

Painting for World Peace Unveiled

An environment in green, blue and a myriad of other colours was unveiled the evening of 3 May 1977 by Ms. Martha Lackner, World Environment Day Coordinator, at the Jharna-Kala Gallery in Manhattan.

The 6' x 9' painting by Sri Chinmoy, Director of the United Nations Meditation Group, is entitled "United Nations: the Heart-Home of the World-Body" and is dedicated to U.N. efforts toward world peace. It is scheduled to go on world tour, beginning with showings in Geneva, England, France, New Zealand and Australia.

Sri Chinmoy's paintings, which include acrylics, oils, watercolours and pen-and-ink drawings, have been exhibited at the Museo dei Arte in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and the School of Visual Arts in New York, which recognised his work with a special award. Gallery showings have also been held in New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Ottawa, Montreal, Zurich and Hamburg.

At the close of the evening, members of the United Nations Community expressed their support and praise for the United Nations and the work of the Meditation Group.

Excerpts from the comments follow.



Ms. Martha Lackner, World Environment Day Coordinator, unveils Sri Chinmoy's painting dedicated to the U.N. efforts toward World Peace. It is entitled: "The U.N.: the Heart-Home of the World-Body."

Mr. David Rowe, Political Advisor, U.S. Mission: There is an old saying about the U.N.—I'm sure you've heard it: "If it didn't exist, it could not be created." It's usually said by the U.N.'s detractors that this means the U.N. is so bad that it would be impossible to create such an institution. But on the other hand, I think it can be interpreted as meaning that it's so good, that there is so much of a base, plus this special dimension, this special force and energy that is there, that it couldn't possibly be created by mere human beings. I think we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Sri Chinmoy and the U.N. Meditation Group and to all of Sri Chinmoy's disciples for their contribution and sustaining influence in the United Nations.

Ms. Yvette Ripplinger, UNITAR: The U.N. is a kind of spiritual edifice, towering high in the sky, not only physically but also in ourselves. We have to keep our eyes focused on this lofty definition of the "body" and especially the "soul" of the United Nations. Sri Chinmoy must be thanked for focusing our attention on this particular way of looking at it.

Ms. Nishtha Baum, Sri Chinmoy NGO Representative: I feel extremely grateful to be among those selected to witness this painting's unveiling—a moment that, I feel, symbolised the removal of the ignorance-veils of centuries to reveal the soul's inmost consciousness.

Mr. Donald Keys, Planetary Citizens: I feel that there are two United Nations. There is the United Nations that makes the *Daily News* headlines and then there is the inner United Nations, which many people do not think about but many people feel. The United Nations is a microcosm of mankind. It's the first time and the first place that all of humanity has in a sense been together in one place.

Mr. Kwadwo Ofose-Benefo: There are some people, such as the Guru, Sri Chinmoy, who are dedicated to serving the Organisation. Although he doesn't represent a government, we know that he represents those who are sincerely trying to bring about peace and maintain international security and order in our troubled world.

A Circus Presentation at UNIS

On 15 June members of the Meditation Group gave a performance of Madal Circus for the children of the United Nations International School.



A fantastic fire eater and skilled gymnasts, along with other performers from the Meditation Group, entertain UNIS children.



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22 June 1977

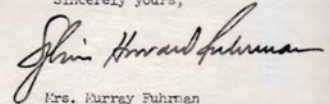
Dear Miss Novoa,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School, I wish to thank the U.N. Meditation Group, through you, most warmly for the kind interest and support of the School.

The Circus event for the Junior School by your talented performers on 15 June was thoroughly enjoyed by all. What a fine example it was to our students, of the joy received as well as given, in the performance of public service. And of course, the beauty bestowed on the School in such a tangible way by the lovely plantings at the School's entrance will be a reminder always of the generous and thoughtful deeds. Please be good enough to convey our deepest gratitude to all involved in making the Circus and the garden possible.

The spirit which has motivated your action is a source of encouragement to all those who are engaged in reaching out to the children of every race, creed and culture represented at the School. Through your support, you are helping to forward the principles of international understanding enumerated in the United Nations Charter and in so doing, giving recognition of your faith in the Organization.

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. Murray Fuhrman
Special Representative
of the Secretary-General

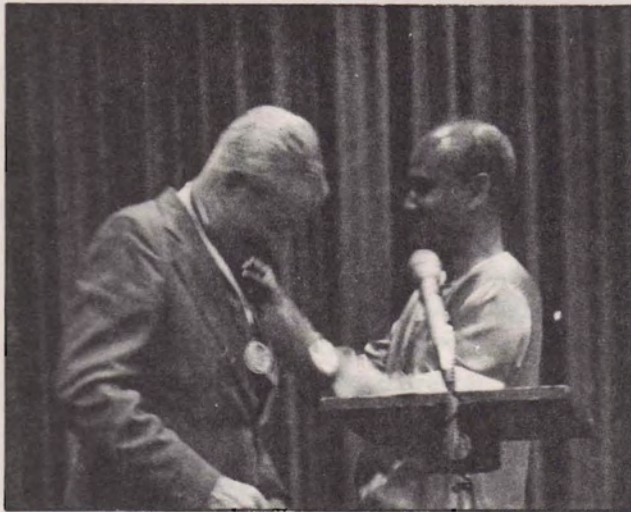
Miss Dolores Novoa
U.N. Meditation Group
United Nations Room A-515L

Bike Marathon

Many of the Meditation Group's aspiring athletes spent a rather invigorating Memorial Day weekend this year, cycling in the annual 24-hour Pepsi Cola bike marathon in Central Park. High mileage award in the Group went to Paul LaRusso of UNICEF, who circled the five-mile track 54 times for a total of 270 miles. Most of the women in the Group completed 100-150 miles, with Barbara DeLong of ESA making a strong showing with 210 miles; and Sri Chinmoy, Group Director, kept up a slow but steady pace all night long to finish with a highly respectable 175 miles. The Group practised twice daily in Flushing Meadow Park for about three weeks before the event.

A Salute to the Security and Safety Service

On 7 June 1977, the United Nations Meditation Group held a special function to honour the U.N. Security and Safety Service. Colonel H. A. Trimble, Chief of the Service, described the functions and organization of the Service and then answered questions from the audience. Also speaking were Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General, and Sri Chinmoy, Director of the Meditation Group. Excerpts follow.



Sri Chinmoy presents Colonel Trimble with a medallion for his dedicated service to the United Nations.

Dr. Robert Muller: I know of many of the U.N. sites. To me, they have the same meaning as they had for their architects: they are places where the destiny, the peace and the future of our children are being forged. They are the cradles of a more peaceful, just and happy world, a world in which man will find his maximum fulfilment and his limits. It is refreshing to think that on a globe where there is still so much violence, indecency and disfigurement, there are those few islands, the United Nations sites, where one can see cleanliness, decency, no graffiti, no disfiguration, an atmosphere of kindness. This we owe, to a very large degree, to our Security Forces.

Colonel H.A. Trimble: To be a good Security Officer, you have to be an intelligent, mature individual who is ready to exercise the maximum of tact and courtesy with a reasonable amount of good judgment, plus a little bit of training and experience. I cannot overstress the tact and courtesy.

There could be no better atmosphere to work in than the United Nations. I am sure that all my people appreciate this. They believe in the U.N., they are dedicated to the U.N., and I think all these various ingredients go to build up a high sense of morale.

I am a very proud man. Part of the reason for making this statement is that as I look back on my life, I will judge the years that I have spent as the Chief of the Security and Safety Service as a highlight of my career.

Sri Chinmoy: Dear Chief, supreme Chief, good friend of humanity's cause, you are protecting the body of the United Nations; therefore, the soul of the United Nations is extremely, extremely proud of you, for without the body, the soul-reality cannot manifest here on earth.

The United Nations is not only a building; it is something infinitely more important than a building—it is humanity's cry and humanity's smile. With your invaluable service you are becoming one with humanity's cry and humanity's smile.



Colonel Trimble, centre, and Sri Chinmoy, far left, with representatives from the Security and Safety Service.

United Nations Represented in Independence Day Observance

On 4 July 1977, Sri Chinmoy was invited as Director of the U.N. Meditation Group, to read from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and lead a short meditation in an Independence Day Service on the theme of human rights held in New York City's historic Trinity Church.

Other readings by inter-denominational clergy included excerpts from President Carter's Inaugural Address, a section from the United States Constitution and additional national and religious statements.

The Preamble and Articles 1, 2 and 18 from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights that were read by Sri Chinmoy follow.

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world . . .

Now, therefore,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

proclaims

THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of the Member States themselves and among the people of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status . . .

Article 18. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

A Concert by Sri Chinmoy on the Indian Esraj

A concert of spiritual music played on the Indian esraj was performed by Sri Chinmoy on 22 July in the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium. Sri Chinmoy is an internationally known composer and musician, who has recently performed at Carnegie Hall, Town Hall and Lincoln Center. He has recorded more than 12 albums of his own vocal and esraj compositions, which number over 2,700 to date.

The programme also included arrangements of Sri Chinmoy's compositions by vocal and instrumental groups.



Dag Hammarskjöld Honoured

On 29 July 1977, in honour of the birthday of the late Secretary-General, the U.N. Meditation Group observed a few minutes of silence in the small but symbolic United Nations Meditation Room designed by Dag Hammarskjöld. The Group then held a programme of tribute to the second Secretary-General, which included instrumental and vocal arrangements of a song by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to Dag Hammarskjöld, a choral reading of Hammarskjöld's writings, and tributes.

Excerpts from the programme follow.

Sri Chinmoy: Dag Hammarskjöld was a man of unparalleled duty. Duty demands capacity. He perfectly mastered the art of duty. Out of his heart's magnanimity, he shares with us its quintessence: "Somebody placed the shuttle in your hand: Somebody who had already arranged the threads."

A great man is, indeed, a great power. Human power cleverly avoids justification. Divine power does not avoid justification, for there is no need on its part to do so. It knows that justification is only another name for its selfsame reality. The Secretary-General's wisdom-light reveals to us: "Only he deserves power who every day justifies it."

Dag Hammarskjöld was a great man, a good heart, a soulful life, a possessor of perfect vision-light. Something more, he became a fulfilling bridge between humanity's excruciating pangs and divinity's illumining Compassion.

Mr. Donald Keys, Planetary Citizens: The basis for an international civil service was foreshadowed dimly in the League of Nations and was phrased in the Charter of the United Nations, but remained to be focused, anchored, implemented and made more than a vision. And this Dag Hammarskjöld not only did, but he also defended it with his integrity and his matchless sense of duty and, I might say also, with his life.

As is well known, Dag Hammarskjöld stood by those principles, and on the basis of his stand—although from time to time the actions of nations threatened the impartiality—the principle of a true international civil servant remains as one of the crown jewels of the United Nations.

"A youngster of sixteen asked me with concern why there is no reference to God in the United Nations Charter. In my reply I drew his attention to the Preamble of the Charter where the nations express their 'faith in the dignity and worth of the human person' and pledge themselves 'to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors.' I felt sure that he saw here an expression of what, in the faith which was his, was recognized as the will of God: that we should love our neighbors as ourselves."

—from *Markings* by Dag Hammarskjöld

* * *

Whoever leads in the heart is a real leader. This is not the leadership of a self-styled leader. This leadership is the recognition of one's inseparable oneness with the rest of humanity.

* * *

He who wants to convey the message of the soul is the real leader.

* * *

The goal of the United Nations is peace, world peace.

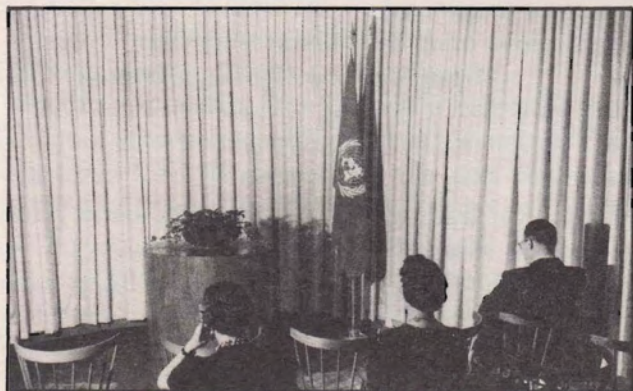
The secret of the United Nations is sacrifice.

The U.N. Meditation Room: Prayer and Meditation at the United Nations

At an informal gathering at the Wainwright House in Rye, New York, on 10 August 1977, speakers from the United Nations and the Wainwright House honoured Weyman C. Huckabee, the Laymen's Movement Executive Director from 1941 to 1969, for his part in the creation of the U.N. Meditation Room and in the decision of the U.N. to open and close its General Assembly Meetings by observing a moment of silence. The Programme, to which the members of the United Nations Meditation Group were invited as special guests, recognised the involvement of the Friends of the United Nations Meditation Room and the Laymen's Movement for a Christian World in the efforts to establish the Meditation Room at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

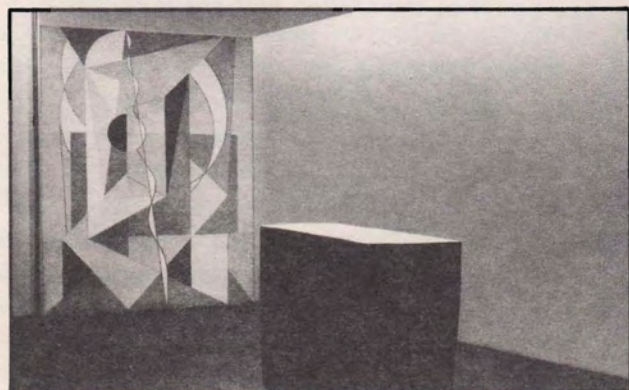
The programme was opened with silent meditation, followed by musical selections played by Sri Chinmoy on the Indian esraj. Remarks were then offered by Mr. John Ballard, Mr. Francis W. Carpenter and Dr. Alfred Sunderwirth, all of the Laymen's Movement, Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination of the United Nations, Mr. Robert McEvoy, City Manager of Rye, and by Mr. Huckabee.

Excerpts from their talks follow.



(Above) A view of the original U.N. Meditation Room at New York Headquarters in Lake Success. The furnishings of this room are now displayed in the Wainwright House, in Rye, New York.

(Below) The U.N. Meditation Room, which was remodeled under the direction of Dag Hammarskjöld, as it appears today. (Photos: United Nations)



Mr. John Ballard, President of the Laymen's Movement and Wainwright House: When I first became interested in the Laymen's Movement, I was attracted by the recognition and purpose of trying to connect one's personal life—inner life, soul life—to the practical affairs with which we work all day long. . . . I was attracted, too, by the international relationship of the Laymen's Movement, with its support through prayer and meditation of the United Nations. So this is indeed a wonderful occasion on which to honour an organisation that has kept the United Nations in its thoughts on a regular basis.

Mr. Francis W. Carpenter, Representative of the Laymen's Movement: The Meditation Room is a most imposing sight, as most of you know, because, in addition to the Meditation Room, you have the plaques there showing tribute to people



who have given their lives for peace. . . . Even though we might not die on the battlefield or anywhere else, all of us, in doing what we are doing, are laying down our lives for peace.

Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: There are many of us in the United Nations for whom the cooperation of all nations around common goals and values is a new form of religion, a supreme path or way. The United Nations is a place of convergence for the dreams and prayers of all peoples for a better world. I cannot help noticing that we see in the U.N. the same perennial human dream which has obsessed all great religions and philosophies, namely, the establishment of a peaceful, happy and brotherly human society on earth.



Dr. Alfred Sunderwirth, Executive Director of the Laymen's Movement and Wainwright House: There is one thing that brings all of us together here—hope for a better world. We realize that the world on the outside has to be shaped by the world on the inside of us. Its formation on the inside of us comes about through our meditation, our sharing and our praying together.



Mr. Weyman Huckabee: When I was given a private audience to talk with Pope Pius XII about the Meditation Room in the United Nations and about the day of prayer set aside for prayer and meditation for world peace, I asked why there was still so much violence in the world in spite of the efforts made to bring peace. He said, "That is a very difficult question." Then, after a pause he continued, "Because, even though we know the Truth, we do not abide by it."

Mr. Robert McEvoy, City Manager of Rye: For the City of Rye I'd like to extend to Mr. Huckabee my sincerest congratulations for your very outstanding work. . . . The International City Management Association has long recognized the value of prayer and meditation. Since 1914 we have practised prayer at our many meetings and in fact initiated all of our meetings with prayer.

Our role is to teach our local government officials something about the cosmos, to help us relax through prayer and meditation and to improve our feelings of well-being so that we may in fact improve the quality and the rewards of public service at the local government level.

* * *

The outer poverty can be transformed only when the inner poverty is removed.

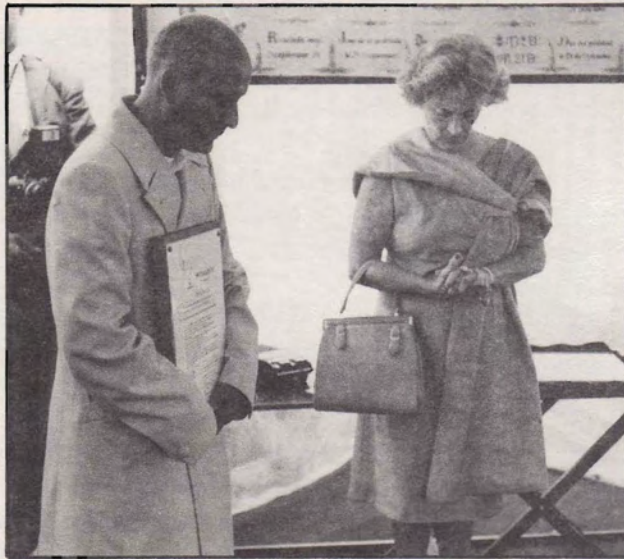
Inner poverty is our lack of faith in our divine reality, our lack of faith in our capacity to realise the ultimate Truth.

Inner poverty is disharmony and restlessness. Inner plenitude is peace, harmony and love.

World Gratitude Day

The United Nations Meditation Group celebrated World Gratitude Day twice this year—once on 12 September in a special programme in the United Nations Secretariat for delegates and staff; and again on 21 September 1977 in World Gratitude Day's New York Headquarters when the Group's Director, Sri Chinmoy, was honoured at official ceremonies. The plaque, presented to him by Mrs. Edna Lemle, president and founder of the organisation dedicated to promoting the cause of worldwide gratitude, cited Sri Chinmoy for having "enhanced the spirit of globalism with his compassion, his creativity and nobility of spirit." The first September 21 World Gratitude Day celebration was held 13 years ago.

This year, citations were presented to nine religious leaders and representatives of organisations. Among others recognised were the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, whose director, Dr. J. Ottley, came from Salt Lake City for the ceremony; Judith Hollister, founder of the interfaith Temple of Understanding; Dr. Russel Barber, producer of the NBC television programme "The First Estate"; and Rabbi Sally Prisent, the first woman in American Judaism to attain the ranks of the clergy. Past awards have been given to UNICEF (as an organisation) and to former General Assembly President Angie Brooks Randolph.



Upon receiving the World Gratitude Day award from Mrs. Edna Fuerth Lemle, Sri Chinmoy said: I am extremely grateful to you and to the Board of Directors for bestowing upon me, upon my devoted heart, this signal honour. You have discovered in me a world-server. A world-server is he who is a God-lover. A God-lover and a world-server are one and the same. Just because God, out of His infinite Bounty, has granted me the opportunity and capacity to love Him, today I am in a position to be of service to humanity, His creation.

Gratitude
day
the 21st
of
September

World Gratitude Day
is pleased to honor—

Sri Chinmoy

Who has enhanced the spirit of globalism with his compassion, creativity and nobility of spirit.

Whose being and achievements reflect the spirit of our Proclamation

Whereas humanity has come to recognize devotion and allegiance to immediate family, to clan, to city, to state, and to nation, and now must experience the concept of globalism, and...

Whereas words of praise and positive thoughts generate dynamic harmony and...

Whereas decisions made from a grateful heart are endowed with intrinsic wisdom and engender prosperity, and...

Whereas gratitude, the opposite of "taking for granted," is a positive emotion which creates good will, is a basic emotion which is indigenous to all people, is a peace producing feeling...

And Whereas September 21st is a special day. It is an equinox: one of the two times of the year when the sun passes over the equator and... night and day are everywhere of equal length and everyone is equal under the sun.

Therefore let us proclaim World Gratitude Day, a holiday for all peoples, a day of meditation for all religions, a day of celebration for all humanity, united by knowledge of a simultaneously shared emotion, a day when triumph of the spirit can make a world community.

Gather with a few friends—
Be aware of being grateful
(To whom and for what is personal)
Know that the emotion of gratitude
is being shared globally

Edna
Edna Fuerth Lemle
President

U Thant Island Dedicated

On 16 September 1977, the United Nations Meditation Group dedicated a small island in the East River, adjacent to U.N. Headquarters, to the memory of the late Secretary-General U Thant. State authorities gave permission for the Meditation Group to beautify the island and build a monument, with Governor Hugh Carey sending an official letter of soulful dedication to U Thant Island, citing U Thant's work for world peace.

The dedication ceremonies, held on what turned out to be a rainy but calm Friday afternoon, included the burying of a metal box or cornerstone, which contained a gold pen and tie clasp belonging to U Thant, as well as various significant artifacts and documents from the U.N., government officials, the Meditation Group and its Director, Sri Chinmoy, a personal friend of the late Secretary-General. Members of U Thant's family were present, with his daughter, Mrs. Aye Aye Myint-U, unveiling the plaque. Representing the U.N. Security and Safety Service was Officer Carlos Stozek, one of the officers who worked closely with U Thant. Officer Stozek broke ground for the cornerstone.

The short programme opened with a silent invocation by Sri Chinmoy.

Sri Chinmoy: Beloved brother U Thant, humanity's divine friend U Thant, we are here today to commemorate and perpetuate your invaluable life's immortal contributions to the length and breadth of the world.

This is an island smaller than the smallest. Indeed, you are another island, larger than the largest, for our gratitude-heart and oneness-soul.

As the finite reality embodies infinite Divinity, even so this smallest earth-aspiration island will embody you, the Heaven-Perfection island, devotedly, soulfully, gratefully and eternally.



Dr. and Mrs. Myint-U and their son, Thant, after the unveiling of the plaque.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

HUGH L. CAREY
GOVERNOR

September 16, 1977

Dear Mr. Chinmoy:

I commend you and the United Nations Meditation Group on your dedication today of U Thant Island, a symbol of world peace. It is right that this Island be named after the late Secretary General U Thant who labored so hard and so long to achieve world peace.

U Thant will be remembered by all who knew him both in his homeland of Burma and at the United Nations. He was a gentle and dedicated man of whom all mankind is proud. The United Nations was greatly strengthened by his actions.

I share your hope and dream that U Thant Island will remind us all of the never-ending and essential quest for peace around the World.

Sincerely,

Mr. Sri Chinmoy
Director
United Nations Meditation Group
Room 1061
The United Nations
New York, New York 10017



Dr. Robert Muller and Sri Chinmoy meditate together on the cornerstone for U Thant Island.

Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: Dear friends and authorities who have made this day possible, it is with great emotion that we are standing here on this little island which U Thant often contemplated from his office on top of the United Nations Building. He had a deep love for rivers. He insisted on living in Riverdale where, from the porch of his house, he could see the Hudson, the sunsets over the Palisades, and meditate. From his office he often looked at the East River and wondered about this little deserted island, which for many United Nations officials has been a source of fascination. He would be a very happy man today if he knew that this tiny spot of our planet had been selected to bear his name, to commemorate him and to remind us of him in our offices in the United Nations. Yes, U Thant Island will be for us a symbol of the high virtues he advocated as the only answers to the troubling problems of our world: truthfulness, integrity, kindness, tolerance, compassion, simplicity, humility, purity and above all, love for all our human brothers and

Letter from UNIS read out by Mrs. Sylvia Fuhrman.

UNITED NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



NATIONS UNIES
ÉCOLE INTERNATIONALE

Mrs. Murray Fuhrman
Special Representative of the Secretary-General

United Nations Headquarters
Room 820
New York, N. Y. 10017
754-6941/6943

In 1967, U Thant received the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding. The Award involved a substantial sum of money which the Secretary-General turned over to the United Nations International School. UNIS used it to establish a scholarship award in his name for a student whose parent is a UN staff member. Since this award is given each year, all those connected with UNIS know of it. Few know, however, of the honoraria for articles or speeches that benefitted UNIS. This generous awareness on the part of an extremely busy and by no means wealthy man, was a true indication of his unflinching support of and dedication to the idea and ideals of international education. He was indeed deeply involved with the School and, during his ten years as Secretary-General and after his retirement, showed it in every possible way. A request to use his good offices on its behalf was always certain of acceptance.

He believed firmly that teachers, in his own words, "have to play a very important and significant role ... in peace keeping and peace building." Himself an educator for twenty years, he came to the conclusion that "in order to fashion a new society, to mold a new generation in keeping with the times, three things were necessary -- mental growth, spiritual growth, and development of a social sense -- in other words, education for citizenship."

U Thant believed, as he said, that to support the School was "to forward the principles of international understanding enumerated in the UN Charter." His own support was unstinting.

sisters. As we stand here today on this island with his family and friends, let us all in our hearts and spirits pledge to him that we will work very hard to help fulfil his dream for a peaceful, just and happy human family on our beautiful planet.

Mr. Donald Keys, Registrar, Planetary Citizens: As has been said, U Thant was first and foremost an educator. Little did he realize to what extent that would be true. He was not only an educator of school children, as university people, he became an educator of heads of state, of governmental representatives. He became an educator of nations in the ways of peace, compassion, tolerance, perseverance, harmonization. He became an educator, not only and perhaps not primarily, by what he did but by being the person that he was. This is attested to over and over again by those who knew him and even by those who did not know him. So it is a great privilege to join today in the establishment of this particular spot as a shrine to our most exalted educator.

Programme Marking the Opening of the 32nd Session of the General Assembly

On 19 September 1977, to mark the opening of this year's General Assembly, United Nations delegates, staff and NGO representatives met in Conference Room 1 to reflect on the theme "United Nations: the Heart-Home of the World-Body." Speakers explored the continually expanding role the United Nations plays at the heart of the global community.

In the tradition of the silent meditation which opens each session of the General Assembly, the Conference opened and closed with a short meditation led by Sri Chinmoy. The programme also included music and short recordings of all the Secretaries-General.

Speakers included: Mr. Robert Chittenden, Chairman of the Staff Committee; Mr. Ervin Laszlo, Special Fellow, UNITAR and Director of the Report of the Club of Rome, "The Goals for Mankind"; Mr. Ghandikota V. Subba Rao, Senior Officer, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and Mr. William Angel, Associate Officer, U.N. Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

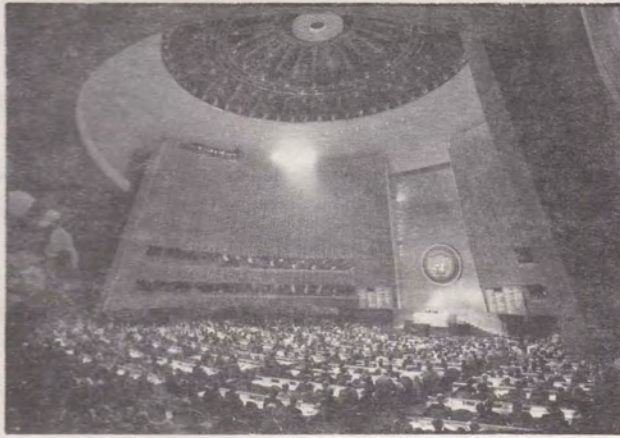


photo: United Nations

Mr. Ervin Laszlo, Special Fellow, UNITAR: We come across this concept of national government over three hundred years ago as being somehow the necessary and perhaps the ultimate form of administrating and coordinating the affairs of human societies. But the true meaning of today's interdependence is that nations also need each other; they cannot manage entirely by themselves.



I think that the growth of human societies, the growth of complexity, the growth of interactions—all of this calls for today the kind of a body that

the United Nations is in the process of becoming. I think this realisation should give even the most commonplace and everyday chore or task that we may have to do, a new meaning, a new significance, because we are in a way at the hub, at the very centre of this new, emerging centre—a brain, a mind and a heart for the evolving societies of our times.



Mr. Robert Chittenden, Chairman of the Staff Committee: The Secretariat was recognised by the Charter as one of the principal organs. Today, as before, the Secretariat remains the heart of this Organisation. It was recognised from the beginning that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity must be met. It was also recognised that if it is to enjoy the confidence of all Member States, the Secretariat must be truly international in character, and cannot be composed of national representatives responsible to governments. I firmly believe that an international civil service is a fundamental pillar of the Organisation.



Mr. Ghandikota V. Subba Rao, Senior Officer, Economic and Social Affairs: There has been the search for codes of conduct in the United Nations in the economic and social as well as in the political fields. In the final analysis, how do you judge these codes of conduct? In the case of individuals, it is by their inner perceptions. . . . This is precisely what is being done through the instrumentality here of the group for meditation led by Sri Chinmoy. These processes take place in the heart; you must think with the heart. It may be a contradiction in a certain sense, but this is basically at the very root of our approaches, our evolving and emerging approaches even to the world economic and social problems.

International institutions and groups of this nature—spiritual or material, psychic or mystic—have a great harmonizing role to play; and beyond the role of harmonization, the role of real integration . . . and diffusion of the teachings of love and brotherhood. If this is not relevant to the U.N., I don't know what is really relevant.

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The United Nations is not a thing to appreciate, admire or adore. Rather, it is the way, the way of oneness, that leads us to the Supreme Oneness. It is like a river flowing toward the source, the Ultimate Source. The United Nations is the way that wants to lead the world to the destined Goal.



Mr. William Angel, Associate Officer, Planning and Evaluation, United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs: I do believe that the U.N. is the heart-home of the world-body. Some people think it is a rather sacrilegious heart. I think it is a very sacred heart. In fact, for me it is *the* sacred heart, but I think the heartbeat is far from adequate. . . .

Besides being an incipient brain and nervous system for the world-body, I believe the United Nations embodies the heart of this emerging universal religion of which the historical, sacred and contemporary secular faces are but branches. And I believe that the U.N. presently is working out this larger synthesis. In fact, I might add on a personal note that the United Nations *is* my religion, and I'm committed to its evolution in this direction via physical, mental, moral and spiritual ways.

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The United Nations is the seed.
World union is the fruit.
God-Vision embodies the seed.
God-Reality reveals the fruit.

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The United Nations is the morning. World union is the day.

When the heart of the morning is flooded with inner light, divine light, the Light of God, then it is not only possible but almost certain that the entire day will be flooded with light.

United Nations Observance of the Pope's Birthday

The 80th birthday of Pope Paul VI was marked by a ceremony of the United Nations on 23 September. Sponsored by the United Nations Meditation Group, the ceremony included remarks by Msgr. Giovanni Cheli, Permanent Observer for the Holy See at the U.N., Father John Donohue of the Holy Family Church, and Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination; and meditation with Sri Chinmoy, who has met Pope Paul on several occasions.



Monsignor Giovanni Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations: Thank you very much for inviting me to participate in this celebration. I am confident that I speak in the name of the staff of our mission when I tell you how happy we are that you have decided to acknowledge the 80th birthday of our Holy Father in this way. We know very well of his great interest and his warm feeling for the United Nations, for the goals of the Charter, and for the people who dedicate their lives to work for peace.

Your intentions and your work in this beautiful Meditation Group under the leadership of this highly respected master of spirituality, Sri Chinmoy, are in harmony with those of the Pope. He will be, therefore, especially happy to receive your greetings on this occasion because he will appreciate the spiritual unity that you share. May I conclude with the Pope's final words to the Secretary-General which, I think, he would want me to say to you on his behalf: "We wish thus to reiterate to you our esteem and our encouragement, our desires and our hopes. And we pray that God may bless you and those who work with you."



Father John Donohue, Holy Family Church: The great world-religions . . . teach the truth of the brotherhood of all human beings under the Fatherhood of a loving and caring God. Pope Paul gave voice to this fundamental tenet held by all religious faiths when he said, in the same address, "Men are brothers, God is their Father, and their Father wills that they live in peace with one another as brothers should." May this truth soon be recognized and accepted by all who bear the responsibility of maintaining peace among the nations.

Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: During my many years with the United Nations, I had occasion to observe the important role of Pope Paul in world affairs and matters of peace. As you know, he was a dear friend of former Secretary-General U Thant, whom I often heard speak of him with great fondness and admiration. Pope Paul was one of the few people, a group of very special persons, with whom U Thant was in constant spiritual and humanistic communion. Later, I had the privilege of accompanying Secretary-General Waldheim to Rome when he visited His Holiness for the first time. I can remember vividly how much the issue of peace loomed large in the spirit and heart of His Holiness.