

The Holy See Mission Honours the Meditation Group

The evening of 9 December 1977 Monsignor Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, and members of the Mission honoured members of the U.N. Meditation Group at a reception, appreciating the Group's printing of the Holy See Mission's booklet on World Peace Day.

Excerpts from a statement which was read out by Monsignor Cheli and remarks made by Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination, follow.

Monsignor G. Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See: My dear friends, it is a pleasure for the Holy See Mission to have you here and to get to know each of you who has worked so generously with us in the preparation of the World Peace Day Booklet.

You represent in the U.N. Secretariat a movement that seeks to help the people of the U.N., who are so busy and so preoccupied, to find themselves through the exercise of meditation, prayer and contemplation. In silence and reflection, people find themselves again. Not only themselves, but they find their origin, God. They identify their task in this world, which is to love and help their neighbour. Finally, they locate their ultimate goal, which is to return to the Creator. In reflection, people come to see clearly the true scale of value of the created things around them and they learn to give to each one of them the right priority. The secret for happiness, for interior peace and brotherly co-existence with others: it's all here! For this reason, we here at the Holy See Mission feel ourselves very close to you, and we feel ourselves supported and encouraged in our efforts to inject moral and spiritual values into the United Nations. We wish that this communion of spirit and of aims would continue forever.

We wish to thank all who collaborated with us. You will be happy to know that your efforts have touched people all over the world. We have sent a copy to the Holy Father in Rome, to members of the Curia, to all the Permanent Missions at the United Nations; UNICEF has asked us for six extra copies. So, you know that your work has gone to all corners of the globe. Everywhere, people comment on the beauty of the reproduction. So we congratulate everyone who contributed to it.



Monsignor Cheli serving the guests.

Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: Year after year, the scope of the UN's work increases, as does its perception of the totality. This is one of the most prestigious and amazing stories the earth has ever seen. Alas, it is understood by only a very few of the four billion inhabitants. . . . The UN is the school where all learn from each other, listen to each other, try to find solutions and define what is good and bad for the whole human family. It is the place of a thousand bridges. It is the cradle of future world destiny, the scanning light of our planet, the warning tower from which one global signal after the other is emitted to humans over the globe. It is the birthplace of unique world efforts which help humanity to better know itself and guide its behaviour in our planetary home.

The religions and the prophets and the poets and artists did not need a United Nations, a world organization, conferences or experts to help them discover the truth. They saw it straight with the heart, with an internal vision, with an instinct that went right to the point without getting lost in the convolutions of the mind. They all gave us generally correct codes of conduct, codes of inter-

nal serenity, codes of happiness, codes for the highest fulfilment of the miracle of life. . . . This will explain to you why I am listening so attentively with my mind, heart and soul to what great religions and spiritual groups have to say. They have a long experience of human life and often their perceptions are still the quickest and most accurate. This is why I am grateful to you for your efforts to give the work of the United Nations a spiritual interpretation and dimension.

* * *

From the spiritual point of view, the soul-love of the United Nations will always remain resourceful in all problematical situations, untiring in the discharge of its national and international duties, sagacious in its willingness to add to the peace, love and joy of searching and ascending humanity.

Benefits for UNICEF

On 11 December 1977 Sri Chinmoy awarded the UNICEF Cup to world-class marathon runner Dr. Norb Sander, who finished first out of 300 competitors in the Ten Mile Benefit Run for UNICEF held in New Canaan, Connecticut, on UNICEF's 31st Anniversary.

Dr. Sander, who won the New York City Marathon two years ago, finished the race in 54 minutes and 30 seconds. The run was sponsored by the Sri Chinmoy Centre in honour of the up-coming International Year of the Child.



Dr. Sander, holding the UNICEF Cup, with Sri Chinmoy (left), staff members of UNICEF and children who participated in the run.

On receiving the trophy, Dr. Sander said warmly: In over twenty years of running, I think this has been one of the most inspiring running experiences that I've ever had.

Sri Chinmoy presented the winner with a watch, replying: This is a watch, as a very humble, symbolic token of my deepest appreciation for your most extraordinary running achievement, Doctor. Being a seeker, I wish to tell you that I value most cheerfulness and devotion. I had the good fortune of watching our best runner and I saw him cheerful throughout the run, and I also felt his devotedness towards today's cause, today's run. Therefore, from the inmost recesses of my heart I wish to offer this. It is a time piece, which symbolically tells that your time has pleased us, perhaps far beyond your own imagination.

Several U.N. Meditation Group members who performed in the Madal Circus production for UNIS children in the spring participated in a benefit for UNICEF at Lincoln Center the evening of 11 December 1977. Mrs. Sylvia Fuhrman, Special Representative of the Secretary-General at UNIS, who is in charge of entertainment for the UNICEF Benefit Committee, invited Ashrita the Magician, Abakash the Fire Eater, Ribhu the Clown and Madal Circus jugglers to perform in conjunction with the gala benefit performance of "The Nutcracker" at the New York State Theatre. The proceeds of the evening were donated to the Emergency Relief Fund in India.

Oneness-Earth

The evening of 14 December 1977 the U.N. Meditation Group celebrated the universal brotherhood and unity which are evoked in this season of holidays around the world with a programme entitled "Oneness-Earth." The programme, which was filmed by CBS-TV for broadcasting on Christmas Day, included statements by Ambassadors and U.N. Officials and the performance of a song written by Sri Chinmoy especially for the occasion. On display was the painting entitled "United Nations: the Heart-Home of the World-Body," by Sri Chinmoy. The work is dedicated to United Nations efforts for peace and had been recently exhibited around the world as an ambassador of good will and world-oneness.

Following are brief excerpts from each of the speeches.

Mr. Jeff Kamen, U.N. Correspondent, WPIX-TV News: Ladies and gentlemen, good evening and welcome. The United Nations Meditation Group is honoured by the presence of diplomats whose lives are dedicated to the service of mankind. Despite differences of culture, language and faith, they are in fact united in the vision of the inseparability of the human family, of the need to share our fragile planet in love and peace.

This holiday season gathering at the headquarters of the world organisation is tangible proof that there are people of conscience and compassion who clearly understand that whoever leads in the heart is a true leader.



Mr. Thami Mhlambiso, Representative of the African National Congress: Friends, I am happy to join with you this evening when the holiday season is approaching, the festive season when friends and loved ones will be joined. . . . Let us resolve to bring an end to apartheid and to fight the enemies of freedom and justice. Let us remember also all our brothers and sisters who are homeless today, for it must be our task and duty to see that they also have a place in the sun, so that oneness on earth will flourish.

H. E. Dr. Jorge Illueca, Permanent Representative of Panama: On this occasion we do well to meditate on the main purpose of the United Nations, which is to be a centre for harmonising



the actions of nations in the peaceful attainment of international cooperation and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. . . . In their quest for peace, brotherhood and harmony, the peoples of the world share common beliefs, hopes and dreams, and they should come closer one to the other at a time when this "Oneness-Earth" is plunging toward the twenty-first century.



Dr. John Grun, Director of the International Year of the Child Secretariat: If there is one issue on which the world is in agreement, it is surely the child. Men and women everywhere agree with the Declaration of the Rights of the Child when it says that the world owes the child the best it has to give. That world, of course, is us, all of us. . . .

Just as we can best serve our neighbour by loving him as ourselves, so we can best serve ourselves and the world by thinking of and loving others. Loving a child, truly, with an open heart and an open intellect is as beneficial to us as it is to the child.

There is no future for us—morally, emotionally, physically—except in the child, in the world's children, *our* children.

That is the spirit which the International Year of the Child seeks to kindle, a spirit from which down-to-earth practical and realistic action for the benefit of children cannot fail but flow in abundance.



H. E. Mr. Allard Lowenstein, Alternate Representative of the United States: I hope that in this programme commemorating the holidays and the international sense of renewal, there will also come to people the realisation that much more is necessary than the repetition of the Declaration of Human Rights or the Charter or past expressions of hope or brotherhood. . . . I think that if people simply remember, in this season, how much they have to learn from one another, how much they have to give to one another, and how much they lose by despoiling one another, perhaps the spirit represented by the President's new leadership in human rights and by Andy Young's remarkable efforts around the world to find common denominators for human beings to work together will grow and flourish.



Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: Never before has there been such an opportunity for the fulfilment, for the flowering of human life into an unbelievable consciousness, if we work together at it, not only with our minds, with our hands and intelligence, but also with our hearts and with our souls. We must learn to understand again our place in the universe. We must learn to believe again in the magic of creation, in the miracle which planet earth is and

which each human life is. This is the great story which is beginning to emerge in the United Nations. I only wish that the public, instead of seeing merely failures and inefficiencies, would try to look at the magnificent human story, the only possible human story, that is beginning to be written in this house. This is my wish on this Christmas.



Monsignor G. Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See: The beautiful traditions of Christmas and occasions like this, when we can get together to share our thoughts and feelings at this season, are an inspiration to us to renew our love for our Creator and all of creation. We know that if all would have love for each other and for the universe which has been given to us, then all the problems of the world would be resolved. For, if we probe deeply to the very root of all the tremendous problems which we at the United Nations attempt to alleviate—racism, disarmament, hunger, underdevelopment, economic injustice, ecological imbalances, etc.—we would find that there at the beginning of the problem is a lack of love. We are dismayed to find that egotism, selfishness, pride and ill-will are operative in place of love and its manifestations in generosity, reconciliation, humility and hope.



Sri Chinmoy, Director of the U.N. Meditation Group: The desire-man demands division-earth. The aspiration-man yearns for Oneness-Earth. Oneness-Earth means God-Satisfaction in its universal Dream-Reality. Dream is the oneness of the earth-family; Reality is the perfection ever-transcending of the earth-family.

Finland: Champion of Independence

On 15 December 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group sponsored a programme highlighting the musical tradition of Finland, in recognition of Finland's sixtieth year of independence and in celebration of the twenty-second anniversary of Finland's admittance to the United Nations. The programme included a slide show, performances of Finnish folk music, works by Jean Sibelius and the National Anthem of Finland.

His Excellency Mr. Ilkka Olavi Pastinen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations, addressed the gathering, and special guest artist, Ms. Laura Penttinen entertained the audience by playing the kantele.

The programme was warmly received, especially by the Finns at the United Nations, including Assistant Secretary-General Helvi Sipila, who praised the warmth and charm of the function.

Excerpts from the programme follow.

H. E. Mr. Ilkka Olavi Pastinen, Permanent Representative of Finland: For Finns and for me personally, independence is something that is not an abstract concept. It is not even an abstract national concept, but it is a deeply felt national commitment which is anchored in everyday reality and it is a deeply felt personal commitment which is a living reality. . . . Now the main theme today is music in Finland, or how we perceive the Finnish music. Finnish music and particularly the music of Sibelius is closely interwoven with our aspirations for independence. It is not only a symbol of independence; it is synonymous with it. . . .

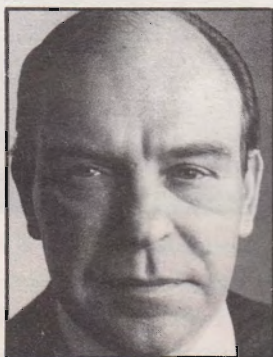
Now I find no better way of describing the particular message that this music conveys to us than by quoting a very beautiful thought which is found in one of the United Nations Meditation Group bulletins: "The outer message of the United Nations is Peace. The inner message of the United Nations is Love. The inmost message of the United Nations is Oneness. Peace we feel. Love we become. Oneness we manifest." These are very much

thoughts that I believe inspire the Finnish people. And as we celebrate their independence, we find music perhaps as an instrument to convey those feelings, as a messenger of those feelings.



Finnish guests enjoy homemade native sweets.

photo: United Nations



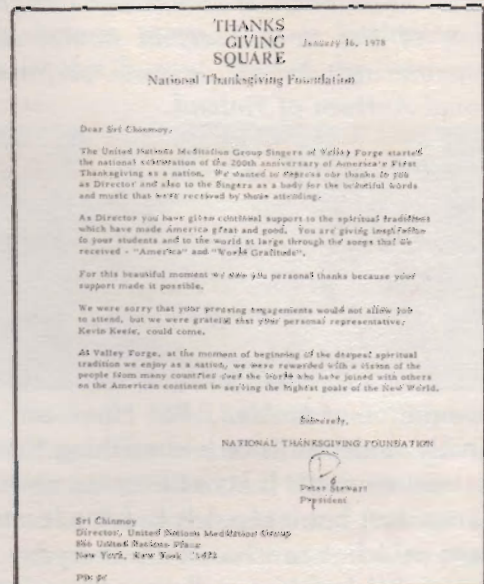
H.E. Mr. Ilkka Olavi Pastinen
Permanent Representative of Finland

Mrs. Linda Serlin of UNICEF commented on the music of Sibelius: During his lifetime, Sibelius commanded more universal respect in the music-loving world in general than perhaps any other person in musical history. Sibelius's music, particularly his early work, tells of his home, Finland—the Finnish land and its people—its strength and its love of freedom. We love Sibelius's music. In celebrating the respect for the individual that is native to Finland, Sibelius was declaring, "We love our way; it is best for us. You too have your way, and your way must be right for you. As long as the way is made of strength and beauty and respect for human beings, as long as it permits each man to be the man he wants to be, then it must be right, no matter what the pattern of it may be."

Meditation Group Singers Perform at Valley Forge

On 18 December the United Nations Meditation Group Singers were invited to open an historic commemoration of the 200th anniversary of America's first Thanksgiving Day, which was observed by George Washington and his soldiers at Valley Forge on 18 December 1777. The singers performed Sri Chinmoy's songs "World Gratitude" and "O My America" for the programme, in which members of the armed forces, the clergy and the international community participated.

A letter of appreciation received by the Meditation Group is reproduced here.



Christmas Carol Sing

U.N. delegates and staff joined Mrs. Coretta King in singing Christmas carols in the U.N. Secretariat lobby on 19 December 1977, during a carol sing hosted by the Meditation Group. Adding to the holiday spirit were large colourful paintings by Sri Chinmoy, which were on display.

Mrs. King charmed the several hundred who gathered by opening the programme with a solo performance of the spiritual "King of Kings" and then asked the audience to join her in singing this and many other favourite carols.



Before singing the spiritual "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," Mrs. King said: I often compare the message in this Christmas spiritual to the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. It was one of his favorite songs, and very often at this time of year he would ask me to sing it at one of our regular meetings at Ebenezer Baptist Church as a meditation solo.



Mrs. King comments on Sri Chinmoy's paintings: I like his work. I'd love to have one of them, as a matter of fact, because there's a lot of feeling in them. . . . He's just a creative person—to create—I guess that's what he's all about.

Meditation Park Planned

Newsday / 20 CENTS
FRIDAY,
DEC. 2, 1977
THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER • NASSAU EDITION

Meditation Garden Planned for Trade Park

By Fred Tuccillo

Southampton—The developers of a planned \$100-million world trade park in Westhampton announced yesterday that the complex is to include a 1,000-seat amphitheatre, conference center and "mediation garden" to be built in cooperation with the United Nations Meditation Group.

A spokesman for Suffolk Industrial Overseas World Trade Park Inc. said that the facility, tentatively named "Oneness World," was proposed by the meditation group. The 8-year-old, nonsectarian organization has 100 United Nations staffers and delegates as members but has no official connection with the UN. The group's spiritual leader is Sri Chinmoy, a 46-year-old native of India, who now lives in the metropolitan area.

The developers were authorized by the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency Oct. 12 to sell \$100 million in tax-free bonds to finance construction of the park adjacent to the county airport at Westhampton. County officials plan to seek federal design-

nation of the site as a foreign trade zone. That would enable foreign goods to be shipped in for final assembly without customs clearance or import duties and to be shipped out for distribution overseas or within the United States.

Bernard Curchack, a spokesman for the UN Meditation Group, said yesterday that his organization had contacted Myron B. Levy, the world trade park's vice president and general manager, after reading about the planned complex and its theme, "Working for World Peace Through World Trade."

Andrew Boracci, a spokesman for the developers, said that the meditation facility will "show how the world trade park is reflective of that theme and not just a spread of warehouses." While the developers have agreed to set aside up to five acres of about 300 on the site for the meditation group, a decision on whether the land would be donated or purchased will depend on private funding for the facility, Boracci said.

"We wanted a meditation park where people could

come out, have lunch, spend some quiet time and which people who would work in the trade park could use as well," Curchack said. No design or cost estimates have been prepared yet. But he said that planners envision an auditorium "prestigious enough to house concerts and other performances, a commercial library which businesses could use," language translation rooms, and a "meditation garden" surrounding a fish pond, he said.

Curchack and Boracci said that the name "Oneness World" was suggested by Sri Chinmoy. Chinmoy, whose published works include "Yoga and the Spiritual Life," has an estimated 900 followers nationwide for a philosophy which "combines western dynamism and eastern spirituality," Curchack said.

"It's a philosophy of working in the world," Curchack said. "We don't go around seeking converts or anything like that. We try to inspire humanity, to show what it can do, not only in the arts, but by getting in touch with that higher part of yourself through meditation."

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE
FROM THE UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

- Meditation at the United Nations
A monthly bulletin covering the activities of the Meditation Group
- U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry
Illumining comments on the life of U Thant by Sri Chinmoy as well as statements about U Thant by United Nations officials and other international figures

Collections of talks given at the United Nations by Sri Chinmoy:

- The Garland of Nation-Souls
- The Tears of Nation-Hearts
- Union-Vision
- Reality-Dreams

Questions answered at the United Nations by Sri Chinmoy:

- Flame-Waves, Parts 1-8
General questions asked at the U.N.
- Two God-Servers and Man-Lovers, Parts 1-2
Questions asked by Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination
- The Inner Vision: Love of God, The Outer Mission: Service of Humanity
Questions asked by Mr. David Rowe, Political Advisor, United States Mission to the United Nations.

- A Salute to the United Nations Security and Safety Service
A compilation by the Meditation Group of informative talks and personal interviews with Security staff at the United Nations

The Meditation Group has published a number of pamphlets written by Dr. Robert Muller, relating his experiences at the United Nations and his philosophy of positive living:

The Example of a Great Ethical Statesman:
U Thant
My Proclamation of Faith in the UN
Father de Breuvery and Teilhard
Thank You, Dr. Coué
The Need for Global Education
A Copernican View of World Cooperation
Of Good Teachers
A Biological View of World Cooperation
The Secretary-General of the UN
Prayer and Meditation at the United Nations
Reflections on Pope Paul's Doctrine of Peace

The Meditation Group has published, in pamphlet form, the complete transcripts of a number of the programmes described in this booklet:

Muhammad Ali and Sri Chinmoy Meditate
Compassion-Ocean Mother Lillian
Compassion-Father, Champion-Brother, Perfection-Friend (*birthday of Pope Paul VI*)
20th Anniversary of the U.N. Meditation Room
International Thanksgiving 1977
Kennedy: The Universal Heart
Martin Luther King: Humanity's Aspiration-Hero
Human Rights Day Programme
Oneness-Earth

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UNITED NATIONS:



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

We Believe

...and we hold that each man has the potentiality of reaching the Ultimate Truth. We also believe that man cannot and will not remain imperfect forever. Each man is an instrument of God. When the hour strikes, each individual soul listens to the inner dictates of God. When man listens to God, his imperfections are turned into perfections, his ignorance into knowledge, his searching mind into revealing light and his uncertain reality into all-fulfilling Divinity.

-United Nations Meditation Group

The United Nations Meditation Group is an association of U.N. delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents.

Schedule of Meetings

Tuesdays: 1-2 p.m.

U.N. Secretariat, New York
Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium

Wednesdays: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

U.N. Secretariat, New York

Fridays: 12 noon to 1 p.m.

U.N. Secretariat, New York
Room 550

Tuesdays: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

U.N. Secretariat, Geneva

For information

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GPO 20-room 1925, United Nations, N.Y. 10017

THE UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

The United Nations Meditation Group is an association of U.N. delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents, who believe that inner reflection and meditation can bring us in touch with the founding spirit of the United Nations and inspire renewed dedication to its ideals.

The main focus of our activities, both in New York and in Geneva, is our thrice-weekly meditations, which provide an opportunity for quiet, spiritual renewal in an atmosphere reflective of the highest purposes of the world organisation. In addition, through an ongoing series of conferences and symposia, we provide forums where ambassadors, Secretariat officials and staff, religious leaders and other world-minded individuals can share and reinforce their spiritual vision for the United Nations.

The United Nations Meditation Group was founded in 1970, when interested staff members invited the distinguished spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy to conduct non-denominational meditation at New York Headquarters. Since then, the Group's membership has grown considerably and its expanded activities have been warmly received by the U.N. community.

Cover photo: United Nations