

*SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS*

**INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST**

**FOR THE OPENING OF THE 54<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

9 September 1999

*Programme*

<i>Musical Invocation</i>	Premik Russell Tubbs
<i>Master of Ceremonies</i>	Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen
<i>Silent Meditation</i>	All present
<i>Song for Peace</i>	The Singers of The Peace Meditation
<i>Welcome</i>	H. E. Dr. Peter Tomka Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations

*The Leaders in Prayer:*

BUDDHISM

The Reverend Dr. Chung Ok Lee  
Head Minister  
Won Buddhism of America

CHRISTIANITY

The Reverend Dr. Elias D. Mallon, S. A.  
Director  
The Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute

HINDUISM

Swami Amarnathananda  
Bharat Sevashram Sangha of America (New Jersey)

*Please turn over*

ISLAM

Aisha Al-Adawija  
Founder and Director  
Women in Islam

JUDAISM

Sheldon Friedberg  
Director, Institute for Christian-Jewish-Muslim Dialogue  
Director of Community Relations and Interreligious Affairs  
The National Conference on Community and Justice (NCCJ)

*Closing Musical Invocation*

*Breakfast will be served.*

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My religion  
Lovingly and cheerfully  
Bows to all the other religions,  
For each religion is a direct God-representative  
Here on earth.

My religion  
Deeply and equally values  
All the religions of the world,  
For it knows that each religion  
Is a beautiful, powerful  
And fruitful branch  
Of God's Life-Tree.

My religion  
Tells me that each religion  
Is assigned an important role  
In God's Cosmic Drama.

My religion  
Is not only in search of excellence  
In other religions,  
But also has discovered uniqueness  
In each and every religion.

– Sri Chinmoy, *My Religion* (1999)

## INFORMATION ON THE PARTICIPANTS

### HOST

H. E. Dr. Peter Tomka is the new Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations. An authority on international law, Dr. Tomka is a graduate of Charles University Law School in Prague. He has taught and done research at a number of universities and institutes and taken part in numerous important international conferences after beginning his career in his country's Foreign Ministry. Immediately prior to becoming Ambassador he served as Director-General for Legal and Consular Affairs and Legal Adviser in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, and was Vice-Chairman of Legal Advisers on Public International Law in the Council of Europe. He also served as his country's acting Permanent Representative in 1994-1997. He has participated actively in the work of the Sixth Committee (Legal) at the United Nations, and among his many positions has served as Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of the International Criminal Court, Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Vice-Chairman of the Meeting States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

### THE LEADERS IN PRAYER

AISHA AL-ADAWIJA is Founder and Director of Women in Islam, a coalition of professional and social activist Muslim women focused on human rights and social justice. She is a founding member of the American Committee to Save Bosnia, a national advocacy organization in support of a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, democratic Bosnia. She is a researcher at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, where she is responsible for Islamic input for the Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Documentation Project. She is a board member and active in a number of Muslim organizations as well as women's and interfaith groups.

SWAMI AMARNATHANANDA is a member of the Hindu monastic order Bharat Sevashram Sangha, founded in India in 1917 by His Holiness Acharya Swami Pranavananda Maharaj. Swami Amarnathananda came to the United States from his native Calcutta in 1994 and currently serves as spiritual leader of the new center of Bharat Sevashram Sangha which he established in New Jersey. Swami Amarnathananda is the author of more than twenty books and several musical recordings, and frequently lectures on ancient Indian philosophy.

SHELDON FRIEDBERG is the Director of the Institute for Christian-Jewish-Muslim Dialogue and also Director of Community Relations and Interreligious Affairs at The National Conference on Community and Justice (NCCJ), founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He is active as a lay Jewish leader at Temple Beth Abraham in Brooklyn, where he performs many rabbinical duties though not ordained to the rabbinate. Mr. Friedberg is the retired Principal of Lafayette High School in Brooklyn, where he served for thirty years.

THE REVEREND CHUNG OK LEE is a Buddhist nun in the Won Buddhist tradition of Korea. She is the United Nations Representative of Won Buddhism International and is extensively involved in the activities of Religious NGOs and international interfaith organizations, serving on many boards and committees. She was President of the Committee of Religious NGOs in 1995-97. Chung Ok Lee is a sought-after conference speaker and the author of numerous articles. She received the Ph.D. in Education from New York University.

THE REVEREND DR. ELIAS D. MALLON, S. A. is Director of The Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute based in New York. He is a leader in interfaith affairs nationally and internationally, with long involvement especially in Christian-Muslim dialogue. Dr. Mallon is a scholar of Semitic languages and Hebrew scriptures and received his doctorate from the Catholic University of America. He is a Catholic priest and a member of the Friars of the Atonement, a Franciscan order.





































