

Receptions at the Jharna-Kala Gallery

During the month of September 1978 Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations hosted a number of receptions at the Jharna-Kala Art Gallery, a colourful exhibition of more than 2,000 paintings by Sri Chinmoy, on display in Grand Central Station from August until November.

On 5 September a special reception was held at the gallery in honour of former Puerto Rican Governor Raphael Hernandez-Colon, who was on a diplomatic mission to the United Nations concerning Puerto Rico's relationship with the United States. Sri Chinmoy, whom the former Governor had previously proclaimed an "honorary resident of Puerto Rico," personally escorted Mr. Hernandez-Colon around the gallery. The two had not seen each other for over two years. Brief excerpts from their conversation follow.

Mr. Hernandez-Colon: You don't know how much gladness is in my heart to be here with you, or perhaps you do, because you are able to read our hearts.

Sri Chinmoy: Every day you are in my prayers. Every day you are in my consciousness. Every day you are in my soulful meditation.

Mr. Hernandez-Colon: This opportunity to see you comes at a time when I am very much in need of help, because I am engaged in a very serious matter for Puerto Rico. I have thought about you very much during the past two years, always with the deepest respect, admiration and love. I had a great desire to see you and this desire has been fulfilled tonight.

(To the members of the Meditation Group present): I feel united with all of you and with Sri



Chinmoy in our aspiration. I feel oneness in our souls. I feel that your hearts touch mine and that we are all together traveling on the same path.

On 11 September Sri Chinmoy met with Ambassador Elliot Richardson, United States Representative to the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. The two discussed their work at the United Nations and Sri Chinmoy presented Ambassador Richardson with an original Jharna-Kala painting. An excerpt from their conversation follows.



Sri Chinmoy: The sea represents consciousness and vastness. It reminds us of our own Infinity which we embody within ourselves. In the inner life, we give utmost importance to consciousness, and we try to keep it as high as possible through prayer and meditation.

Ambassador Richardson: Those are very inspired words. I shall certainly remember them in my own efforts at the Conference. . . .

You express with great eloquence the universal spirit of the United Nations. Whatever may be its problems, it constitutes the best hope we have for creating a more peaceful world order.

Afterwards, Ambassador Richardson sent Sri Chinmoy a copy of his book *The Creative Balance*, with the following inscription:

"To Sri Chinmoy—Artist, Musician, Thinker, Articulator of ideas, Communicator of insights, with the sincere admiration, respect and gratitude of a fellow laborer in the vineyard of peace."



During the evening of 11 September the Meditation Group hosted a reception at the gallery for members of the United Nations community. The guests enjoyed a programme of vocal and instrumental music featuring the newly composed "Four Universals," a series of songs by Sri Chinmoy, followed by a delicious vegetarian buffet dinner. Below is a comment about Sri Chinmoy's art by Ambassador Zenon Rossides of Cyprus.

"Most works of modern art are form without spirit. The artists just put the form up there. But here it is the spiritual element which is the source. Everything is run by the spirit, which has a different quality than is produced by the brain. These paintings are like poetry, not like prose, with musical balance. Balance is justice with peace. There is this balance with the colours and again the balance with the shapes. There is also a blending of colours that shows harmony.

"Sri Chinmoy's art expresses his own vision. This is not something taught. It is the way progressive life goes. The blending of colours and balance which the art gives are spirituality.

"There is an atmosphere in this gallery that keeps you happy. So it is the spirit in it and the spirit behind it which creates this atmosphere."



On 24 September the staff of the United Nations Division of Public Administration and Finance were the guests of the Meditation Group at the Jharna-Kala Gallery for a special reception. The members of the Division enjoyed instrumental music and light refreshments while they feasted their eyes on the unique art of Sri Chinmoy.

Prayer Ceremony for Pope John Paul I

Members of the United Nations community and the Meditation Group offered their prayer and inner support for Pope John Paul I in a special ceremony on 11 September 1978, held in the Chapel of the Church Center for the United Nations. The opening prayer was given by Sri Chinmoy, after which Sister Janet Richardson of the Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations offered some brief remarks about the new Pope. Shortly after the event, the Meditation Group was saddened to learn of the Holy Father's untimely passing. Following are excerpts from the ceremony, as well as a letter of thanks from Archbishop Giovanni Cheli.

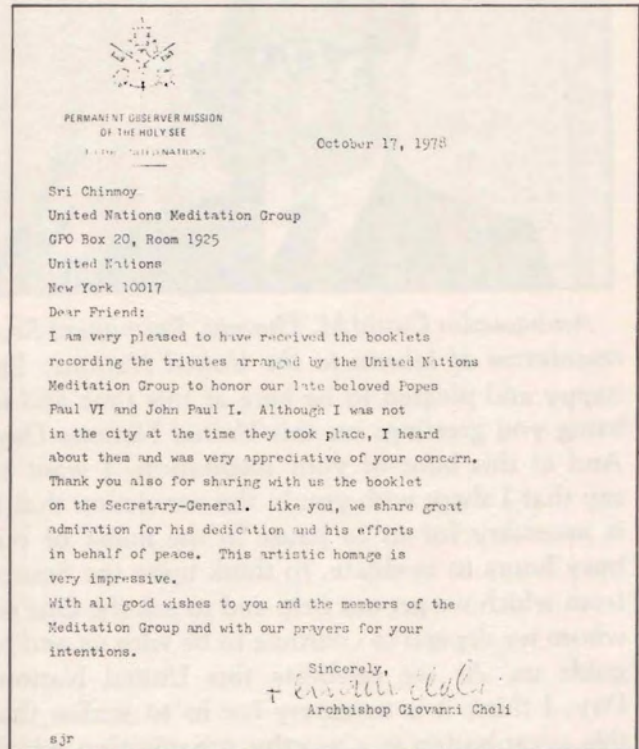
Sri Chinmoy: Father, Holy Father, congratulations, congratulations. Your mind's inspiration-light fascinates us. Your heart's aspiration-height awakens us. Your life's promise-bliss energises us. Your soul's oneness-perfection pilots us.

Father, the Catholic world, Christian world and non-Christian world have discovered in you humanity's life-ascending vision and divinity's truth-manifesting mission.



Sister Janet Richardson, Advisor, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations: I can only imagine that the new Holy Father, Pope John Paul I, is very, very pleased at the tremendous tributes that have come to him from people at the United Nations. And I know that when he hears about this event, he will certainly be extremely pleased and responsive and enthusiastic about your support and especially about the fact that your support comes to him in the form of prayer.

I think the message of love, fraternal charity and brotherhood—which all of us here are working so hard and making so many efforts to make real in our lives under the inspiration of the Spirit—are the messages that we are going to be



able to gain from this new Holy Father, who is, as Sri Chinmoy has just so delicately and elegantly put it, a spiritual Light for all of us. Thank you so much.

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There are two ways: the inner and the outer.
To discover the outer way we need outer power,
the power of the physical, vital and mental.
To discover the inner way we need inner power,
the power of the soul.

United Nations Day Observed

On 24 October 1978 Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations observed United Nations Day with a programme of music and speech in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium. Guest speakers included Ambassador David M. Thomas of Liberia, Ambassador Zenon Rossides of Cyprus and Donald Keys, President of Planetary Citizens. Excerpts follow.

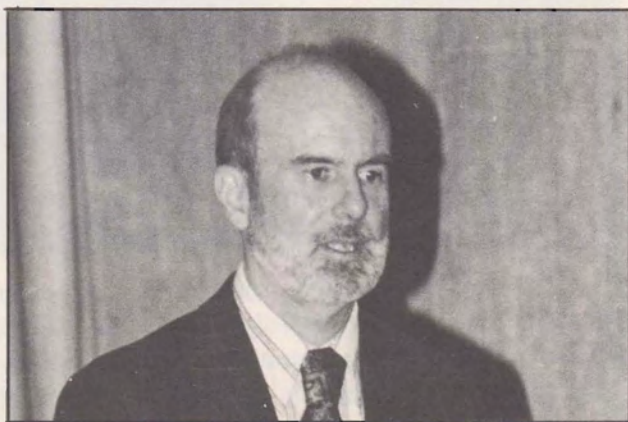


Ambassador David M. Thomas, Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations: I'm happy and pleased to be here at this time and to bring you greetings on this United Nations Day. And at this hour of your meditation, I want to say that I share with you in the conviction that it is necessary for us to pause in the midst of our busy hours to meditate, to think upon the Source from which we get our help and to ask the One on whom we depend to continue to be with us and to guide us. As we celebrate this United Nations Day, I think it is necessary for us to realise that this organisation is a worthy organisation which represents the aspirations of the peoples of the world. And we should also be cognizant of the fact that the only way this organisation can move forward and become successful is for all of us who represent our various States and take pride in the United Nations to be willing to subordinate our own selfish nationalistic self-interest to that of the broader interest of the whole, the United Nations, this world body. And we must realise further that God is the only Source of our help. With these remarks I wish for you all continued success and Godspeed, God's richest blessings.

Ambassador Zenon Rossides, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations: The Spirit of man should become prominent in the United Nations. Only in the Spirit can there be agreement in finding the course to follow to get on the path to God, because the Spirit is the link



of man with the Universe, with the Universal Flow. This is a moral flow. It is the flow of harmony, of balance, of justice, of freedom, of everything that is positive. The Spirit is eternal, immutable, always with the same values. If the Spirit prevails, then everything is possible. If it comes alive, then man can change and be transformed.



Mr. Donald Keys, President, Planetary Citizens: It has been said that the United Nations is the last best hope of mankind. I am going to say it is the first hope, the continuous hope and the last hope of mankind, because the United Nations with its universal nature is the single reality of one of mankind's biggest steps on earth, namely, the step of mankind to its eternal unity, to its intrinsic unity, to its forthcoming unity. What we see of the United Nations on a day-to-day basis is precisely a reflection of the struggle of mankind to move closer to that unification, to actualize it

more fully, to demonstrate it more completely. And we can't tell how long it will take before the family of humanity becomes the peaceful community of the world, but we can say it will become that.

If we compare the number of years of existence of the United Nations life with the years of the human past, we will see that it is for only a twinkling of an eye that the Organisation has existed, the shortest of times in which the Organisation has tried to fulfil itself, the shortest of times in which the soul of the United Nations has attempted to actualize, mediate and harmonize human affairs. So the United Nations is the first and last and continuous hope for mankind. And may we, on this anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, rededicate ourselves to all our contributions to that cause.

Sri Chinmoy: Today is U.N. Day. What does U.N. Day signify? It signifies a day of universal hope, a day of universal promise, a day of universal peace and a day of universal oneness. Hope brightens humanity's present deplorable fate. Promise encourages humanity's speed, which embodies success and progress. Peace enlightens humanity's age-old ignorance. And satisfaction, which is founded upon oneness, the oneness-family that we would like to live in, will one day dawn in our aspiring heart and our dedicated life.

To us, the United Nations is not a mere building, it is not a mere concept, it is not wishful thinking or even a dream. But it is a reality which is growing, glowing and manifesting its radiance here, there, all where, throughout the length and breadth of the world. All those who are sincerely crying for a oneness-family, according to their receptivity, are receiving light from the soul of the United Nations.

Participation in the New York City Marathon

Members of the U.N. community may have seen many of their friends in the Meditation Group running in the 26-mile New York City Marathon, held this year on 26 October. Over thirty men and women from the Group joined the 11,000 other marathon runners at the inspiration and encouragement of Sri Chinmoy, who believes that physical fitness and health are necessary for integral spiritual progress. Mr. Arthur Kauff of the U.N. Plaza Hotel led the men with a time of 2 hours, 49 minutes, and Ms. Nirjhari DeLong of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, led the women with a time of 3 hours, 53 minutes.

Many members of the Meditation Group had completed a 47-mile ultra-marathon on 27 August, which was held in honour of Sri Chinmoy's 47th birthday.

On 28 September 1978 Sri Chinmoy received the distinguished service award from Runner's World magazine for his "dedicated service to humanity through the promotion of running."



U.N. Day Celebrated Around the World

In Australia, Canada, Europe and the United States, dignitaries and U.N. community leaders took time out of their busy schedules to join U.N. Day runners and cyclists in a special worldwide celebration of the United Nations 33rd birthday, 24 October. Enthusiastic U.N. supporters and students of Sri Chinmoy, who is a Non-Governmental Organisation Representative as well as leader of the Meditation Group at the United Nations, helped bring U.N. Day into the public eye by holding the following local athletic events.

AUSTRALIA

In Melbourne, Australia, runners from Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney completed a 24-hour relay run, ending at the Town Hall, where the athletes were greeted by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Counsellor Rockman, and the President of UNICEF Australia.

In Perth, four runners completed a total of 80 kilometres in a period of five hours, running with the United Nations flag through the Perth City Centre.



CANADA

In Montreal, ten runners joined in a 33-kilometre relay, passing the Headquarters of UNICEF and UNA. The runners carried a United Nations Flag and a baton holding the United Nations Charter and the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

In Toronto, three runners ran an eleven-mile course around the United Nations offices, carrying a baton which held the Preamble to the Charter.

SWITZERLAND

In Zurich, nine runners completed a 47-mile relay around the lake of Zurich, starting at 7:30 p.m. and running past midnight to finish in 5 hours and 30 minutes.



UNITED STATES

In Boston, a 33-mile relay run began on the State House steps. Ms. Virginia Saunders, the Governor-appointed Chairperson for U.N. Day Activities, opened the event, passing the flaming torch to the first of the six runners who participated in the relay.

In Miami, Florida, a 33-mile relay run was held in conjunction with the Miami Runners Association and the United Nations Association. Vice-Mayor Reverend Gibson started the race, in which ten runners participated, carrying a United Nations flag which was passed from one runner to the next. They were met by Congressman Dante Fascell and Congressman Claude Pepper at the close of the relay, which finished at the United Nations Day luncheon sponsored by UNA.

In Seattle, a 33-mile bicycle marathon was held for the public in honour of U.N. Day.

A Meeting with the Secretary-General

On 24 October 1978 Sri Chinmoy met privately with Secretary-General Waldheim to present him with a copy of his book, *A Soulful Tribute to the Secretary-General: The Pilot Supreme of the United Nations*. Following is Sri Chinmoy's account of their meeting.

I was standing at the door and Mr. Mayrhofer was behind me. He knocked at the door, although it was open. The Secretary-General was standing near his desk, sorting some papers. He came walking towards us and said, "Please come in."

I gave him some flowers and he said, "How beautiful these flowers are!"

I said to him, "These flowers signify gratitude. I am offering you my heart of gratitude." We were standing together and I gave him a copy of my book about him. I showed him the inscription that I had written in it and he read it carefully:



"Dear Secretary-General,

The Pilot Supreme of the U.N. Boat, I wish to offer you my heart's prayerful and soulful gratitude for saving the Meditation Group from an imminent peril. Our gratitude-hearts shall always treasure your unparalleled Compassion.

*Yours in the Pilot Supreme,
Sri Chinmoy
October 24, 1978"*

"It was so thoughtful of you to write about me," he said. "I have already seen the book. It is very thoughtful and meaningful. You have brought forward quite a few important things which I have been trying to place before the world."

I said to him, "This is not a book. This is my soulful appreciation, admiration and adoration."

"It is very kind of you to say so," he replied.

At that point I gave him a plaque, which was inscribed with his portrait and two songs that I had written, the words for which came from his writings. "These are your words," I told him, "and I have set tune to them." He was so moved; his face was beaming with joy.

"Was it done with a needle?" he asked.

"A special needle," I replied.

He asked, "Who has done it?"

I answered, "A student of mine who is a member of the Meditation Group."

"I see," he said. "It is so beautiful, so beautifully done." Then he asked me to sit down.

He continued, "As you know, we have many more members at the United Nations and, at the same time, we are having many more problems. But I feel that we are succeeding to a great extent, although people are criticising us. They see our shortcomings; they do not want to see our achievements."

I said, "It is so deplorable that the critics point out what you have not done, but they do not want to point out what you have already done, what you are doing and what you are going to do. You have achieved so much. They either try to minimise your achievements or ignore the very fact that you have achieved something momentous."



"It is precisely so," he said. "I am sure you are well aware of the U.N. situation and you read my speeches. Every day we encounter problems. Sometimes they are very serious, but we try to solve them in spite of our imperfections."

I said to him, "I deeply admire your recent bold stand on the U.S. aid proposal. The U.S. wanted to cut down its aid and wanted to know how you spent it. Your statement was that we didn't want to be dictated to. If they gave, it was to be unconditional, without any ties."

"Exactly so," he replied. "Anything we give has to be unconditional. The receiver must get full opportunity to use a gift in his own way. Otherwise, it is not a help, it is not charity. Somebody needs help. That is why he asks me for it. And if I help him, then the help should be without any conditions."

"I am so happy to hear that," I said. "I am so happy that your bold and stoic heart did not surrender to their proposal."

He said, "There are times when we cannot make any compromise. Only we have to do what we feel is best."

"It is absolutely true," I agreed.

He continued, "The U.N. has a far-sighted vision and no doubt we are imperfect instruments, but we are trying for perfection. The world has to bear with our imperfections; then the world has to see what we have done and not what we have not done."

I said, "What you have done is infinitely more than what you have not done. There will always be some critics who, in spite of knowing well your tremendous achievements, will want to find fault with you. In a certain sense, critics strengthen us and encourage us to bring to the fore more of our capacities, determination and will. Then we get more capacity and opportunity to change their critical minds."

"I strongly feel that we have succeeded more than we have failed," he said.

"It is absolutely true," I agreed. "The things that you have achieved far surpass the things that you have not already achieved."

"Please do not use 'you, you'," he said. "I am only an instrument, a member of the United Nations."

I said, "You are the Supreme Pilot of the U.N. Boat. It is you who embody the hope, promise,

success and progress of the United Nations. Therefore, it is you who deserve all our appreciation, admiration and adoration."

"Since there is a Boat, there has to be a boatman," he replied. "Fortunately or unfortunately I happen to be the boatman."

I said, "We are so happy and proud to have you as our boatman. The entire world, too, is extremely happy."

A secretary came and gave him a note saying that somebody else was waiting. He said, "Let him wait. I can spend a couple of minutes here."

I said to him, "We observed U.N. Day today. Ambassador Rossides was there. He asked me to convey his greetings to you."

"My dear friend Rossides?" he said. "Among your supporters, he is your best. I have always had high regard for him. Please tell him that I am sending him my greetings, too. Please tell the members of your Meditation Group that I am very pleased with them. Their dedicated service to the United Nations I sincerely appreciate and I wish you all continuous success in your great and good endeavours."

I said, "Once more I wish to offer you our most soulful gratitude for saving us and also for granting us the opportunity to offer you our yearly *Devoted Report*."

Then he very affectionately shook hands with me and we parted.

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The United Nations is at once the body and the soul of God's unique Vision. Those of us who serve the body and the soul of God's Vision will be blessed divinely, supremely, unreservedly and infinitely—but only when we feel the necessity of seeing in ourselves a child's heart, feeling in ourselves a child's life. The dreamer in us is a child. He dreams of God's infinite Peace, Light and Bliss. And today's dream-life of his will tomorrow grow into reality-experience and reality-satisfaction.

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India Honoured

On 31 October 1978 Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations sponsored a programme in honour of the anniversary of India joining the United Nations (on 30 October 1945). The programme was opened with silent meditation and a musical dedication on the Indian esraj by Sri Chinmoy. Members of the Meditation Group singers then performed the song "Welcome," first in Bengali and then in English. The guest speaker was Mr. Ghandikota Subba Rao, head of the new energy programme of the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Other vocal and instrumental pieces followed. Below is an excerpt from Mr. Subba Rao's talk.

Mr. Ghandikota Subba Rao: I will now give you a little bit of the richness of that spiritual heritage of that ancient country which was not then called India, but was called "Bharat." The



word "Bharat" actually means "the land of love of the splendour of God." Its spiritual heritage is the heritage of humanity. "Bharat" does not refer to

that geographical or territorial concept or entity as we know of India today.

Every person, according to the Indian philosophy, is a unique entity. Similarly, each nation has certain special features. That is why Sri Chinmoy has called the United Nations "a garland of nation-souls." Each nation has its own role to play in this world system. In that world orchestra for peace and bliss each nation must sing its own tune, must deliver its own message, based on its own perceptions or visions.

Today we are sharing some of the thoughts which have arisen out of the great stream of Indian culture, whose roots go back to ancient days. That stream of spiritual disciplines for the discovery of the fulfilment of man has run for many ages in India. Here we see an expression, an embodiment, a personification of that stream, in Sri Chinmoy.

Norman Rockwell: Artist of Americana

On 10 November 1978 Sri Chinmoy paid the following memorial tribute to the American artist Norman Rockwell during a meeting of the Meditation Group in the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium.

Sri Chinmoy: Let us for a minute offer our prayerful meditation so that the artist of Americana, Norman Rockwell, may receive the universal Peace and transcendental Bliss which his soul so rightly and richly deserves.

He not only saw America's simplicity-life and America's happiness-heart, but he also became simplicity and happiness in the purest sense of the term. No matter what ultra-modern science has made of America, no matter what the modern intellectual giants have made of America, in the depths of America's heart and life there shall always dwell three virtues: simplicity—a childlike

simplicity; happiness—a child's happiness; and satisfaction—a child's constantly blossoming satisfaction that comes when America becomes and offers to the world what the child in it has. No virtue that America has can ever diminish or vanish, for virtue is an immortal gift which God Himself grants to aspiring souls and aspiring nations.

America's vastness the world knows. America's oneness only a soul like Norman Rockwell could feel. We the seekers shall always feel in him America's oneness-loving life and America's satisfaction-distributing heart. Norman Rockwell embodies the Reality's revealed dream.

"Liberia Day" Celebration

On 3 November 1978 Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations sponsored a programme in honour of Liberia on the anniversary of its joining the United Nations on 2 November 1945. The "Liberia Day" celebration featured guest speaker Ambassador David M. Thomas of Liberia and a short film about a human settlement project in Liberia. An excerpt from Ambassador Thomas' talk follows.



Ambassador David M. Thomas, Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations: In the midst of the many complex problems with which the United Nations is confronted, it is good that there is an opportunity for meditation. It is my firm conviction that since man as a human being is also spiritual, it is necessary for him to keep in touch with the Supreme Being, the Source of life and all the blessings that may be bestowed upon it. It is necessary also to seek guidance and help

from this Source of spiritual power. As a Christian I firmly believe in the Golden Rule which was enunciated by Jesus. Regardless of whatever religion one may espouse, it is my belief that unless the United Nations as well as all other organisations adopts the principle of the Golden Rule, "Do unto others what you would have them do unto you," I am afraid that it will fall short of the goal it has set for itself: to maintain peace and security.

Although the United Nations has not found a remedy and solution to all the international crises and problems that have arisen from time to time, yet, it has done well in containing them. We still believe that at present it offers the best hope of the peoples of the world to discuss and peacefully resolve their differences. To this Liberia is firmly committed.

Thank you.

Programme for "Panama Day"

Ambassador Jorge Illueca of Panama addressed the Meditation Group at a "Panama Day" programme on 14 November 1978, in honour of Panama's joining the United Nations on 13 November 1945. The programme also included the performance of a new song composed by Sri Chinmoy about the Ambassador, as well as slides and music of Panama. An excerpt from Ambassador Illueca's talk follows.

Ambassador Jorge Illueca, Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations: Everything that is great and noble in this world is the product of meditation. Our modern world, with its technological prodigies and interplanetary adventures, has originated in the meditation of Copernicus, Galileo and others. If we move from the sphere of the concrete and tangible into the sphere of the great artistic creations, we find that meditation is the mirror of our mind and conscience, the world around us and our individuality. Then we understand more clearly that meditation is the essential creative power of the human being. Meditation is not something static. At the United Nations meditation is a prelude to action, because action is only justified when it is in harmony with the ideals of peace, social justice and economic



development, which are a constant guide to our great family of nations.

The association with the United Nations has been of the greatest benefit to Panama. Thanks to the many instruments of the United Nations, Panama has seen its desires and ideals achieved in a rather substantial manner. There is still a great way ahead, but now, thanks to the United Nations, the way on the road to full independence and sovereignty seems less difficult.

Devotional Concert at the Hindu Temple Society

On 12 November 1978 Sri Chinmoy and members of the Meditation Group were invited by Mr. G. V. Subba Rao, head of the new energy programme of the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, to hold a meditation and concert of devotional music at the Hindu Temple Society of North America in Flushing, New York. The overwhelming beauty of the authentic Hindu temple combined with the haunting subtlety of the Indian esraj played by Sri Chinmoy and devotional Bengali songs sung by the Meditation Group choir, created a very sublime atmosphere.

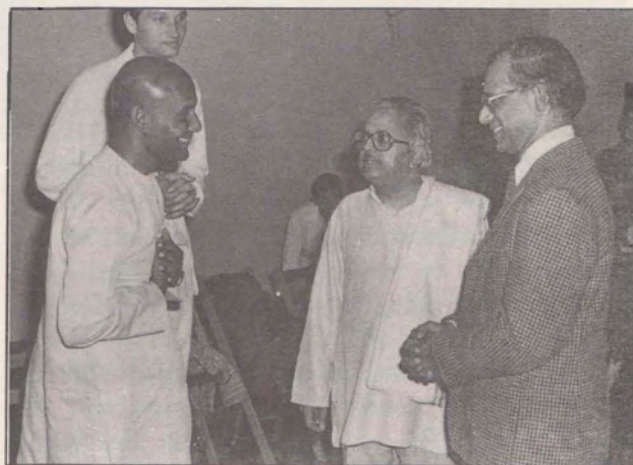
Following is an excerpt from introductory remarks delivered by Dr. A. Algappan, Secretary and life Trustee of the Hindu Temple Society of North America.

"It is a great privilege and honour to receive Sri Chinmoy and all the young friends who have come with him. We all know that this is an external temple which meets the eye. But what is important is the internal temple. The *chakras*



must be opened and the *jiva* must go and have communion with the Universal Spirit. This is what Sri Chinmoy has achieved, and this is what we are struggling to do. Of course, when a person becomes perfect, he wants to shed the benign radiance on others. While India has many holy people who have been able to do this, we in New York are blessed with one person who has been

silently and steadfastly doing this, and this is Sri Chinmoy. Not only by his teachings but also by his example, he has been able to inspire so many people and put them on the right path. So we give him not only a double and triple welcome, but a welcome for every day."



Mr. K. Subba Rao, M.D., Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hindu Temple Society of North America, thanked Sri Chinmoy after the concert:

"It is our sincere wish and desire that we have the real good fortune to have you again. It was very inspiring."

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Meditation is self-perfection. If we have the message of perfection deep within, we cannot neglect anything within or without.