

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Penelope Franklin
Editor UNICEF Staff News
Room 458

29 September 1994

From: Adhiratha Kevin Keefe
H-3F

AKP/1994-019

Subject: U Thant Peace Award to J.P. Grant

Attached Please find:

1. 23 September 94 News Flash that included item 4 "EXDIR Receives U Thant Peace Award".
2. Two pages titled "UNICEF LEADER RECEIVES U THANT PEACE AWARD" which gives more details concerning:
 - the wording on the award;
 - excerpts from Mr. Grant's acceptance comments;
 - description of the interfaith prayer breakfast;
 - the Peace Walk held before the Award Ceremony including 70 similar walks around the world.
 - some previous recipients
 - description of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN
3. 2 Photos and Photo copy of other photos available.
4. Copy of my introductory remarks.

Since I have served in UNICEF for over twenty years and been a member of the peace meditation group since shortly after I started to work in the UN Community, I was honored to be requested by the group to make the introduction to the Award. As a frequent outspoken constructive critic I was delighted to express what many of us feel about the inspired leadership of Mr. J.P. Grant during the past 15 years. (You might find of interest the story I relayed during my opening remarks [p.3/6] from a UNDP staff member which conveys the feeling of many non UNICEF staff members toward Mr. Grant.) I believe the former Secretary-General U Thant would have appreciated the fact that the presentation of the Peace Award bearing his name linked the activity of a Peace Walk before with the Meditation and Prayers for Peace offered at the Interfaith Prayer Breakfast which followed. If you would like additional photos or information please contact me. I will be away from the office from p.m. 29 Sept to 4 Oct.

ITEM 1: UNICEF DEPLORES KILLING IN EGYPT

ExDir sent condolences to family of UNICEF consultant, Labib Ibrahim, killed in crossfire between Egyptian militant group and police near Luxor on 17 Sept. Hana Singer another UNICEF staff member was slightly wounded. UNICEF car also carried UNICEF Rep Namazi and Senior Programme Officer Tobin who were unharmed... In statement shortly after incident, Minister of Local Administration, Mahmoud Sherif addressing UNICEF Rep and staff said: quote Despite this sad occasion... I wish you good stay in Egypt and hope that this incident, despite its tragedy, does not have an impact on you. All whom you have met admire you. You have always been subject of appreciation and respect... May your feelings towards Egypt and Egyptians remain as it is unquote.

ITEM 2: RWANDA UPDATE

For 1st time since civil war, primary schools opened doors in Rwanda beginning in Ruhengeri. Official inauguration included Education minister, UNESCO and UNICEF Officials. Quote Opening of primary schools represents most significant step yet taken towards normal life returning to this country unquote said UNICEF Rep Fisher. Schools opened with UNESCO/UNICEF quote schools in box unquote. To date 600 schools in box distributed with 250 teachers trained in their use... World Bank and UNICEF signed agreement this week providing for USD 10.5 million WB grant to UNICEF for nutrition and household food security, health and watsan programmes in Rwanda. Quote World Bank grant symbolizes concern with UN family of need to commence reconstruction and development within Rwanda unquote said ExDir.

ITEM 3: UNICEF EXPANDS OPERATIONS IN HAITI

Following recent events UNICEF preparing expand efforts for children and women in Haiti. ExDir who released USD 350,000 from ERF to start off emergency contingency plan said quote It is important to restore democracy in Haiti, but it should come as part of overall process which sees international community supporting govt able to deliver basic social services to its people, especially women and children who have suffered most in country's tragic decline unquote.

ITEM 4: EXDIR RECEIVES U THANT PEACE AWARD

ExDir received U Thant Peace Award at interfaith prayer breakfast commemorating opening 49th session GA. Award presented by Sri Chinmoy, cited ExDir's lifetime of exceptional world service. Award, named after late SecGen, honours individual or organization working for world peace in tradition reflecting U Thant's lofty spiritual ideals. Event in UNICEF House (20 Sept) organized by Peace Meditation at UN and hosted by Monaco Perm Rep Jacques Boisson attended by ambassadors and UN staff.

ITEM 5: SENATE HEARING ON CHILD LABOUR

Representing only UN agency present at Senate Hearing, DepExDir Bertolaso addressed sub-committee on international child labour in Washington D.C. (21 Sept). Thanking Senator Metzenbaum for invitation and for his longstanding support to UNICEF, Dr. Bertolaso said quote: hearing is most timely... also because we are living in period of history, when for first time, political will, public awareness and practical solutions to problems affecting children are beginning to... bear fruit unquote. He added that abject poverty which ushers children out of childhood into work force must be tackled by international community by end decade. Moving testimonies heard from child labourers from Brazil, Mexico, Bangladesh and Los Angeles (Ca).

ITEM 6: GEORGIAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES UNICEF DELEGATION

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze receiving in Tbilisi UNICEF delegation led by ProgDiv AssocDir Manzoor Ahmed, pledged support for implementation NPA for children. Shevardnadze said quote UNICEF assistance critical in overcoming present difficulties and proposed establishment permanent UNICEF office in Tbilisi will be of great help unquote. Earlier, national Conference on Condition of Children and Women (20-21 Sept) initiated by First Lady and attended by high-ranking govt officials, reps from UN system, donor and NGO communities, recommended formation inter-ministerial commission to guide preparation NPA for children and women.

ITEM 7: BELGIAN CARTOONISTS DEDICATE BOOK TO CHILDREN

Marine Thome and Robert Gilliquet, authors of comic book on CRC presented copy of their book to ExDir at ceremony in UNICEF House (15 Sept). Also present were Belgian Dep Perm Rep Brouhns and some 30 reps of francophone missions to UN. Book, published by Lombard, Brussels, illustrates major themes CRC around story of friendship and solidarity between children of different cultures and backgrounds. EEPS/DOI will distribute limited copies of book to French-speaking natcoms and country offices.

Regards, Louise Talbot (H-9F)

U Thant Award For UNICEF Chief

By A Staff Reporter

NEW YORK - James P. Grant, executive director of UNICEF, received the U Thant Peace Award on September 20 at an inter-faith prayer breakfast meeting commemorating the opening of the UN General Assembly.

The award, presented by spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy, cited Grant's lifetime of exceptional world service, calling him an "inspirational example" of "compassion, concern and tireless energy in service to the world family."

Accepting the award from Sri Chinmoy, Grant commented: "One of the fundamentals of life, which is how do we bring up our children in a way that they not only have peace themselves, but that they themselves will help to perpetuate peace."

He further said, "I believe that meditation contributes not only to individual peace, but it contributes to the way on relates to life."

Tracing the developments at the UN that he has observed in his soon to be 50 years of service, Grant said, "Clearly the UN is a place that can make a difference on peace and what happens to individuals."

Commenting on world leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and other pioneers who have made a difference in the world, he said, "I feel that you here are very much in that same spirit and that same vein. And that, in particular is why I am appreciative of receiving this award from such treasured hands and such a treasured group."

The prayer, organized by the Peace Medi-



Sri Chinmoy presents U Thant award to James Grant

tation at the UN and hosted by Monaco's UN Ambassador Jacques Boisson, was held in the UNICEF House.

Attended by the ambassadors and UN staff members from many countries including Russia, Germany, Italy, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Chile and Yugoslavia, the breakfast included brief remarks by representatives of different religions. It followed a three-mile "Peace Walk" through the streets of Manhattan in the early hours of the morning by UN delegates and staff holding aloft their own national flags.

The Peace Walk is annual event inaugurated in 1986 in honor of the International Year of Peace. It is an opportunity for

people of all nations, cultures and religions to concentrate on the qualities within the human spirit which form the foundation upon which lasting peace can be built.

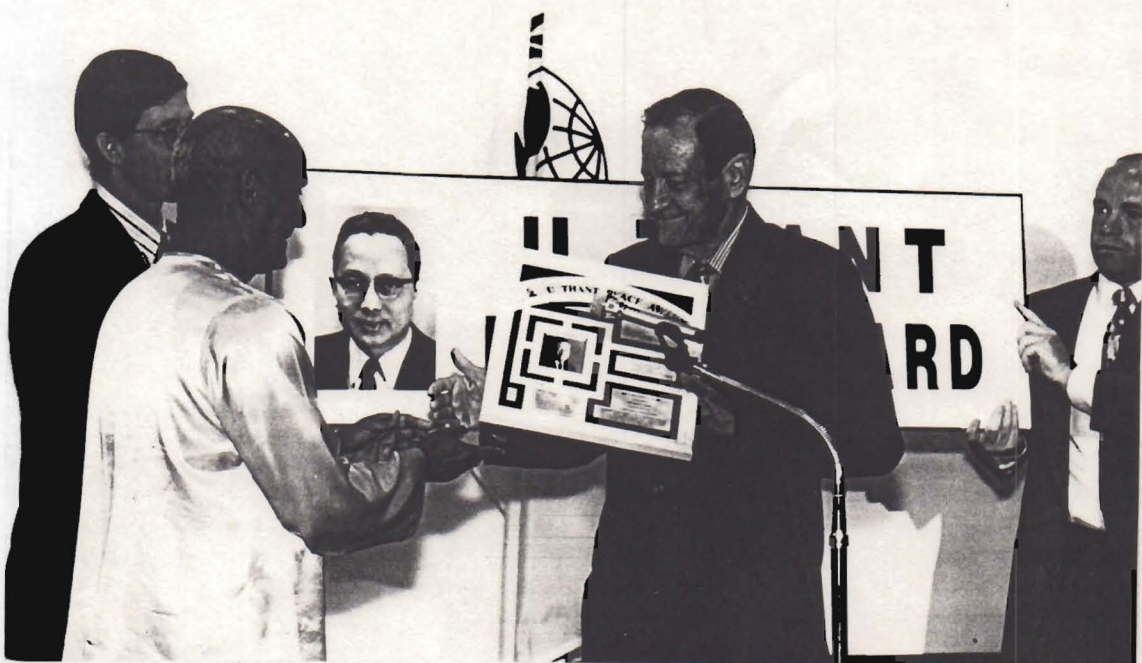
The U Thant Peace Award, named after the late UN Secretary General, honors an individual's or organization's work for world peace in a tradition reflecting U Thant's lofty spiritual ideals.

Previous recipients have included Dr. Jorge Illueca, President of the 38th Session of the UN General Assembly and President of Panama; Pir Vilayat Khan, head of the Sufi Order in the West; Ganesh Man Singh, Supreme Leader of Nepal; and UN Ambassador Yemon Rossides of Cyprus.



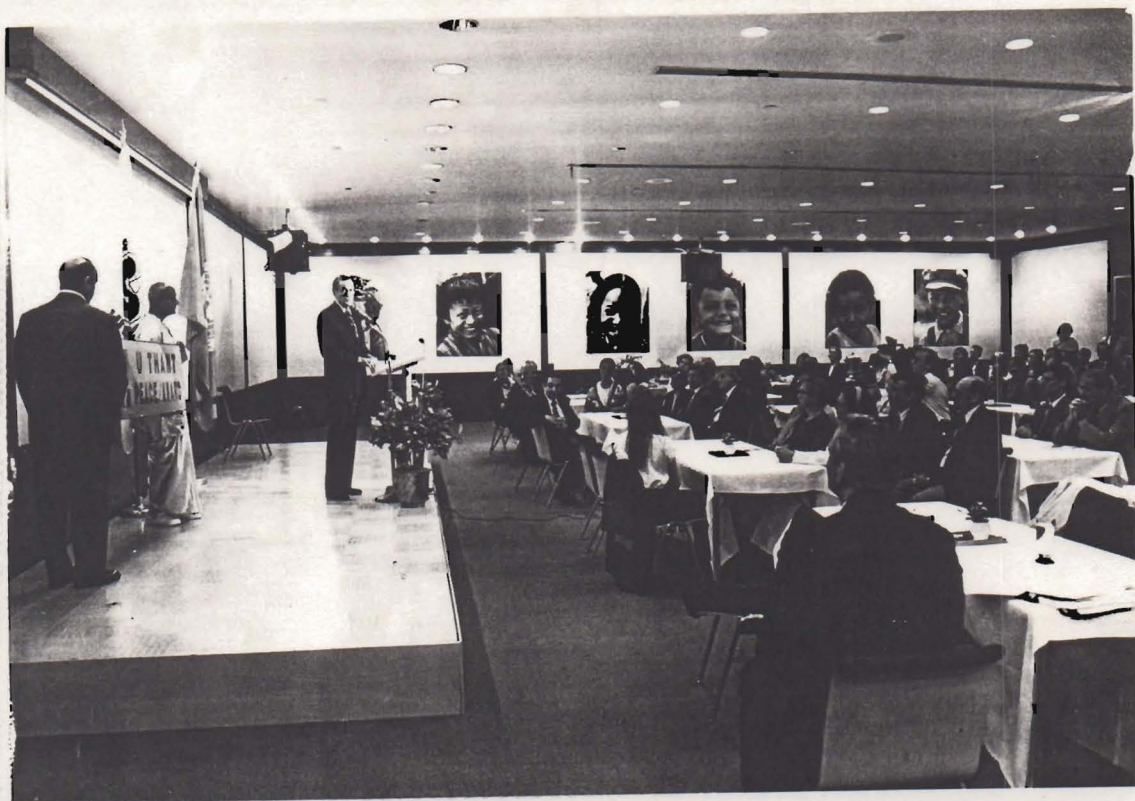
















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Pictures. See attached PHOTO COPIES.

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