

The U Thant Peace Award

is presented to

C.V. Narasimhan

Illustrious son of Mother India

Vision-heart and mission-life-embodiment of the United Nations

from its highest height

to its farthest length

U Thant's trusted confidant

U Thant's illumined adviser

U Thant's devoted admirer

U Thant's cherished fellow traveller

on the road to world peace

A fully blossomed peace-service-flower-life

Of talents myriad

Unreservedly consecrated

to the oneness-world-goal

of the United Nations

With our deepest appreciation, admiration and gratitude

Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations

10 September 1996

(Message to be given by MC)

On this special occasion we would like to convey the very best wishes of U Thant's daughter, Aye Aye Myint-U, and her husband, U Tyn Myint-U. They regret being unable to attend this programme, as they are away from New York at this time, but express their happiness that Mr. Narasimhan is being honoured here today.

Presentation of the U Thant Peace Award to
Mr. Chakravarthi Vijayaraghava Narasimhan
United Nations - 10 September 1996

Sri Chinmoy:

Today we are deeply honoured to offer our loving and grateful appreciation to our dear friend, Mr. C.V. Narasimhan, in the form of the U Thant Peace Award.

Dear Brother Narasimhan, our Peace Meditation Group has been blessed with your kind friendship since the very beginning of our devoted service to the United Nations. We love and admire your countless sterling qualities and your unparalleled achievements. Today, with our deepest pride and joy, we wish to offer you our special tribute in the name of our beloved Secretary-General U Thant. It was you, dear Brother, dear peace-lover, who most kindly and most generously welcomed our peace-serving aspiration-hearts to the blessingful attention of the supreme peace-champion, U Thant.

Dear Brother Narasimhan, your life was supremely chosen by the Supreme Himself to serve the United Nations and its illustrious leaders with your brilliant mind, your dynamic life-energy and, above all, your universal oneness-heart. Your nineteen distinguished years in the Indian Civil Service moulded you outwardly for your life's crowning

service to the United Nations, the Heart-Home of the World-Body. Most remarkably, you carried with you lovingly and devotedly the fully blossomed flowers of India's culture and India's spirituality as you ascended to the pinnacle of world power. For you, religion, devotion and life-transporting spiritual music were living realities which you brought to your most daunting tasks.

It was Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold who first perceived your United Nations destiny, appointing you in 1956 to the leadership of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and then to his inner circle. Your Indian heart, broken by the news of his tragic death in 1961 in the quest for peace, fully comprehended and beautifully expressed the elusive height and depth of this colossal nobility-soul.

Then, for ten eventful years you faithfully served our beloved U Thant. As his Chef de Cabinet, you were his fond fellow traveller; you were his alter-ego; you were his shock absorber! How rarely do we see enduring friendship, loyalty and devotion between two giant personalities! Alas, all too often ego compels them to assert their separativity and superiority. Not so in the case of your illumined service to U Thant. His shining integrity you admired unreservedly; your wisdom-flooded loyalty nurtured him unimaginably. Only a

pristine service-life like U Thant's could win the ever-increasing respect and affection of your penetrating mental and psychic vision. Again, only your oneness-heart, quickness-mind and eagerness-life could so perfectly anticipate and fulfil the myriad needs of the soul bearing the heaviest burden in the peace-crying world-arena. During ten long years fraught with challenging difficulties and world-emergencies, while you strove for peace and attuned the delicate balance between individuals and between nations at the heart of the world body, your and U Thant's mutual regard, mutual affection and mutual reverence only increased and multiplied.

Who, then, dear Brother, more richly deserves to be honoured in the name of Secretary-General U Thant than you, his closest confidant and strongest supporter? And yet, the scope of your service to the United Nations far exceeds the corridors of its highest echelons. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East; the Department for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination; the General Assembly; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations University; the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; the Division for Human Rights; the Division for Narcotic Drugs; the United Nations International School--is there any branch of the United Nations or any aspect of its far-flung world-service that has not been graced by your illumining touch and energized by your dynamic life-

breath? Three invaluable volumes of your unique reminiscences chronicle your peerless United Nations service-life. And all along, your perspicacious sense of humour never failed you, even in the most disheartening circumstances. A tennis-enthusiast, too, you always were, in your adventurous life-game.

During your astonishing career, Brother Narasimhan, you have also most attentively nurtured the fragrant flowers of Indian culture and spirituality in Western soil. In your early days at United Nations headquarters you translated the epic Mahabharata--a life-work for any individual! In New York you established a branch of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, India's foremost cultural institute. You served as President of the Hindu Temple Society of North America. Your command of South Indian devotional music is extraordinary. Your vast knowledge of Indian scripture and your utter devotion to Indian music suffused all your activities at the United Nations. You organized many concerts of Indian music at the United Nations, and we, your fond admirers of the Peace Meditation Group, have been blessed a number of times to hear your gifted voice in song. With your exquisite expressiveness, you have described the ultimate goal of Indian devotional music as "soaring on wings of song into the ethereal heights where it is possible for you to establish communion with the Lord Himself." In your unique life-song, Brother Narasimhan, you

have soared to the heights of oneness-service, peace-fulfilment and perfection-manifestation. Therefore, today, with our heartfelt love and admiration, we are offering you our U Thant Peace Award.

THE U THANT PEACE AWARD INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALL NATIONS;
IS A SYMBOLIC PRESENTATION MOTIVATIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICRF;
BY SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS
TO ACKNOWLEDGE, APPRECIATE AND ADMIRE
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 RECIPIENTS ARE INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS
REFLECTING U THANT'S LOFTY SPIRITUAL IDEALS.

THE U THANT PEACE AWARD
IS OFFERED PERIODICALLY BY THE MEMBERS
OF SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS,
WHO WORK FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES
AND HAVE MADE AN ADDITIONAL PERSONAL COMMITMENT
TO THE HIGHEST GOALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD INCLUDE
THE LATE UN AMBASSADOR ZENON ROSSIDES OF CYPRUS,
FOR HIS LIFE-LONG EFFORTS
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT;
THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME,

FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALL NATIONS;

JAMES GRANT, THE LATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF;

MOTHER TERESA; AND PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV.

TO ACKNOWLEDGE, APPRECIATE AND ADMIRE