasing work for the creation of inner and outer peace. I quote from his work: "There shall come a time when this world of ours will be flooded with, peace. Who is going to bring about this radical change? It will be you: you and your sisters and brothers. You and your oneness-heart will spread peace throughout the length and breadth of the world."

His global vision could perhaps be summarised as follows, and I quote, "If each individual in each nation can consciously and devotedly feel that he does not belong to a little family called 'I and mine' but to a larger family called 'we and ours,' then the message of love, of brotherhood, of peace, of soulful sharing, can easily be embraced by the entire world."

Sri Chinmoy is a world leader who has met many other world leaders. He has repeatedly made a profound and deep impression on those other leaders for his keen insight, for his truly remarkable energy and for his devotion to peace and to humanity. He is head of a far-flung international organisation which literally reaches around the globe. His programmes and sponsorships for peace are numerous and impressive with peace walks, peace runs, peace miles and peace meditations.

Sri Chinmoy has been aptly called the "20th Century's First Global Man." In every sense, he is a true humanitarian, which derives from his most fundamental spiritual beliefs and commitment to action for humanity. It is therefore with the deepest and greatest of pleasure and privilege that I bestow on Sri Chinmoy the highest recognition of the World Peace University: Global Citizen Humanitarian.

Sri Chinmoy: In prayerful silence I wish to offer my soulful gratitude. (*Short meditation follows.*)

World Peace University Chancellor Richard Schneider, my esteemed professor-minds and my loving student-hearts, to you I offer my soulful gratitude-heart. I am prayerfully bowing to the peace-inundated soul of the World Peace University for bestowing upon me this blessingfully significant peace award.

The seeker in me tells me that this World Peace University, unlike other universities, teaches the teeming minds how to unlearn, and the blossoming hearts how to learn. The minds are unlearning their partition-division-stories, and the hearts are learning their oneness-peace-songs.

The absence of war is not peace. The absence of war cannot give us even an iota of peace. But the presence of a oneness-heart-cry is peace. The presence of a fulness-life-smile is peace. How can we have these things? Only by unconditionally loving God the blissful Creator and only by unconditionally serving God the beautiful creation.

PIANO PERFORMANCE
BY MASANOBU IKEMIYA

Japanese pianist Mr. Masanobu Ikemiya, hailed as an ambassador for American music abroad, performed for United Nations staff during a meeting of the Peace Meditation on 19 March 1991.

ALBERT EINSTEIN MEDAL FOR PEACE

On 22 March 1991, Dr. Marcel Dingli-Attard-Inguanez, Founder and President of the Albert Einstein International Academy Foundation, presented Sri Chinmoy with the Albert Einstein Medal for Peace and an Honorary Degree in Literature and Peace Sciences on behalf of the Foundation. Founded in 1965, the Academy conducts research on world peace, the environment and foreign affairs. It regularly hosts the Einstein Congress on Peace and promotes literature, science and fine arts. Below are excerpts from the programme.

Dr. Marcel Dingli-Attard-Inguanez, President, Albert Einstein International Academy Foundation: We must use the remaining years of this century to create a world of peace and prosperity, where human dignity is respected and people enjoy a healthy environment. This will require us to tackle our problems in a peaceful and democratic manner.

Since coming to the United States of America from his native India in 1964, Sri Chinmoy has brought us closer to understanding the role inner peace plays in the enrichment of our lives. Sri Chinmoy embodies that which can help humanity tackle its problems in a peaceful and democratic manner. His many literary works, which include a publication regarding Albert Einstein, have conveyed the richness and diversity of our quest for peace and self-understanding.

The United Nations is an outer symbol of **humanity's** intense longing for peace. For the past 20 years Sri Chinmoy has contributed immensely to the promotion of world peace through his peace meditations and other programmes at the United Nations headquarters in New York. For all of his august achievements, today he is being recognised by the Albert Einstein International Academy Foundation with an honorary doctorate and with the Albert Einstein Medal for Peace.



Sri Chinmoy: In silence I am offering my gratitude to the soul of Einstein. May the soul of Einstein, scientist-sage, bless your most devoted life.

With a gratitude-heart and in all humility, I am offering you this book, which I have dedicated to Einstein, with my heart's soulful love, joy and gratitude.

PEACE RUN FOR THE UNITED NATIONS



On 7 April 1991, United Nations delegates and staff together with local runners participated in the Peace Run for the United Nations, a group relay run in support of the United Nations work for peace. The 18.5-mile course began at Lake Success, Long Island, former site of United Nations headquarters, and ended at the current headquarters building in Manhattan. The event was co-sponsored by the Peace Meditation, the UNSRC Athletics Club and local running clubs.



INDIAN SONGS TO WELCOME SPRING



On 11 April 1991, the Sri Chinmoy Bhajan Singers—a group of women performers accompanying themselves on Indian instruments such as tanpura, harmonium and flute—entertained United Nations staff. Under the direction of Ms. Ranjana Ghose, the group has given concerts locally as well as in Europe and the Far East.

TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

MANHATTAN CHAMBER ARTISTS

On 12 April 1991, the Manhattan Chamber Artists, with musical director Mr. Richard Auldon Clark, performed at the United Nations along with members of the St. Bartholomew Choir. Among the pieces premiered were "Peace in 25 Languages" and "Quartet for Peace" by contemporary composer Mr. Jeff Baker. The latter work used the poetry of Sri Chinmoy, narrated by pianist Ms. Maria Cisyk, and was dedicated to the twenty-first anniversary of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations.

MUSIC FOR PEACE



Two weeks later, on 24 April 1991, Sri Chinmoy performed an improvisation on the piano during an anniversary concert in the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium. He has played at distinguished concert halls around the world, notably the Royal Albert Hall in London, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York and St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

GLOBAL PEACE RUN LAUNCHED



An Olympic-style round-the-world relay, the 1991 Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, started on 19 April 1991 at the Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza. This biennial event, which was first run in 1987, is a series of national and international relays spanning six continents intended to dynamically express humanity's continuing self-transcendence in the pursuit of peace.

On hand to see the runners off were singers Addwitiya Roberta Flack and Eartha Kitt; Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger; several United Nations Ambassadors; Mr. Moorehead Kennedy, former diplomat, hostage, educator and President of Moorehead Kennedy Associates; Grammy Award winner Narada Michael Walden and Peace Run founder Sri Chinmoy.

The run is sponsored by the Sri Chinmoy Centre, a non-governmental organisation accredited to the United Nations, and the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team, which seeks to promote international peace and good will through sports.

Excerpts from the opening ceremony follow.

Sri Chinmoy: God, our Lord Supreme, may humanity's Oneness-Home Peace Run grow into Divinity's Fulness-Joy and Victory-Smile.

Ms. Ruth Messinger, Manhattan Borough President: Sri Chinmoy, honoured guests, runners and friends, there are few things that warm the heart as much as this does. We only need the international events of the last several months to make us understand that we must have peace. And how better to remind people that we can live in peace than to have this Oneness-Home Peace Run to help people reach out across the globe with these torches of light to bring us all together. Nothing honours Manhattan and New York City more than to have you start here. The city, the borough has among its residents many people from each of the countries these runners represent, from each of the seven continents, trying to learn how to live together. You are starting here, and we will take heart from the message you bring as you run through our streets. We will support you as you run in your own countries, and we will work with you to give peace a chance.

Ms. Eartha Kitt: What glorification is in my heart to have the opportunity to be a part of today, and because all of us from so many parts of the world are so interested in the same cause: "Let peace have a chance." We all have to do something about it, as the people of each of our countries. Each country should be ruled by the people, for the people and of the people, and if people are going to be dormant about it, peace will never have a chance. So I am very glad we have all come together today to give peace a chance.

H.E. Mr. Martin Huslid, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations: I am very glad to be here with you at this event, dedicated to peace and friendship, built, as I understand, on the Olympic ideal. We need it more than anything these days. I wish you good luck for this event and for the ideals you represent. Thank you.

Dr. Moorehead Kennedy, President, Moorehead Kennedy Associates: We have been living in very difficult times.

Peace is very much at stake these days. We have heard a lot of a word, *jihad*, standing for holy war. But, ladies and gentlemen, *jihad* means much more than that. It doesn't just mean holy war; it means striving, it means maximum effort. And that is what a run requires. A Peace Run is *ajihad* for peace. I think we could do well to emulate Sri Chinmoy, who is striving all his life for peace. So should we all, and that is what this run symbolises. Thank you very much.

Mr. Narada Michael Walden, Grammy Award-winning producer: The Peace Run has been Sri Chinmoy's dream, his vision to help us to bring more peace into the world. As it says here, "Peace can happen." It's true. Please believe that peace is a reality. As you run, inspire the world, in your own way, to bring peace into the world, now in the '90s.

Ms. Addwitiya Robert Flack sings "Imagine. "

Mr. Sylvester Jackson, TV and radio sports commentator: I have had the pleasure of listening to Addwitiya Roberta Flack and to Narada Michael Walden. I have had the pleasure of watching Joe Montana step back and throw a winning touchdown pass to win the Super Bowl with only twelve seconds left. I have had the honour of seeing Magic Johnson up close, coming down court. I have had the pleasure of seeing Henderson dare to be the best runner in baseball and succeed. I have also had the pleasure of seeing your eyes and feeling your hearts, and I do believe that when we look deep inside we understand that we are all compatriots for peace. **If** we take that fire that is needed to run around the world, the fire that is needed to sing a song like Addwitiya or to make a song like Narada, then there will truly be *ajihad* for peace.

LUNCHEON FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



The President of the forty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Professor Guido de Marco, joined Sri Chinmoy and members of the Peace Meditation for a luncheon in his honour at Anriam Brahma Restaurant on 1 May 1991.

At the end of the afternoon, Professor de Marco commented as follows:

H.E. Pro! Guido de Marco: What a pleasure it has been to come here. When we saw the video of the meeting which you had with U Thant, I understood that as much as all of us are involved in our work and the difficulties and responsibilities which our work carries, we always need to remain aware of the inner light, the sense of belonging to others, which you express so well. I think this is the message which you have been teaching all these years, and it is this message which I am taking from here.

TENNIS TOURNAMENTS
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS COMMUNITY

Men's and women's singles tournaments for the United Nations community were organised in May 1991 by the Peace Meditation Group.



SPORTS FOR PEACE



Sri Chinmoy hands the peace torch from Peace Run '91 to Mr. Enrique Baron Crespo, President of the European Parliament, on 6 June 1991 in Brussels.



Sri Chinmoy meets with Mr. Juan Aruonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 3 June 1991, to discuss the promotion of peace through athletics.

MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIA



Austrian President Kurt Waldheim offered his support for Peace Run '91 and welcomed Sri Chinmoy to Vienna on 7 June 1991. The former United Nations Secretary-General presented Sri Chinmoy with the medal of the President of the Republic of Austria and a silver plate commemorating the President's 70th birthday.

Excerpts from President Waldheim's remarks follow.

H.E. Mr. Kun Waldheim, President of the Republic of Austria: Sri Chinmoy, my dear friends, many thanks for coming here. In this way I could renew my friendship with your leader, Sri Chinmoy. I remember with pleasure the many encounters we had in New York at the United Nations during the years I was Secretary-General of the United Nations. I also know your enormous effort for **peace** and international understanding, which is more important than ever nowadays.

I thank you also for the beautiful song which was composed when I was still at the helm of the United Nations. I was very touched by the fact that you came here to repeat this song of peace for me.

I think the world has changed in the last couple of years. Things we had never expected before, when we were over in New York at the United Nations, have happened. The East-West confrontation is over; the Cold War is over. We are now beginning an era of understanding and international cooperation. We have seen already some of the positive results in the settling of international conflicts in different parts of the world.

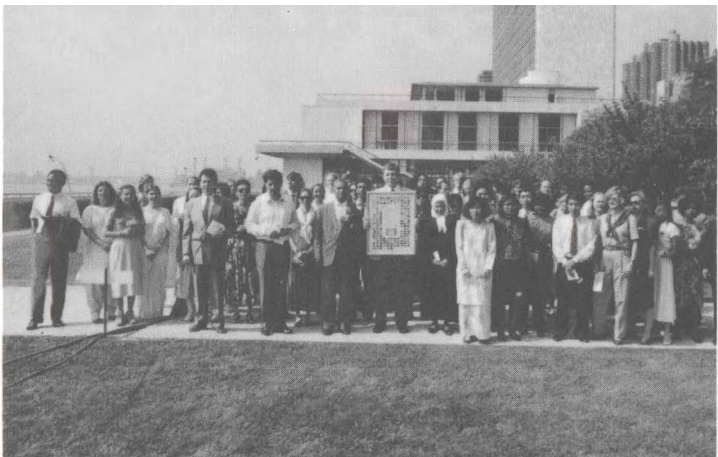
I think we have to be grateful for this peaceful development. Of course, we should not be naive and believe that now the eternal era of peace has begun. This is not so. There are still areas of conflict in the Middle East and other parts of the world, so it is absolutely necessary to continue our efforts to explain to the public what is at stake and to work for a better understanding among the nations of the world.

Again, many thanks for your dedication to the work of peace, and I wish you all a good life and success in your important endeavours. Sri Chinmoy, my dear friend, my best wishes for continued success in your most noble efforts for peace and security in the world.

PEACE WALK FOR UNITED NATIONS CHARTER DAY



United Nations delegates and staff joined in a Peace Walk for United Nations Charter Day on 26 June 1991. The event was co-sponsored by a number of Permanent Representatives of United Nations Member States along with the Peace Meditation. Participants walked in meditative silence through a portion of the United Nations garden, carrying a copy of the Preamble to the United Nations Charter.



PEACE RUN VIDEOS

On 21 June, a video of the Soviet segment of the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run was shown during a meeting of the Peace Meditation. The Soviet Peace Run was inaugurated with a ceremony on the steps of the Krenlin in Red Square. Some 5,000 runners, including Vladislav Tretiak, Soviet ice hockey goalkeeper and national hero, joined the Run. The peace torch was the focal point at the start of the annual International Moscow Marathon. Soviet Peace Runners carried the torch from Moscow to Brest, a Polish border town. There the torch was passed to the Polish Peace Run team. Two Soviet runners accompanied the torch to its final destination in Vienna, Austria.

On 9 July 1991, the UNSRC Cine and Video Club organised a showing of a documentary video on the Japanese segment of the Peace Run. Japanese runners passed the peace torch over four different routes, starting from Sapporo, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Okinawa, finishing together in Tokyo on 6 May. Also shown during the programme, which took place in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium, was a tape of a broadcast about the Peace Run on Hiroshi Kume's popular TV news programme.

CONCERT FOR UNDP/OPS

About 50 staff members from the Office of Programme Services of the United Nations Development Programme took a lunchtime break on 10 July 1991 to attend a concert of meditative music by the Peace Meditation choir. Ms. Savita Shivaji, the OPS staff member who organised the event, meets together with a number of her colleagues for several minutes of silence for peace before each lunch hour.

Following are excerpts from the remarks made by the Assistant Administrator and Director of OPS, Mr. Daan Everts, after the concert.

Mr. Daan Everts, Assistant Administrator and Director of OPS: My predecessor referred to the singing last year as angelic, and I can say that it was the same this year.

You are bringing a message that is really important to heed. I believe that we have far too few such "moments of peace," as you call them. We are so preoccupied with our meetings and memos and telephones that we do not take time for this kind of reflection, but it is absolutely essential.

Here when I walk around the 14th and 15th floors, it is not always peaceful. It reminds me of a battleground, with the workload. But it is good to have these reminders. You turned OPS into the Office of Peace Songs. Maybe we can have more in the future. I am very grateful.

PRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT
MIKHAIL GORBACHEV



*Sri Chinmoy presents USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev with a book of poems and aphorisms which he wrote entitled "Gorbachev: **The** Master-Key of the Universal Heart," while French President Francois Mitterrand **looks** on. The presentation took place on 17 July 1991 in London, where the President was attending the G7 Summit. President Gorbachev and Sri Chinmoy first met at the residence of Canada's Director-General in Ottawa in May 1990.*

MEDITAnON FOR PEACE
AT THE NEW YORK GAMES

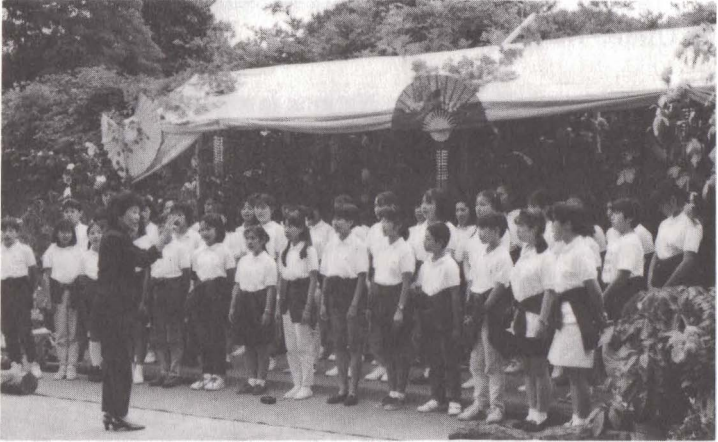


Sri Chinmoy offers a meditation for world peace at the New York Games-organised by the New York RoadRunners Club on 20 July 1992-before presenting Carl Lewis with the gold medal for 100 metres.

ASSIGNMENT: THE WORLD-
A SLIDE PRESENTATION BY JOHN ISAAC

United Nations photographer and photo editor Mr. John Isaac offered a presentation of his slides to United Nations staff on 23 July 1991. Mr. Isaac has travelled around the world as an official photographer, capturing the hopes and dreams of people in their everyday life, whether at work or in family gatherings or amid great suffering. He has won wide recognition for his photography, including awards from the University of Missouri School of Journalism, Nikon, Ilford, Kodak, Minolta, the United Nations and Time Magazine.

A MUSICAL EXCHANGE
WITH THE "LITTLE SINGERS OF TOKYO"



On 3 August 1991, the day after their concert at the United Nations which was part of a world tour, the "Little Singers of Tokyo" gave a special performance for Sri Chinmoy and members of the **Peace** Meditation group. The Japanese children and their conductor, Mrs. Hasegawa, were in turn serenaded by the Peace Meditation choir with songs composed by Sri Chinmoy honouring Japan.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: How does New York or America benefit from the United Nations presence?

Sri Chinmoy: The United Nations is a garden that has lots of plants and trees. If a garden has beautiful plants, fragrant flowers and many trees with most delicious fruits, then the person who houses the garden will treasure it. He will feel that the flowers and trees are like his own children, and that their beauty and fragrance are increasing his own divine qualities.

Although America and New York do not own the United Nations, they house the United Nations. The United Nations is a garden that is inside the heart of New York. When we have a garden of good qualities deep within us, these good qualities will come to the fore either spontaneously or through the awakening of our own mind and central being. And once these divine qualities come to the fore, we are the ones who get the benefit.

Question: Is the United Nations the seed or the fruit of world transformation?

Sri Chinmoy: When we are in the mind, when we are of the mind and when we are for the mind, then we feel that the United Nations is definitely a fruit. The hungry minds and, especially, the hungry vitals of some countries and some individuals have been greedily trying to devour this fruit. But those that have been able to taste the fruit are not satisfied with it; they feel it is not so delicious. Again, there are other countries and other individuals that have not been fortunate enough to avail themselves of this fruit. These countries and individuals feel that the fruit is most delicious. This is our human nature. When we get something, after

some time we do not appreciate or value it. But if we do not get it, we feel that it is the most valuable thing in the world.

But this fruit is not and cannot be delicious, because we only see it from the point of view of the earth-bound mind. We are seeing it as a finished product, although it was not nourished in the proper soil. When we view something with the human mind, we feel it is never complete. From the point of view of the earth-bound mind, nothing is ever satisfactory, certain or definite.

But when we live in the heart, when we are of the heart and for the heart, we feel that the United Nations is still in seed form. Slowly, steadily and unerringly this particular seed will germinate. It will gradually grow from a tiny plant into a great tree that will produce fruits for the entire world. These fruits will be most delicious, because they will be nourished by humanity'S heart of oneness, heart of peace, heart of love and heart of harmony. And then all the countries will be able to eat these fruits to their hearts' content-according to their sincere concern, according to their sincere willingness to become implicitly one with the world's progress, according to their self-giving to the world community. In addition, when they eat these fruits, all the countries will be satisfied with the fruits' all-pervading sweetness and oneness.

Question: Does any small progressive act anywhere on earth improve the United Nations?

Sri Chinmoy: Certainly it does. Whenever and wherever an iota of progress is manifested in the earth-consciousness, the United Nations gets the result. It is like a father and son. When the son goes abroad and does something great and good for mankind, the father gets tremendous joy, for the father sees his own inspiration, which he has injected into his son, now being manifested. So if there is any progress in

any corner of the globe, the fruits of that progress will come back to its ultimate source.

The peace, harmony and oneness that all the countries in the world are working for have their source at the United Nations. So if there is progress in these areas in the world, we have to feel that the inspiration and aspiration behind it, plus the original vision, originated here at the United Nations. Previously some countries or some individuals may have had the lofty vision of world oneness. But it existed only in the world of theory, not in the world of practicality. Only the United Nations has the capacity to manifest this vision in the outer world. And it uses this capacity to unify all the countries in working toward a common goal, which is the transformation of human nature, especially the mind, and the unification of human hearts. So if anywhere we observe progress, even in small measure, we have to give credit to the United Nations. For it was here that the vision of oneness took form and sent its illumining light to the four corners of the globe.

Question: Is it spiritually correct for some countries not to join the United Nations?

Sri Chinmoy: No, every country should join the United Nations. Countries that do not join the United Nations are doing something spiritually incorrect. Spirituality means not only simplicity, sincerity, purity and humility, but also universality, oneness and unity. World unity is of paramount importance. True, the United Nations is not perfect. But no individual and no country is perfect either. If all the countries join together for a positive common goal, the very act of their being together is indeed something laudable.

Every member of a family has some imperfections. But all the members in a family work together to bring to the fore each other's good qualities on the strength of their feeling of family oneness. In exactly the same way, if some

countries are not doing the right thing, then the other countries in the world family that have the willingness and eagerness, plus a self-giving attitude, will try to help them. Eventually the ignorance of those countries that are not doing well politically, morally or spiritually will be illuminated by the countries that are a few steps ahead. So, according to my inner feeling, all the countries of the world should join the United Nations, which is humanity's oneness-world-home. Only this will eventually save the world and the planet.