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A DEVOTED REPORT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1977



by
The United Nations Meditation Group

UNITED NATIONS:



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

A DEVOTED REPORT
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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by
THE UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

DEDICATION

This brochure offers a brief look at the various activities of the United Nations Meditation Group during the calendar year 1977, as excerpted from the Group's monthly bulletin, *Meditation at the United Nations*.

We, the members of the Meditation Group, humbly dedicate these activities to our dear Secretary-General for his extraordinary and untiring service to the United Nations and to the whole world.

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U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry

A programme of music and speech in tribute to the late Secretary-General U Thant took place 21 January in the ECOSOC Chamber, the day before what would have been his 68th birthday.

U Thant's daughter, Mrs. Aye Aye Myint-U, and her family were present as Ambassador Rossides of Cyprus, Ambassador Vinci of Italy and Director and Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs Dr. Robert Muller spoke movingly about the ex-Secretary-General. Sri Chinmoy, Director of the United Nations Meditation Group, presented Dr. and Mrs. Myint-U with copies of his newly published book, *U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry*, which contains comments and essays about U Thant by United Nations and other international figures. The book is available in the U.N. Bookshop. News of the programme for U Thant was broadcast in Burma the following day.

Excerpts from the speeches follow.



H. E. Mr. Zenon Rossides, *Permanent Representative of Cyprus*: U Thant is a luminous ideal that moved among us as a human figure. His thoughts and actions had a transcendental quality. Because he was eminently a man of the spirit in the integrity of his mind, he transcended the adversities and limitations of the intellect.

Through his intrinsic dedication to the universality of man and his inspired leadership, he saved the United Nations and the world at the most critical junctures.



H.E. Mr. Piero Vinci, *Permanent Representative of Italy*: I think the best way we can pay tribute to U Thant is by keeping alive his highly spiritual message. For me, the message is one that called for a radical change in our political thinking as well as in our moral approach to life and to the problems that we all face today.



Dr. Robert Muller: I intended to speak about U Thant's influence on my personal life, but when I saw the beautiful title of this ceremony, which is also the title of Sri Chinmoy's new book, *U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry*, I felt that I should direct my thoughts to this theme.

U Thant was a great man because he was able to distill from the immense complexity of the surrounding world and from his observation of life, a few basic, deeply felt principles. These were always the same: that every human being had physical, mental, moral and spiritual qualities and needs. He established a hierarchy among these, as if the whole evolution of mankind was directed to the achievement of the highest level, namely the spiritual level. This inspired his entire work.



Sri Chinmoy thanks Dr. and Mrs. Myint-U for their gift to him of a colour photograph of U Thant.

Participation in President Carter's Inaugural Ceremonies

At the invitation of the President Carter/ Vice-President Mondale Inaugural Committee, the Meditation Group ushered at the Inauguration Day early morning prayer service held on 20 January 1977 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Group gathered at 6:30 a.m. in the sub-freezing temperature to pass out programmes, seat people and generally help out, for a crowd which grew to 5,000.

The 8:00 a.m. service was led by the Rev. Bruce Edwards of the Plains Baptist Church, assisted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr., while Ruth Carter Stapleton, sister of the President, read from the scriptures.

Following is a letter of appreciation from the Inaugural Committee for the Meditation Group's assistance.

1977 Inaugural Committee



January 13, 1977

Mr. Sri Chinmoy, Director
United Nations Meditation Group
Room A-515, United Nations
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Chinmoy:

On behalf of President-elect Carter, we wish to deeply thank you for the assistance that the United Nations Meditation Group will provide at the Inaugural Day Lincoln Memorial Prayer Service and throughout Inaugural Day. Our planned program of free concerts, dances, poetry readings, plays and other entertainment reflects President-elect Carter's strong desire to make this a true "People's Inaugural".

We are particularly impressed by the dedication and co-operative spirit of your members, who are outstanding examples of the philosophy of brotherhood and goodwill which you seek to implement at the United Nations.

Thank you again for your generosity and public spirit. You represent America's idealism and spiritual values at their best. Your contribution is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Barry R. Turner
Co-Chairperson

Secret and F. Stuart D.M., Washington D.C. 20547, (202) 472-4000

Announcement of Geneva Meditation Group

At a meeting of the United Nations Meditation Group on 8 February 1977, Sri Chinmoy announced: Several days ago, a branch of our Meditation Group was established in Geneva. Our Elizabeth Addison was there for a conference. With the help of Andreas Beyer, she has officially formed a Meditation Group at the United Nations in Geneva, so this is a very encouraging and illuminating achievement.

In telling about the Geneva group, Ms. Addison said: The group meditates every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. with about twenty members. The people there were really glad to have something like this, and they are especially interested in having a theme for each meditation pertaining to things that the United Nations is doing and various conferences that it is holding.

A Visit to the United Nations Gift Center

On 11 February 1977 Sri Chinmoy visited the United Nations Gift Center, managed by Ms. June Henneberger, a member of the United Nations Meditation Group. Sri Chinmoy meditated with the staff of the shop before their working day began and then gave a short talk.

An excerpt from his talk follows.



U.N. Gift Center staff listen to Sri Chinmoy during his talk in their shop.

Sri Chinmoy: Every day people come to this shop from various parts of the world. They come here to identify themselves with the large, larger and largest world. Let me give you an example. I come from a tiny, obscure village in Bengal, India. If I buy something from this place and take it back to my little home and show it to my friends, immediately a new world dawns before them—a world of vastness, a world of oneness, a world of satisfaction. The tiniest possible world is my village, Shakpura, in Bengal, India. The tiniest world comes into this shop and gets a gift which comes from another part of the world. Perhaps that part of the world where the gift was made may also be

a small village. But my coming to this shop from one tiny place and your offering this gift from another tiny place makes a happy union between the two places.

We come to the United Nations to be united and to serve humanity with one heart, with one soul and with one body. In this way the little, little worlds become one with the big world, and again, the big world gives to the little worlds what it has and what it is.

* * *

The inner vision of the United Nations is the gift supreme. This vision the world can deny for ten, twenty, thirty, forty, one hundred years. But a day will dawn when the vision of the United Nations will save the world. And when the reality of the United Nations starts bearing fruit, then the breath of Immortality will be a living reality on earth.

A Welcome to Dr. Robert Muller

On 7 January 1977 Sri Chinmoy welcomed Dr. Robert Muller, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination, as a member of the United Nations Meditation Group family. At that time Sri Chinmoy presented him with a copy of a tribute to U Thant that Dr. Muller had written, which the Meditation Group had printed as a special supplement to its Bulletin.

Sri Chinmoy: Dearest Robert Muller, dearest brother, on behalf of the Meditation Group, I wish to welcome you to our small, soulful Group with our hearts' deepest love, joy, pride and gratitude. We sincerely feel that your very presence has considerably enhanced our journey here to the ultimate goal, which is one world family and a oneness-world. To have you as a member of our Meditation Group is to have someone whose love of Truth, whose concern not only for the United Nations but for the entire humanity, can help us, guide us and illumine our search for the ultimate Truth. This ultimate Truth we really need here at the United Nations to found a world-family that will grow and glow.

Dr. Robert Muller: Thank you. I attended two of your ceremonies, and I felt forthwith that your approach to the United Nations was the same as mine. Hence, I decided to become a member of your group. It is very important that people everywhere, especially public servants, be inspired not only by their skills, knowledge, education, expectations and ambitions, but also by the certainty that whatever they do must be for the



Sri Chinmoy welcomes Dr. Robert Muller as a member of the United Nations Meditation Group.

good of the human family. A person gives his best only if beyond talent and intelligence he also offers his heart. This is how I have always approached public service and my place in it.

I entered the United Nations as a young man with an ideal. Since then that ideal has grown. Today it is more than an ideal: it is a religion. It is a daily religion to try to do good for my fellow brothers and sisters and for our beautiful planet Earth. We must care for them and love them very much, for they are such incredible miracles in the universe.

Presentation of Mazzone's Sculpture

On 18 February 1977 Dr. Robert Muller presented Sri Chinmoy with a bust of U Thant by sculptor Domenico Mazzone. Dr. Muller had commissioned Mr. Mazzone to do this special sculpture in honour of Sri Chinmoy's recent programme in tribute to U Thant and the publication of his book, U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry. Sculptor Mazzone was also present at the ceremony.



Dr. Robert Muller and the sculptor Domenico Mazzone present a bust of U Thant to Sri Chinmoy.

A Meeting with the Secretary-General

On 7 March 1977 Sri Chinmoy met privately with Secretary-General Waldheim to present him with a copy of his book, U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry. Following is Sri Chinmoy's account of their most significant meeting, which lasted from 9:49 a.m. to 10:05 a.m.

As soon as I entered into his office, the Secretary-General came to the door. With a smiling face and a warm heart he said, "Good morning."

I said to him also, "Good morning." Then we shook hands and, for a few seconds, both of us remained in a contemplative mood. Then he signaled me to sit down. He also sat. He was in a very deep and, at the same time, benevolent mood. I offered the book to him and he looked at the cover and said, "Ah, here is my dear friend, my humane friend. I had the greatest admiration for him. In simple and genuine modesty he surpassed us all. Nobody knew how he sacrificed his life to bring about world peace, world understanding, practically to the end of his life. He carried a tremendous load on his shoulders. He suffered and suffered for humanity. His vision was so clear and, at the same time, so broad."

At this point I turned to page thirteen where his own comment on U Thant was. He read the whole page very carefully, completely absorbed, and then said, "He was really great. I talked to him many, many times while I was serving my country as Ambassador. He inspired me in so many ways. His heart never wanted to compromise to the wrong and destructive forces of the world. Slowly and steadily he did everything. His great responsibilities at the United Nations did affect his health. His death was a tragic end. We all dearly miss him. His steady vision for the world community is still inspiring us. I personally am extremely, extremely grateful to him."

Then I said to him, "As you know, everything has a divine sanction. We are extremely grateful to God, for He has given us you to steer the Boat of the United Nations so devotedly, speedily, surprisingly and successfully. I always see you as God's lightning speed. Today you are here, tomorrow there and the day after tomorrow elsewhere. Your penetrating vision not only enters into the world problems, but also solves the problems of the world most miraculously. In you

I always see a divinely inspired miracle-man. You see, you touch and you cure the suffering heart of humanity."

Then he said to me, "I am so sincerely grateful to you for your encouraging words. This world needs only one thing: cooperation. U Thant gave his all to bring about world cooperation. I am trying to do the same with all my heart's concern and love for humanity. You are also doing the same with your prayer and meditation at the United Nations. I am sincerely grateful to you, for you are offering your depth and vision to the United Nations through the Meditation Group."



Secretary-General Waldheim and Sri Chinmoy.

Then I told him, "Every day I pray for you, for your success; I pray that the world will accept your most illumining light. On Tuesday and Friday, in the special meditations we hold here at the United Nations, I regularly offer my gratitude-heart to your world-illumining soul. I have started writing a book about you and I do hope to be able to complete it in a month or two. And I hope

to be able to offer it to you the way I am offering you this book on U Thant."

He said, "You know, in the coming few months I shall be extremely busy, but I am sure I will be able to set aside some time for you as I have done today."

I said, "I know. I know how extremely busy you are with the world problems. My mind knows it and my heart feels it. It is your heart's magnanimity that has granted me this rare opportunity to offer you this book."

Then he said, "Oh no, I am extremely happy to see you and to have you here with me. It is very nice and kind of you to write something about me. By the way, please be in touch with Mr. Rohan. He will be able to assist you, if you need any special information about me. Again, I wish to say it was extremely thoughtful of you to present to me my best friend. I miss him; we all miss him. Indeed, he was our true friend."

At this time he stood up and I stood up. I folded my hands and his eyes were extremely soulful. Then I shook hands with him. He came to the door and, placing his left hand on my right shoulder and holding my right hand, he said to me, "Please tell the members of your Meditation Group that I am sending them my greetings."

I said to him, "I shall do that. I am offering you on behalf of our Meditation Group our heart's deepest gratitude."

* * *

The League of Nations was a dream-seed.
The United Nations is a reality-plant.
The aspiring and serving life of man's universal oneness will be the eternity-tree.

The following question and answer is taken from The Inner Vision: Love of God, The Outer Mission: Service of Humanity, a series of questions asked of Sri Chinmoy by Mr. David Rowe of the United States Mission:

Mr. David Rowe, Political Advisor, United States Mission: Cooperation of all nations is an ancient dream. Assuming we are building on the past, how can we assess the outlook now?

Sri Chinmoy: The ancient dream of cooperation is not a human dream which has very little to do with reality. The ancient dream, to be precise, is not a dream at all but a faultless and divine vision—an unhorizoned vision—which is slowly, steadily and unerringly shaping the individual and collective destiny in humanity's march towards the supreme goal of universal oneness and transcendental newness. The world is evolving and progressing and reaching a higher standard of life. It is not moving in a horizontal way, but in a spiral. Therefore, at times this progress is not immediately noticeable. At times it confuses and baffles our human mind. But on the strength of our inner oneness with the world situation and world evolution, we see unmistakably the world's slow and steady progress. . . .

The ancient dream, nay, the ancient vision, will always remain a new and progressive vision, for creation itself is an ever-transcending reality. We shall have to open our heart's door and our mind's windows in order to see from the body-room the light that illumines and fulfils the world around us. Then only we shall discover continual progress in humanity's march along Eternity's road to Infinity's Satisfaction-Goal.

Receptions for U.N. Officials and International Women's Day

The United Nations Meditation Group sponsored several banquets early in the year for United Nations delegates and staff members. Mrs. Aye Aye Myint-U, daughter of the late Secretary-General U Thant, and her husband, Dr. Tin Myint-U, were among the guests of honour at one of these dinners, held at Annam Brahma Restaurant in Queens on 8 February. A number of officials from the various departments and organisations of the U.N. and members of the Women's Guild also attended. Sri Chinmoy served the guests their food personally. The programme included a premier performance of several new songs by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to the United Nations, a short play and instrumental performances.

In continuation of the International Women's Day activities on 8 March, women delegates were guests of honour of the U.N. Meditation Group at a dinner with entertainment also held at Annam Brahma Restaurant.

BBC Interview

On 11 March 1977, BBC's United Nations correspondent Mr. Brian Saxton interviewed Sri Chinmoy about spirituality at the United Nations for a European radio broadcast. Mr. Saxton also requested a tape of songs Sri Chinmoy has composed for the United Nations and included "O United Nations" in the broadcast. The songs were sung by members of the United Nations Meditation Group. An excerpt from the interview follows.

Mr. Saxton: The United Nations is, of course, a very political place. Does politics ever enter into your work?

Sri Chinmoy: Politics, as such, does not enter into our work. But we feel that politics can be illumined and raised to a very, very high state of consciousness so that humanity can be transformed, illumined and fulfilled. We pray and meditate to purify our mind. Once our mind is purified and illumined, then this mind of ours—which creates so many problems for us, which constantly creates confusion, doubt, worries and anxieties—will become a perfect instrument for us to use to have a better world, or, we can say, to bring to the fore a new face of the world. We do not use politics as such, but we try to bring into politics the light and the bliss that we get from our prayer and meditation.

Mr. Saxton: You mentioned a few moments ago that certain delegates attend your meetings. Do you think diplomats gain anything special that is particularly useful to their own work?

Sri Chinmoy: I do hope that they get peace of mind. It seems to me that all human beings have everything save and except peace of mind. The delegates are dealing with the world problems, so what they need first and foremost, as far as I can see, is peace of mind. When they come and pray with us, and become one with us, they do feel peace of mind. And then, when they go back to their respective offices, they can solve the problems that they have been facing with new light, new inspiration, new aspiration and new illumination.

Seventh Anniversary of the United Nations Meditation Group

On 14 April 1977, the United Nations Meditation Group celebrated its seventh anniversary of service to the U.N. Community in the Chapel of the Church Centre for the United Nations. The programme included speakers, choral readings, a chamber group and the singing of twenty songs dedicated to the U.N. by Sri Chinmoy, who has been Director of the Group since its founding in 1970. A brief excerpt from the transcript of the ceremony follows.

Dr. Robert Muller: We are celebrating today the seventh anniversary of the United Nations Meditation Group and Sri Chinmoy's thirteenth year in the West. I have known you only for the past few months, but may I say to you briefly what I have learned from your Group and from your person.

I have learned first that you are giving to many of the United Nations staff a life dimension which goes well beyond their daily work, namely a spiritual dimension, an internal dimension. You are making them better people, deeper people, and by doing this you are giving them happiness.

Members of the U.N. Meditation Group I know are generally profoundly happy people and this is due to a large extent to your teachings.

Secondly, I have learned that, thanks to your efforts, several thousand people around the world better understand the United Nations. The U.N. is a little bud of hope in the long evolution of mankind, a bud that must be cared for, that must be loved and encouraged, that must be helped so that we may win once and for all the battle of peace against war, the battle of justice against injustice, the battle of kindness against violence. This is a prodigious task for the United Nations and it doesn't have many friends to perform it. But thanks to you, in many places of the world the true image of the United Nations is known, not solely the image of turmoil and conflict, but the luminous vision and dream of a good earth inhabited by good people. This is the deeper human story which goes on with the United



Nations, this time on a world scale. You have perceived it very profoundly and you have been able to convey this momentous fact to your followers in faraway countries.

Mr. Kwadwo Oforu-Benebo (to Sri Chinmoy): We are grateful to you that when the clarion call sounded and you were invited to come to the United Nations and offer spiritual food to members of the United Nations community, you accepted the challenge. You did not shirk your responsibility, even though you knew that in these troubled days many people are skeptical about the power of religion to bring about peace, and the mere mention of spiritual development of people meets with derision in many quarters. The United Nations Meditation Group is now flowering.