

Dinner in Honour of International Women's Day

On 9 March 1978 Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations hosted a dinner in honour of International Women's Day for women working in world affairs. The dinner was held in the Church Center for the United Nations. At the end of the evening's programme, which included music on the Indian esraj by Sri Chinmoy and vocal and instrumental performances by Meditation Group members, several guests spoke informally about the significance of International Women's Day. Following are excerpts from their impromptu remarks.



Mr. Donald Keys, President, Planetary Citizens: There are, I sometimes reflect, perhaps three United Nations. There is the United Nations of the delegations. There is the United Nations of the international Civil Service, the Secretariat. And thinking of International Women's Day, I wish to say that women have not fared very well in all this time in the United Nations. Then there is another United Nations, and that's the United Nations that belongs to all of us. Here this problem doesn't exist. It's the United Nations which is the goal of humanity. It's the United Nations which is the future of humanity. It's the United Nations which represents the synthesis and the Point Omega of human evolution on this very small planet: the United Nations of immanent human oneness. That is the United Nations to which we all belong and the reason, after all, that we are here.

Sra. Emilia Castro de Barish, Minister Plenipotentiary of Costa Rica: I sometimes have great faith in the U.N. Sometimes I feel disappointed that we cannot accomplish so many things that would be good for humanity because there is not the political will. We keep hoping and praying that things can be better in the world. And we have to keep trying to work for peace and for the betterment of mankind.

Thank you.

Sister Janet Richardson, Attaché, the Holy See Mission: When Archbishop Caseroli was here for the World Peace Day Programme, he had a taped dialogue with Mr. Robert Muller. That dialogue we are going to publish, but I can give you a little advance on it. In that dialogue the Archbishop said that if the United Nations didn't already exist, we would have to bring it into existence. And then he said as long as the United Nations remains the way it was intended, it would always have the Roman Catholic Church for an ally, because they have at least one thing in common: they are both catholic. So I leave you his message.

Ms. Patricia Murray, The National Council of Black Women and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers: What I feel today on International Women's Day is that the United Nations remains kind of a dream deferred, a dream not yet realised, a dream still composed of characters who are primarily male. I think that the United Nations will not become a dream realised until each of us begins to realise the God within ourselves. The United Nations can only be as enlightened as we are. It is important that the emphasis be on the enlightenment of each individual, for only then will the United Nations become that dream realised.

Ms. Yvette Ripplinger, UNITAR: Recently I saw a motion picture in which they depicted slave ships with everybody rowing in the galley and working very hard to make the vessel go. And I realised that the victory in those times depended on how fast the slaves on the ship could pull the oars. Of course, the United Nations is not a galley ship or a slave ship. But it is a ship which has a lot of oars to pull as fast as possible in order to win the victory. Since it is Women's Day, I think women have to realise that if they really want to play their proper role, they have to sit side by side with men and pull the oars just as quickly, so we can finally reach the goal and the victory, which is peace.

A Visit to the Riverdale Country School

On 14 March 1978 members of the Meditation Group were invited by Dr. and Mrs. Tyn Myint-U, son-in-law and daughter of the late Secretary-General U Thant, to give an assembly programme at the Riverdale Country School, which the Myint-U's children attend. The programme consisted of instructive and entertaining instrumental performances by several of the Group's musicians as well as a surprise ending with Ashrita the Magician, who has dazzled audiences at many of the Group's benefits for



UNICEF. The Principal conveyed his appreciation to the Meditation Group through the Myint-U's and sent along as well the sincere and charming expressions of gratitude from some of the students. Reprinted here are a few of these letters.

RIVERDALE COUNTRY SCHOOL
WEST 225th ST & FIELDSTONE ROAD
BRIDGE, NEW YORK 10477

HEAD OF THE LOWER SCHOOL

March 14, 1978

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Myint-U,

Thank you so very much for arranging the marvelous assembly program. As I am sure you were aware, the children were intrigued and enjoyed the performances immensely.

The musicians and musicians are indeed talented individuals who have developed a most interesting and entertaining combination of skills.

Again, let me express my sincere thanks and appreciation for your support of and interest in our school and children.

Most sincerely,
R. Barry Ryan

P.S. Please extend my heartfelt thanks, on behalf of myself and the students, to the meditation group.

March 14, 1978

Dear U.N. Meditation Group.

I really enjoyed the show.

I thought the music you played was fantastic and the magician did really tricky tricks.

the end

from,

Christopher Russell

March 14, 1978

Dear U.N. Meditation Group.

Thank you for coming to visit us.

I liked the musicians and the magician with the jokes.

from,

Jeffrey-Rivera

March 14, 1978

Dear U.N. Meditation Group

Thank you for coming to visit. I liked it very much. I liked when you flattened the bird. And I liked the music.

from,

David Morris

March 14, 1978

Dear U.N. Meditation Group.

Thank you for coming.

I liked the musicians and the magician.

from,

Keli Rosenberg

Peace Corps Anniversary Celebration

The Peace Corps commemorated its seventeenth anniversary on 15 March 1978 with an evening programme at the United Nations in Conference Room 4, co-sponsored by Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations. Mr. Sam Brown, Director of ACTION, of which the Peace Corps is a part, delivered the keynote address and presented the Hubert H. Humphrey Award for International Service, marking the first time the Peace Corps has publicly commended its own volunteers and staff. Congressman Christopher John Dodd of Connecticut, a former Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic, and Ms. Velma Linford, a Peace Corps staff member for fourteen years, received the Award.

The Meditation Group singers opened the anniversary programme. Speakers included U.S. Ambassador Allard Lowenstein, Malaysian Ambassador Zaiton Ibrahim, Ghanaian Ambassador Frank E. Boaten, Congressman Dodd and Haskell Ward, N.Y.C. Commissioner of Community Development and former Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia.

Excerpts from the programme follow.



His Excellency Mr. F.E. Boaten, Permanent Representative of Ghana: We in Ghana will ever remember the Peace Corps Volunteers for their invaluable contribution to Ghana's Education Service in the field of teaching, especially in the early sixties. Those were the years when the implementation of Ghana's accelerated educational programme had created a need for more teachers, especially in the fields of science and mathematics, for Ghana's newly established secondary schools. I recall with deep gratitude that it was the young men and women Volunteers of the Peace Corps Organisation who provided this much needed expertise in our schools.

Please permit me to salute the founders of the Peace Corps and its management. I would like to pay a particular tribute to the Volunteers, including those of them who are not present here this evening but whose dedication and sense of service to mankind have enabled the Peace Corps Organisation to continue to thrive today.



His Excellency Mr. Tan Sri Zaiton Ibrahim, Permanent Representative of Malaysia: Peace Corps Volunteers are found in almost every sector of Malaysian life—in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, education and health, to name a few—and in the towns and cities, in the villages and the countryside. More than 3,000 Volunteers have served in my country and I am happy to say that their dedication and enthusiasm have cemented a bond of friendship between the American and the Malaysian peoples which could never be equalled.

Truly, it can be said that Malaysia owes a great debt of gratitude to the Peace Corps Volunteers.

Congressman Christopher John Dodd of Connecticut: It was a presumptuous idea seventeen years ago when Senator Humphrey and President Kennedy first initiated the idea of a Peace Corps. Certainly the idea was then, as I assume it is today, to make a lasting contribution to those nations and to those peoples of the world who



need help, who need help to help themselves. But what has happened for all of us who have shared in that experience is that we have taken, I think, far more than we have given. I certainly feel as one ex-Peace Corps Volunteer that the Dominican Republic gave me far more than I ever contributed.



Mr. Sam Brown, Director of ACTION: I think we have ourselves, as Americans, gained immeasurably in an understanding of the aspirations of the world, in an understanding of the peoples of the world, in an understanding of our own opportunity and of our own limitations in the world. And I think every Volunteer that returned came back impressed not with his own capacity to contribute, but more with the severe limitations of what could be done by those of us who live here, in a developing country, abroad. . . .

We now have the capacity to understand better the nature of what our contribution can be, to understand that it must be toward a self-sufficiency, not toward providing technical skill or some other kind of skill which is not necessarily appropriate. It must be to give of ourselves, of our character, of our understanding; and in return for that giving, to receive a kind of abundance for our own country that comes from genuine giving.



Mr. William David Angel, Associate Officer, Planning and Evaluation Office of the Assistant Secretary-General, U.N. Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs: The Peace Corps represents one of the best peace-building forces that we have ever produced on a formal basis. In fact, the Peace Corps of the United States of America and the United Nations Volunteers have grown from a common peace ideal and peace action, which seem to be their unifying links.

The international peace corps idea has spread around the world from the battlefields of World War I near Verdun, and advanced by numerous peace corps: in Europe and North America and Africa, Asia and Latin America. . . . I do hope that the tremendous resources that you offer (in terms not only of your past and present, but of your future) can be devoted to the further realization of this peace corps idea on the country, regional and global levels, and to your counterpart in the world community, the United Nations Volunteers.



Mr. Haskell Ward, N.Y.C. Commissioner of Community Development: Two things I wish to

say about the kinds of people that went into the Peace Corps. First, they were concerned; they thought that people made the difference.

The second thing about Peace Corps Volunteers is that they are all concerned about social justice. Wherever you see them, whether they are involved with this country or in the international area, they are all concerned about international justice. It is not an accident that Peace Corps Volunteers who are in the international area find it very easy to concern themselves with the problems of the poor in this country. And it is not an accident that the kind of people who concerned themselves with the poor in this country are also concerned about the problems of the poor internationally. Those people form a community.



Ambassador Allard Lowenstein of the United States: We have learned a lot about the complexities of motive and of impact. We now know that the Peace Corps cannot be just "us doing for them." It has to be also "them doing for us" and "us doing for us"; and sooner or later hopefully there will be no us and no them, but "everybody doing for everybody."

All that is best in our country depends on people finding each other. And to the extent that governments stand in the way of this, they are doing something that is harmful; and to the extent that governments facilitate this, they are reinforcing the work and ideals that they are carrying out on another level.

Mr. Thomas Drahrman, Executive Director of International Medical and Research Foundation: We all know the Peace Corps has lived through hard times. We know the criticisms; but the fact remains that for the vast majority of volunteers, the experience has been a positive one. And for



these, the question of development in all its forms, especially human social development, is a pressing and important issue. When these former Peace Corps Volunteers become involved in human issues, they are able to call upon the skills, experience and sensitivities that were nurtured through their Peace Corps commitment. This commitment highlights the human aspect of development. The Peace Corps experience enables both the volunteer and the host country nationals to *be* more—not merely have more. And this disposition hopefully carries over into all future activities of human endeavours.

Dr. Jasperdean Kobes, Director of Programs, World Education, Inc.: I would like to re-echo some of the thoughts that Congressman Dodd and Sam Brown made regarding the resource that returning Peace Corps Volunteers represent. In 1972, when we were preparing for the tenth anniversary of Ethiopia I, which went into training in 1962, we surveyed approximately 250 of our group to find out what we thought of the Peace Corps ten years later and also what we were doing ten years later. We found out two things. First, most of us felt that our service in Ethiopia had really been much less useful than we thought it was in the beginning. We realised that we had learned much more from the experience than we probably had given. And secondly, we found out that a very large proportion of our group was working in activities related to community development and social change. So I think there is a vast network of us out there that could really be tapped for developing this country.

Eight Years of Service to the United Nations

On 14 April 1978 Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations commemorated eight years of dedicated service to the United Nations community in a celebration of music and readings, held in the Chapel of the Church Center for the United Nations. Below are excerpts from expressions of the Group's gratitude for Sri Chinmoy's tireless dedication to the Meditation Group and the United Nations since the Group's founding in 1970, and Sri Chinmoy's reply.



Mr. Kwandwo Ofosu-Benefo, Senior Officer, ESA: We have been deeply blessed by your coming into our midst to lead us on the path of peace, oneness and love. Of course, there have been many difficulties and trials, but with the strength and courage supplied by the Supreme Pilot and courage supplied by the Supreme Pilot Himself, we hope to be able to achieve much with your guidance and leadership.

Mr. Donald Keys, President, Planetary Citizens: A great son of the East who came to the West in the fulness of his light made it possible for us to see more clearly, to love more purely, to understand more deeply and act more truly. He has completed a thirteen-year cycle [Sri Chinmoy came to the West in 1964], performing the eternal role of a great Son, a redeemer, a transmuter and a transformer of ignorance and darkness, that mankind may set its foot on the path of return, that those who follow may find their way and that the world-body will be served and enlightened.

Sri Chinmoy: Dear brothers and sisters, while walking along Eternity's Road, I shall love and serve you. Just because you have given me the opportunity to love you and serve you, I shall constantly and eternally offer you my life of concern here on earth and my soul of oneness in Heaven.

We are all of the One, our Beloved Supreme. We came into the world to fulfil one soulful promise which we made to Him before we entered into this world arena. This promise was to please Him in His own way through our aspiration-heart and dedication-life. We shall without fail fulfil our solemn promise, for we know that our Inner Pilot, our fate-maker, will never allow us to remain unfulfilled.

As we said, Him to please in His own way we came into the world. Even so, our Beloved Supreme is always ready to please the real in us, the soul, which is inseparably one with Him. The soul is a blue bird which flies in the firmament of Consciousness, Light and Bliss, eternally singing only one song—the song of our Beloved Supreme's constant Victory here on earth and there in Heaven.

Musical Lecture-Demonstration by C. V. Narasimhan

On the evening of 30 May 1978, Mr. C.V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary-General for the United Nations Office of Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination, offered a lecture-demonstration on the devotional element of South Indian Classical Music, sponsored by the Meditation Group. Following are excerpts from Mr. Narasimhan's lecture and Sri Chinmoy's expression of gratitude on behalf of the Meditation Group for the Under-Secretary-General's exemplary dedicated service to the United Nations.



Mr. C.V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination: The object of our music, as conceived by these great composers, is not to entertain; it is not to please the ear. It is to reach out and touch your heart and to make it possible for you to tune yourself in to the same wavelength as the Infinite so that you can establish in that supreme moment a communion with the Lord Himself. . . .



Sri Chinmoy: We are extremely grateful to you, most revered brother Narasimhan. We are extremely grateful to you for your most soulful, most illumining and most fulfilling songs. Your matchless selfless service to the soul and the body

of the United Nations can only be felt and never be described, for it will always beggar description. Only the sincere seekers who are serving the United Nations know how selflessly you have been serving the United Nations. The length and breadth of the world will always remain indebted to you, for you have and you are a genuine heart. Mother India and the entire world will always be proud of you. And we, the members of the United Nations shall always remain grateful to you with our heart of simplicity, sincerity and devotedness.



Sri Chinmoy offers Mr. Narasimhan a trophy and a garland for his exceptional service to the United Nations.



First Prize in 24-Hour Bicycle Marathon

Top honours for women in the annual 24-hour Pepsi-Cola Bicycle Marathon in Central Park were won by a member of Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations, Ms. Joanne Caruso of the U.N. Department of Public Information. Joanne rode a total of 305 miles, circling the five-mile Central Park loop 61 times between 12 noon on 27 May and 12 noon 28 May 1978. Many other members of the Meditation Group, most of whom practiced for only four weeks before the race, also tested the limits of their endurance in this event as part of a team of 114 men and 83 women who proved by their total team mileage of 38,605 miles that qualities developed in meditation, such as concentration, determination and dedication, can be utilised to expand the physical capacity in a very tangible way.



Sri Chinmoy himself inspired the team to a striking overall victory by riding a total of 230 miles, 55 miles better than his total of 175 miles in the previous year's marathon. In addition to receiving first prizes for the best riding group and the best uniformed riding group, the team took first prize for the best 10-member riding team, with a top mileage of 3,150 miles—more than a thousand miles better than the closest competing 10-member team—and first prize for the best 10-25-member riding team, with a 24-member entry pedalling 6,355 miles. Nirjhari DeLong, a U.N. staff member of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, took third place overall for the women with a total of 265 miles, and Keith Furman, a popular magician at many of the Group's benefits for UNICEF, took third place overall for the men, with a total of 410 miles.

UNESCO Festival Concert in Paris

On 30 May 1978 the music of Sri Chinmoy was featured as part of a week-long International Festival of UNESCO in Paris. At the request of the Paris UNESCO Club, which sponsored the Festival, a concert of twenty-seven songs was performed by the Sri Chinmoy Song-Waves Choir, a group of 31 musicians hailing from England, France, Germany, Scotland, Sweden and Switzerland, conducted by the well-known French composer and conductor Olivier Greif. The Song-Waves Choir has also performed Mr. Greif's strikingly beautiful choral arrangements of Sri Chinmoy's music on several occasions at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

A Meeting with Indian Prime Minister Desai

During his visit to the United Nations for the special session on disarmament, Indian Prime Minister Desai received members of the Meditation Group in a private meeting on 12 June 1978. The Group sang a Bengali song composed by Sri Chinmoy in honour of the Prime Minister, and Sri Chinmoy presented him with a plaque of appreciation with an inscription of the song. Sri Chinmoy and Prime Minister Desai spoke about the Bhagavad-Gita and the need for spiritual discipline in man's efforts toward world peace.



Sri Chinmoy: Dear Prime Minister, with you India is great and good; in you India is safe and happy.

Prime Minister Desai: India can't be saved by one man. India can be saved only if people do their thing properly.



Prime Minister Desai: I have written a commentary on the *Bhagavad-Gita* because I could not find the meaning of some verses satisfactorily in all the commentaries that I read. Therefore, only when I committed the *Gita* to memory, when

I was in jail in 1934, and I began to recite it every day and apply it to myself, did the meaning become very clear, because I had complete confidence and faith in the *Gita*, that what it says is right. The *Gita* gives a solution to every problem. At any rate, when there is a conflict of duty, it gives the right answer. One must accept the *Gita's* guidance. The gist of it is that you must be at peace with yourself. There should be no tension, no excitement no anger.



Sri Chinmoy: And for that you have all along taught us to lead a disciplined life.

Prime Minister Desai: To have discipline is not enough. It must be self-discipline.

Sri Chinmoy: That is what you have been teaching us for so many years. A life of discipline is of paramount importance.

Prime Minister Desai: Without that you can get nothing.

Meetings with the Consuls-General of India

On 28 July 1978 Indian Consul-General in Chicago Pran Nevile attended a concert held by Sri Chinmoy and members of the Meditation Group at Northwestern University in Chicago. During the concert Sri Chinmoy made a brief presentation to the Consul-General. Their remarks follow.



Sri Chinmoy: My students and I are very grateful to you for your kind presence. This afternoon also I had the opportunity to discover, when you came and visited our Centre, the heart of simplic-

ity, majesty and purity of Mother India in a striking manner. My heart of gratitude I wish to offer most soulfully.

Mr. Pran Nevile, Consul-General of India in Chicago: Thank you very much. It has been a unique experience for me to be near such a great soul, who is carrying the message of my country to people far away from my homeland, who is an enlightened soul and who is doing so much for mankind. My heart is really feeling something which I can't express—some blissful moments for me. It is a unique experience for me to be in your nearness.

The following message was offered spontaneously by the Consul-General of India in San Francisco, Mr. L.L. Mehrotra, during a concert given by Sri Chinmoy and members of the Meditation Group at California State University at San Francisco on 27 September 1978.

Mr. L.L. Mehrotra, Consul-General of India in San Francisco: Reverend Sri Chinmoy, his devoted disciples and my brothers and sisters of America, I feel very humble at this moment. Whereas all my life and career it has been my ambition to mingle with the dust, Sri Chinmoy is trying to seek a place for me in the skies. I would therefore be one of the most ungrateful persons on the earth if I did not interrupt this programme if only to express my gratitude. My heart is very heavy with that sentiment.

I have known Sri Chinmoy as Chinmoy Ghose now for several years, and "Ghose" means resonance. Sri Chinmoy the resonant will always reverberate in our hearts with his eternal message. He brings to you a spiritual tradition which sprang and flourished in the mountain-vastness of the Himalayas several thousands of years ago and which is carried across the seven seas by Everest-streams and rivers. Sri Chinmoy is part and parcel of that eternal Stream. Sri Chinmoy belongs to that stream of thought and sentiment which has shown us the Light for ages. He recited a verse from the Upanishads a little while ago: *Tamaso ma jyotir gamaya*, "Lead me from darkness to Light"; *Mrtyor ma amrtam gamaya*, "Lead me

from death to Immortality." May I say that while we mortals pray for that Immortality, Sri Chinmoy is part of that Immortality.

I consider those blessed who sit in his presence and who seek his presence, and I know that even after I and you and everyone is gone, his voice and his message will be with us, for that is the Message Supreme to which I bow.

Thank you very much.



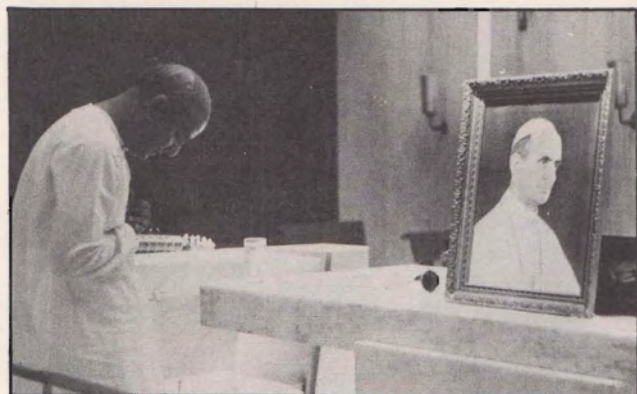
Sri Chinmoy with L.L. Mehrotra, Consul-General of India in San Francisco, who was formerly Sri Chinmoy's boss at the Indian Consulate in New York during the mid-1960's.

Memorial Service for Pope Paul VI

On 8 August 1978 United Nations delegates and staff joined the members of the Meditation Group in a memorial service for his Holiness Pope Paul VI, held in the Chapel of the Church Center for the United Nations. Sri Chinmoy opened the programme with a silent meditation facing a portrait of the Holy Father, followed by a musical dedication on the Indian esraj. Drawing on his deeply moving experiences in meetings with the Pontiff on three separate occasions at the Vatican, Sri Chinmoy then offered a soulful tribute to the Pope.

Members of the Meditation Group recited passages from Sri Chinmoy's book about the Pontiff, *Compassion-Father, Champion-Brother, Perfection-Friend*, and Mr. Donald Keys, President of Planetary Citizens, reminisced about the Pope's historic visit to the United Nations in October 1965. Remarks of the late Secretary-General U Thant and Pope Paul during this visit were then read out, as well as statements by Secretary-General Waldheim and President Carter on the Pope's passing. The programme closed with Sri Chinmoy's reminiscences about his meetings with the Pontiff and the performance by the Meditation Group singers of a song Sri Chinmoy dedicated to the Pope, "Compassion-Height."

Following are excerpts from the programme.



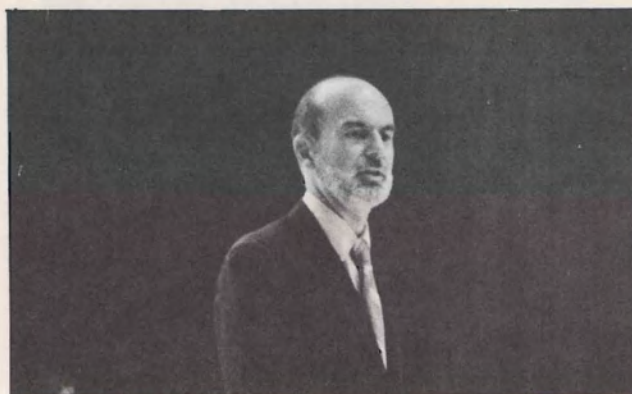
Sri Chinmoy (bowing to a portrait of the Pope after the opening meditation): Father, Holy Father, beloved Father, humanity's Friend, divinity's Brother! We know, we know where you are now. You are in the heart-cry of humanity and in the soul-smile of divinity.

Father, you were an unparalleled spiritual sovereign of the twentieth century. With your mind's illumination you showed mankind the beauty of a new Dawn. With your heart's oneness you have told man his duty in a new Day.

Your divine greatness was your contribution to the Heavenly Father. Your supreme goodness was your contribution to Mother-Earth.

Constant self-giving was your inner life. Constant peace-offering was your outer life.

Our aspiration-heart treasures your Vision-Eye. Our dedication-life treasures your Perfection-Heart.



Mr. Donald Keys, President of Planetary Citizens: My recollection of Pope Paul will be much the same as many of yours, dominated by his appearance and address at the United Nations, an event which showed the universality and capacity of two great figures—he, as the head of one of the world's great religions, and Secretary-General U Thant, who rendered him the invitation.

The historic encounter showed the capacity and the magnanimity of both. Pope Paul's words "Never again war! War never again!" were at once an appeal to the best in humanity and a dedication of humanity to its highest aspiration. His encyclicals on world problems showed over and over again his understanding, his universality, his grasp of human suffering, human yearnings, human nature, of the human condition. He strove most continuously, with a true moral and spiritual imperative, for the improvement of that human condition.

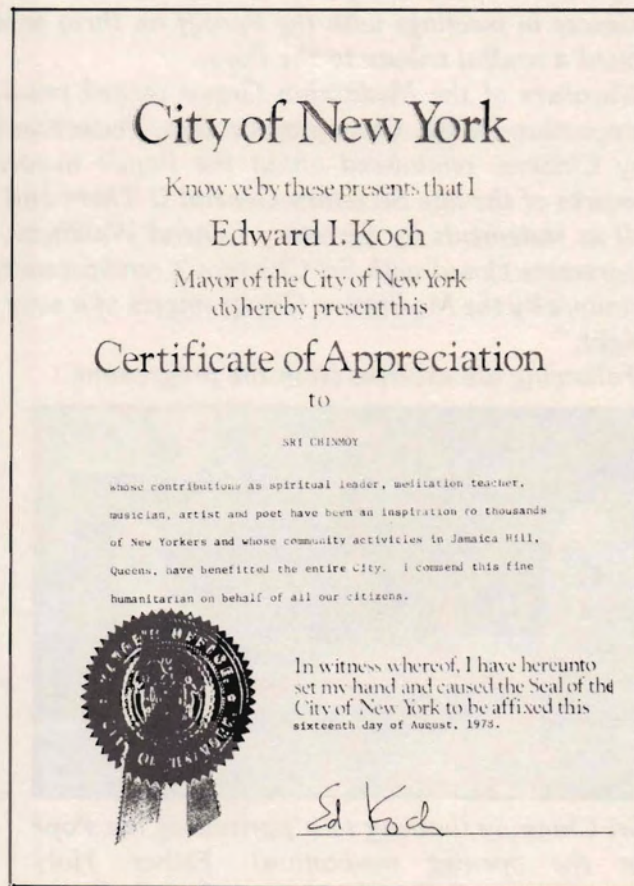
We honour him and we are grateful to him for his service to humanity in the name of his Father, who is the Father of us all.

Sri Chinmoy Honoured by New York City

On 16 August 1978 the United Nations host city honoured Sri Chinmoy in a ceremony on the steps of City Hall. Mayor Edward I. Koch presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation in honour of his 47th birthday on 27 August. The Presidents of all of the city's five boroughs recognised Sri Chinmoy by issuing special proclamations and citations as well.



Sri Chinmoy and New York's Mayor Koch on the steps of City Hall.



* * *

Love the world. You will be suspected.
Love God. You will be emancipated.
Love the world with the feeling that the world is
God. You will revive the truth.
Love God with the feeling that God is the world.
You will immortalise the truth.