

Meditation at the United Nations

United Nations:



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body



Monthly Bulletin of the
United Nations Meditation Group

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MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE
UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

Since January, 1973, the United Nations Meditation Group has published the monthly bulletin, *Meditation at the United Nations*. This publication offers a basic introduction to meditation techniques and spirituality through questions and answers and lectures, and also reviews the Group's activities. Profits from the sale of this bulletin are donated to UNICEF.

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UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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 twice-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 meditations 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.

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A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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

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

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

At this point I turned to page thirteen where his own comment on U Thant was. He read the whole

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

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

Then he said to me, "I am so sincerely grateful to you for your encouraging words. This world needs only one thing: co-operation. U Thant gave his all to bring about world co-operation. I am trying to do the same with all my heart's concern and love for humanity. You are also doing the

same with your prayer and meditation at the United Nations. I am sincerely grateful to you, for you are offering your depth and vision to the United Nations through the Meditation Group."

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

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

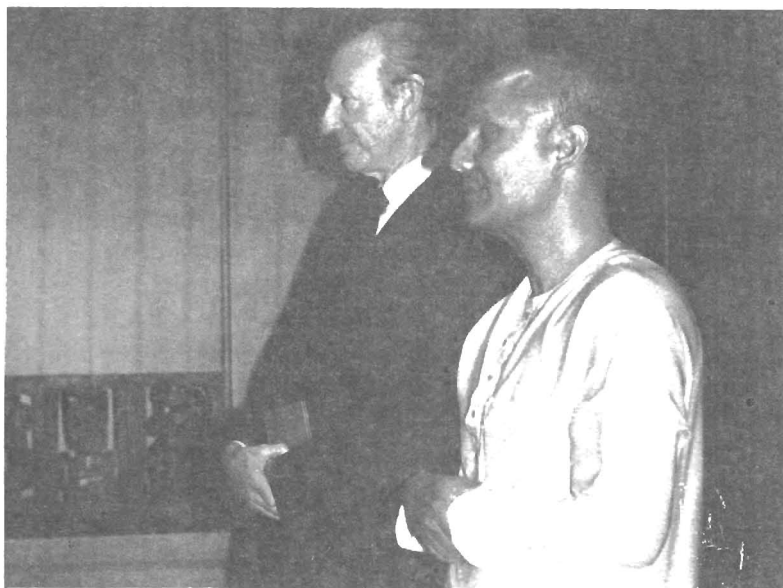
I said, "I know. I know how extremely busy you are with the world problems. My mind knows it and my heart feels it. It is your heart's magnanimity that has granted me this rare opportunity to offer you this book."

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

best friend. I miss him; we all miss him. Indeed, he was our true friend."

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

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



*Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim
and Sri Chinmoy.*

MR. DONALD KEYS HONOURED

On 31 January 1978 the U.N. Meditation Group honoured Mr. Donald Keys, Registrar of Planetary Citizens, for his five years' support of and participation in the Meditation Group. Following are remarks by Sri Chinmoy, teacher of the Group, and Mr. Keys. A song written by Sri Chinmoy to words from Mr. Keys' writings is also printed herein.

Dear Brahmananda, dear brother, dear friend, dear Mr. Keys, dear fellow traveler along Eternity's Road, your loving concern for and sympathetic oneness with the United Nations Meditation Group can only be felt and treasured, not described.

Unlike most of the servers of the United Nations, you not only serve the United Nations most adequately but also you feel that it is your soul's bounden duty to perfect the United Nations and show the world at large that the United Nations can and will eventually achieve perfect perfection. You want to prove to the world that it can achieve its oneness-goal.

The common run of man may well envy you, for you have achieved something extremely significant in this lifetime. You are the father, inspirer and harbinger of Planetary Citizens. With your momentous aspiration-heart and dedication-life, you have envisioned that East and West and North and

South can easily enjoy a free and universal access to one another. Our Father Supreme, who is the Author of Good, shall crown your supreme effort with supreme success.

O eternal friend of our heart and soul, you have been with us for over five years. During that time your silence-life and your sound-life have been a great boon to us. You go all over the world spreading the message not only of the United Nations but also of your world-embracing and world-illuminating aspiration and realisation.

On behalf of the United Nations Meditation Group I wish to offer you five thousand gratitude-flowers in the very depth of our heart, and on behalf of the entire humanity I wish to offer you my heart's ever-loving, ever-blossoming and ever-fulfilling oneness, which is founded upon my soulful gratitude and fruitful divine cry.

Sri Chinmoy then asked the U.N. Meditation Group singers to sing "Deshe deshe," saying to Mr. Keys, "You go from one place to another spreading the Light of the Supreme. Therefore, I dedicated this particular song to you, the totally and eternally dedicated soul."

(The translation of "Deshe deshe" follows.)

From country to country we roam,
Carrying the flame of Love Divine.
Smiling and smiling.
The secret thought of each country
and the yearning of each life
Here become one.
On the road of Infinity,
In the embrace of the covenant
of the Light Supreme,
O Boatman of our Heart-Boat,
By loving You, we do all this.

Mr. Donald Keys: Dear Sri Chinmoy and members of the U.N. Meditation Group, it has been a constant source of confirmation and support and strength for me to be part of this family, and experience in every word and in every act of Sri Chinmoy the articulation of what the rest of us dimly sense, held forth in full light for deep understanding and for our implementation in our lives and in our actions.

It has been an unfathomable joy to me to come to serve the United Nations, its spirit and its purpose. It has been an unbelievable blessing to find here so magnificent a spokesman, guide, teacher and constant inspiration as we have all found in Sri Chinmoy. I offer you my everlasting and boundless gratitude.



Sri Chinmoy presents a five-year anniversary rose to Mr. Donald Keys, as Mrs. Keys looks on (photo by Richard Howard).

THE SELF-TRANSCENDENT MAN

"In order to have a free access to the integral planet, you will have to be integral in yourself, to resonate with the same inner process of realization and transformation. Planetization of mankind requires, ultimately, the self-transcendent man."

Donald Keys

Music by Sri Chinmoy



♩ = 126 Moderate-slow

In or-der to have a free----- ac-----cess
to the in-te-----gral pla---net you will have to
be in-te-----gral in----- your-self to--- re-so-nate
with the same--- in-----ner-- pro-----cess
of re-a---li-za-tion and----- trans-----for-ma-----tion
pla-ne-ta-ri-za-tion of--- man-----kind re-----qui-res-
ul-----ti-mate-----ly--- the----- self-----tran-scend-----
-----dent-- man-----

MUSIC OF SRI LANKA

On 3 February 1978, the United Nations Meditation Group held a programme on the musical heritage of Sri Lanka as part of a cultural series highlighting the music of individual countries. Mr. Nihal Radrigo, of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, spoke and members of the Meditation Group performed some of the country's national music. Below is the transcript of the programme, as well as an original song by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to Sri Lanka.

MUSIC OF SRI LANKA

3 February 1978
Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium
United Nations, New York

* * *

Opening Meditation:
Sri Chinmoy
United Nations Meditation Group

Remarks:
Mr. Nihal Radrigo
Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka
to the United Nations

Folk Music of Sri Lanka :
Instrumental pieces by members of the
United Nations Meditation Group

Film presentation on Sri Lanka

National anthem of Sri Lanka

(photo by Richard Howard).



*Mr. Nihal Radrigo, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka
to the United Nations.*

Mr. Nihal Radrigo, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations: Thank you, sir.

First I would like to make an apology on behalf of Ambassador Amerasinghe, who was hoping to come this morning, but due to a rather pressing engagement connected with The Law of the Sea, he was unfortunately unable to come. I myself was just twenty minutes or half an hour ago sitting in a U.N. committee room preparing documents for the special session on disarmament and dealing with subjects like nuclear weapons and neutron bombs and proliferation of nuclear weapons. It was for me a most wonderful surprise to find that within a few moments I could change to an atmosphere which was completely different to that pervading the committee room. The United Nations is meant to bring countries together, to make them understand each other better and to work out some practical means of avoiding a lot of the strife and conflict in the world, and at these conferences we are trying to bring about some sort of peace or security. But this is not so easy. When you are in the very genteel and highly diplomatic world of the conference room, very often tempers do tend to get frayed. And even though people may be polite, they may be sitting with feelings of anger or suspicion and so on. So, for me personally, it has been a most wonderful surprise to find that within the very same building, there could be found an atmosphere like this.

I was also pleasantly surprised to find folk music from my country being played with so much skill

and feeling by musicians I didn't know had had any experience with Sri Lanka's music. For my own interest, has the group been in Sri Lanka and heard the music there, or have they played from notation? (*A member of the group indicated that they had played from notation, not having visited Sri Lanka.*) Well, it's all the more remarkable that they should be able to get some of the rhythms and melodies of our music. Once again, may I thank you very much and may I thank the Meditation Group for a most pleasant programme.

Thank you.



Members of the Meditation Group performing instrumental pieces from Sri Lanka (photo by Richard Howard).

PRESENTATION OF
"O MY AUSTRALIA" BANNER

On 10 February 1978 Australian members of the U.N. Meditation Group presented a banner to Australian Deputy Consul-General Mr. Rex Harris, who accepted it on behalf of the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, Mr. Ralph L. Harry. Ambassador Harry had expressed his admiration of a song entitled "O My Australia," which was composed by Sri Chinmoy and sung at the United Nations during a concert highlighting the music of Australia on 27 January 1978. The banner was emblazoned with this song and the Australian emblem.



Mr. Rex Harris, Deputy Consul-General of Australia, receives "O My Australia" banner from Mr. Ray Harrington on behalf of Australian members of the U.N. Meditation Group (photo by Ian Prior).

$\text{♩} = 120$ Moderate

O my Aus-tra-li-a Aus-tra-li-a Aus-----tra-----
 -li-----a I love your beau--ty's vast-----ness
 green----- I love your heart's sweet--- un--seen
 cry----- Your new soul knows--- no-----
 bon--dage screen----- It beck-ons your bo---dy's
 strength----- to----- fly--- O my Aus-tra-li-a
 Aus-tra-li-a Aus-----tra-----li-----a
 No foe have--- you a match-less sur-----prise---
 (slightly faster)
 Your sim-ple soul-ful life of love At God's ex-press
 Hour---- choice-- shall-- rise-- Yours is the
 trum-----pet tri-----umph here--- and---
 a---bove A-B once, then O my Aus-tra-li-a
 Aus-tra-li-a *ritard* Aus-----tra-----li-----a

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In the fall of 1977 the following profound and soulful questions were submitted by Mr. Robert Muller, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination, to Sri Chinmoy of the United Nations Meditation Group.

Mr. Robert Muller: Where so many humans from all over the world come together to talk to each other, to learn from each other, to heal rifts and to devise a better common destiny, isn't that the greatest place on earth? To my mind, the United Nations is no less than a miracle.

Sri Chinmoy: The United Nations is a place where humanity can talk, learn and become. Humanity can talk of lasting peace, learn the secret of love and become the delight of oneness. Because of this, the United Nations is unmistakably the greatest in terms of vision-capacity, which will eventually be manifested as the most fulfilling Reality-perfection and Immortality-satisfaction.

According to our limited body, curious vital, searching mind and crying heart, the United Nations is no less than a miracle. But we have one more member in our family: the soul. The soul has

quite a different story to narrate. It reveals to us and tells us that there is no such thing as a miracle. Anything that is uncommon, unusual and unfamiliar in this world we call a miracle. But there are many higher planes of consciousness where these so-called miracles are common occurrences.

God the Creator and God the creation are one. We see God the creation here, there and everywhere. But we find it difficult to realise or accept God the creation so easily, not to speak of so lovingly and devotedly. When God the Creator reveals an infinitesimal iota of His Light and Power through a human life from a new realm of consciousness to which we do not have a free access, we are quite often ready to regard it—that is to say, God's visible and tangible Compassion-Gift—as a miracle. But just because God the creation is always visible and available, our ignorance-familiarity is badly wanting in appreciation capacity. Otherwise, we would feel that God the creation is undoubtedly as much of a miracle as God the Creator.

Let us see eye to eye with our soul's revelation that there is no such thing as a miracle. Although we are not aware of something or although something has not yet manifested on earth, it can easily happen that we may become aware of it tomorrow or it may become manifested tomorrow. So there is no need to call it a miracle, for its

existence-reality has already been discovered by the highest and greatest member of our own family, the soul.

Needless to say, miracle-power does not and cannot elevate our consciousness. It is our reality's spontaneity that can and will elevate and illumine our consciousness and fulfil unreservedly the Real in us. And what is the Real in us? The universal oneness of the Transcendental Height. Truth to tell, the soul of our dear United Nations embodies this all-loving Reality's all-fulfilling divinity.

With your soul's kind permission, I am bringing this answer to the personal level. I have had the opportunity to hear a good many speeches by a good many speakers. *No hyperbole, you top and far outshine the galaxy of my heroes.* My searching human mind tells me that each speech of yours is nothing short of a miracle; nay, it is a miracle itself, for it at once embodies and reveals most striking depths and heights. But my flying soul-bird, which has a free access to the higher planes of reality, tells me unmistakably and shows me convincingly the actual reality which your soul so spontaneously and so beautifully reveals through your aspiration and dedication-life. If I believe in my soul and your soul, which I shall eternally do, your invaluable gifts to the United Nations and to the world at large are *not* miracles, but a spontaneous self-offering to the Absolute Pilot Supreme on the strength of your aspiration-vision and dedication-mission.

Mr. Robert Muller: The United Nations is the incredible place where human oneness is seeking itself in the endless diversity of the prodigy of life. How is it possible, then, that so few people recognise this great new blessing?

Sri Chinmoy: I fully agree with you that the United Nations is the “incredible place where human oneness is seeking itself in the endless prodigy of life.” Now, how is it possible that so few people recognise this great new blessing? Most human beings are apt to wallow in the pleasures of ignorance. For them, there is no higher reality. For them, there is no necessity for Heaven-freedom. They are totally satisfied with their earthbound lives. Anything that is challenging, demanding, vast and high, they fail to recognise, for they are vehemently unwilling to awaken their acceptance-capacity and widen their receptivity-capacity. What they have is more than enough for them. What they do not have is not only worthless and useless, but also an object of laughter-evoking mockery. These rank fools, to our extreme sorrow, are denying their own real reality, weakening their own true capacity. Finally, they are binding themselves to an extremely narrow vision, which is the precursor of utter destruction.

We see the sun and can become inseparably one with its creative force, illumining reality and

fulfilling divinity. This is what God-lovers and Truth-seekers do. But again, there are thousands of people on earth who do not or cannot do so. But just because they do not or cannot do so, they are in no way deprived of the sun's benevolent light. The sun unconditionally gives its light and warmth to all those who are living on this earth-planet. But the sun knows that a day shall dawn, although it may take millennia, when each and every human being will recognise what a great blessing the sun is. They will then accept the sun lovingly and its gift gratefully. Similar is the experience that the wisdom-power of the United Nations soul—which is a great new blessing to all and sundry—will give to each and every human being that has ever trod the earth-arena.

Mr. Robert Muller. What can we do to open the eyes and the hearts of people?

Sri Chinmoy: What can we do to open the eyes and hearts of people? We can aspire more soulfully, dedicate our lives more devotedly and try to become *unconditional instruments* of God for God alone. If we do this, then our constant and unconditional self-giving will, without fail, expedite the opening of the eyes and the hearts of people.

Mr. Robert Muller: I often feel that all my speaking and writing is just a drop of water on an infertile field of blindness and disbelief. What more can we do? What would you suggest?

Sri Chinmoy: Revered brother, your speaking-world and your writing-world are not a drop of water. Far from it! They are the oceans of life-transforming light. Today's "infertile field of blindness and disbelief" need not and cannot remain so forever, for God's Vision of the infinite Beyond is infinitely more powerful than the man-made blindness and disbelief of a barren field of confusing unreality.

What more can we do? We can try to climb up untiringly God's Patience-Tower and watch from the highest Height and wait on the highest Height for God's God-Hour to strike. At God's choice Hour, the stark blindness and rank disbelief of humanity will be inundated with the ever-illuminating Light and ever-immortalising Delight of Eternity's Beyond, which is slowly, steadily and unerringly manifesting itself on our earth-planet. When God's choice Hour strikes, we two and others who are sailing in the same boat will offer tears of sleepless gratitude to our Source, our Beloved Supreme, who out of His boundless Bounty has made us His illuminating Vision-seers and His fulfilling Reality-pioneers.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN:
THE EMANCIPATION CONSCIOUSNESS

10 February 1978
Conference Room 4
United Nations, New York

Opening meditation
and musical dedication on the esraj:
Sri Chinmoy, Director
United Nations Meditation Group

"All Men Are Created Equal":
United Nations Meditation Group Singers

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Ovadia Soffer
Ambassador Extraordinary of Israel
to the United Nations

H.E. Dr. Jorge Enrique Illueca
Permanent Representative of Panama
to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. David M. Thomas
Permanent Representative of Liberia
to the United Nations

Ms. Karyne Jones
Personal Representative of
H.E. Mr. Andrew Young
Permanent Representative of the United States
to the United Nations

"Abraham Lincoln":
poem by Sri Chinmoy

Readings from the writings of Abraham Lincoln

"O Human Rights":
United Nations Meditation Group Singers

Mr. Jeff Kamen, WPIX-TV U.N. Correspondent: The United Nations Meditation Group is honoured by the presence of our distinguished speakers and U.N. delegates and staff members who have come to pay tribute to Abraham Lincoln and the emancipation consciousness. Lincoln truly belonged to all of humanity and his dedication to justice brings us together. May I ask you now to please rise and join Meditation Group Director Sri Chinmoy in a moment of silence, as we begin our programme inspired by the spirit of Abraham Lincoln.

(A brief meditation follows.)

The United Nations Meditation Group Singers will now offer a special song that, perhaps more than any other song, exemplifies the emancipation spirit. The words are by the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the music by Sri Chinmoy.

(The United Nations Meditation Group Singers sing "All Men Are Created Equal.")

For thousands and thousands of years the Jewish people sought to go Home, but slavery was their life. It did not matter what part of the world they were in—slavery awaited them. And so it is extremely "fitting and proper"—a phrase used by Abraham Lincoln—that we have with us as our

first speaker this afternoon His Excellency Mr. Ovadia Soffer, Ambassador Extraordinary of Israel.

H.E. Mr. Ovadia Soffer, Ambassador Extraordinary of Israel: Dr. Davidson Nicol, a scholar and a distinguished African diplomat from Sierra Leone, stated at a recent conference held at Columbia University that "slavery is a common bond between Jews and blacks." A pillar of Judaism had been the strong feeling of equality, not only between men, but between nations, and the striving for an ultimate international order built on justice and love. The Hebrews began their fight for liberation from Pharonic slavery some three millennia ago, and ever since they have been on the forefront of the battle for human equality and dignity. The Jews had been dispersed throughout the world and everywhere had been subjected to discrimination. Nevertheless, when they found the strength to create a modern and dynamic national movement out of an agelong faith, they besought only recognition of their existence as a people and a place in the family of nations, and they worked for reconciliation.

Therefore, it is only natural that Jews everywhere have felt especially attracted to Abraham Lincoln as the emancipator of the Negro slave, as a victim of violence, as a dreamer of peace and as the spokesman of a way of life "with malice towards none, with charity for all," which matches the idealism of our prophets.

Lincoln did not confine his campaign for equality to blacks; it was for all the oppressed peoples everywhere. He also became involved in national questions of Jewish equality and, indeed, Jewish discrimination.



*H.E. Mr. Ovadia Soffer
Ambassador Extraordinary of Israel
to the United Nations*

Lincoln deserves his reputation as the Great Emancipator. His claim to that honour has a sound basis in the support he gave to his anti-slavery legislation. It is well founded also in his greatness as the leader who won the American nation's safety through the four-year struggle that brought freedom. And finally, it has been strengthened by the practical demonstration that he gave for human worth and dignity, regardless of religion, race or colour. Imbued with a humane and liberal spirit, he knew no distinction of race or creed in his friendships and official actions. A man of a deeply religious nature, Lincoln's biblical training had a profound effect on his life and literary style and led him to profess ethical standards of justice which were in close harmony with Jewish doctrine.

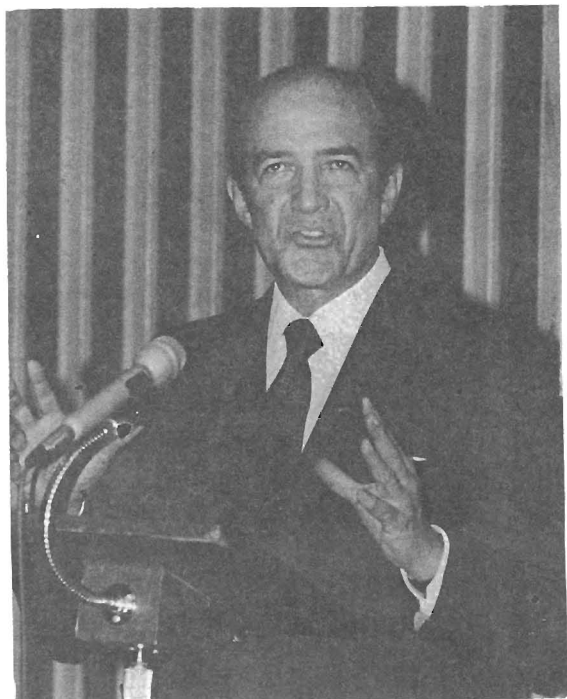
No wonder that Abraham Lincoln, as his biographers tell us, was impressed mostly by Hillel, the Jewish spiritual leader of the second temple, who summed up this biblical-ethical teaching in his well-known saying. When a man came to Hillel and asked to be taught the whole of Judaism while standing on one leg, Hillel accepted the challenge and in response to his request replied, "That which is hateful unto thee, do not do unto thy neighbour. This is the whole of Judaism. The rest is commentary." The remarkable resemblance of Lincoln's beliefs to those of Moses has been noted by almost all his biographers.

Lincoln was a staunch supporter and believer in the principles which guided the Founding Fathers of the American Revolution, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, of the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Those principles changed not only the face of the New World, but influenced the history of mankind as a whole. They have inspired the founders of the United Nations and found their way into the Charter principles of the United Nations. The doctrine of equality among men and among nations is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and bestows upon us an obligation to strive so that men can live as equals, fulfilling the prophecy of Leviticus: ". . . proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

Mr. Jeff Kamen: Long before he was President, Abraham Lincoln declared, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Now Lincoln, of course, was speaking of America divided by slavery. But we, here in the U.N.—what Martin Luther King, Jr. called "the world house"—realise that Lincoln's warning against division is true indeed of the world at large. I now have the distinct pleasure of presenting Ambassador Jorge Illueca of Panama.

H.E. Dr. Jorge Enrique Illueca, Permanent Representative of Panama: Thank you. We join

today with the United Nations Meditation Group to participate in a Lincoln Day observance, not only to pay tribute to Lincoln's greatness, but also to reaffirm our faith in his ideals and in his enduring moral values. To the people of Panama, to the people of Latin America and to the Third World countries in general, Lincoln's teachings, the symbol of Abraham Lincoln and his emancipation



*H.E. Dr. Jorge Enrique Illueca
Permanent Representative of Panama
to the United Nations*

consciousness are a permanent source of inspiration, strength and positive action against the anachronistic evils of colonialism, racism and apartheid. After the Civil War, Lincoln proclaimed that this nation would have a new birth of freedom. This right to a new birth of freedom here in the United Nations is not confined to the United States. Every country, the whole of mankind, claims the same rights promoted by Lincoln to ensure change and renewal towards the legitimate aspirations for the common goals of freedom, prosperity and peace.' Thank you.

Mr. Jeff Kamen. To many students of American history it might seem that Abraham Lincoln created the idea of emancipation, of slaves being freed and of freed slaves doing something with themselves—"forty acres and a mule." But the reality was that brave, fierce men and women who had been slaves in America showed Abraham Lincoln the way. When Lincoln was only twenty-one years old, a new nation was taking shape in Africa, and it was created not by Abraham Lincoln, but by the emancipation consciousness, that spirit of liberation and freedom. The nation was Liberia. And so, it is a moving experience, within that context especially, to bring to you now His Excellency Mr. David M. Thomas, Permanent Representative of Liberia.

H.E. Mr. David M. Thomas, Permanent Representative of Liberia: I am pleased to participate with the United Nations Meditation Group in commemorating the life of a towering figure of the nineteenth century, Emancipator and sixteenth President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, and to reflect upon the emancipation consciousness.

Abraham Lincoln was a good man—and because he was good, he was great. His noble words and deeds have made him immortal! He was honest, compassionate and just. He was charitable and philanthropic. His spirit of humanity and love went beyond the boundaries of his own country and embraced the world. Lincoln believed in God. From his speeches one can easily discern that his life was profoundly influenced by the Holy Bible, which he often quoted. Finally, Lincoln believed in liberty, freedom and self-determination. It is therefore understandable that he was the one to have signed the Emancipation Proclamation which put an end to slavery in America. At a time when it was unpopular to recognize the rights of black people, who were regarded as the inferior race by many privileged whites, in 1862 President Lincoln was bold and courageous enough to propose to the United States Congress that the United States Government should extend recognition to the only two black Republics at that time, Haiti and Liberia. In doing so, he said: “Gentlemen, I perceive no reason why we should longer withhold recognition

from the two Negro Republics, Haiti and Liberia.”

The spirit of freedom and justice for all was exemplified in the life of Lincoln and his passionate desire was to see all men emancipated. This spirit of his made such an impact that it has inspired generations, and today this great World Community is committed to the cause of peace for all mankind.



*H.E. Mr. David M. Thomas
Permanent Representative of Liberia
to the United Nations*

May I close with these appropriate words:
"How'er it be, it seems to me
'Tis only noble to be good,
Kind hearts are more than coronets
And simple faith than Norman blood.

"Count life a stage upon thy way,
And follow conscience come what may,
Alike when heaven and earth sincere,
With hand and brow and bosom clear,
Fear God and know no other fear."

Mr Jeff Kamen: As Abraham Lincoln was the emancipation consciousness manifester in America in the 19th century, in the 20th century the mantle fell to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who carried it with the greatness of duty, dignity and power. With Dr. King gone, that mantle has been passed to Andrew Young, America's U.N. Ambassador. He wanted to be here right now, but could not join us because of talks dealing with South Africa. Yet, in a sense he is with us, because his close friend, personal representative and aide, Karyne Jones is here with us. Let us welcome her.

Ms. Karyne Jones, Personal Representative of H.E. Mr. Andrew Young: Thank you very much. On behalf of Ambassador Young and the United States Mission, I would like to welcome all of you

here. Ambassador Young unfortunately could not be here today—although in one way it may be fortunate that he is not, because when I saw him earlier today he was in a preaching mood, and he might have kept you here for two or three hours.

Right now he is over at the United States



*Ms. Karyne Jones
Personal Representative of
H.E. Mr. Andrew Young
Permanent Representative of the United States
to the United Nations*

Mission, involved in the South African talks. His absence is a living proof that America still has that commitment to civil rights, human rights, social rights and freedom of all peoples. Andy very much did want to be here, but the talks at this moment are very delicate and he could not get away. He wanted me to tell you that there is a modern slavery now in South Africa, about which he feels as Abraham Lincoln did about slavery in the United States. These people, he feels, also need an emancipator to help them break away from slavery. Andrew Young has the commitment to emancipation that we have seen in people like Abraham Lincoln and Dr. Martin Luther King.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Jeff Kamen: And now, Sri Chinmoy would like to offer an original poem in tribute to the emancipation consciousness.

Sri Chinmoy:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
(1809-1865)

Born under no lucky star,
But dynamic in his dreams,
He fought his way to Luck:
"From log cabin to White House."

No soul on earth supreme over another —
Equality every man's birthright and treasure —
Black and white, brown and red
Make no difference —
This nation cannot exist half-slave, half-free:
From his voice these bold truths rang out.

He had the gift to dream of union,
The courage and capacity to fight,
The confidence to win,
The patience that knew no flagging.
Faith in God's Justice was his stamina,
Faith in God was his might.

Natural the affinity of vision-luminous souls,
So Emerson could say of Lincoln:
"His heart was as great as the world,
But there was no room in it to hold a wrong."

"Force is all-conquering,
But its victories are short-lived."
Love is all-conquering,
And its victories live on forever.

What is really important?
Are we God's or is God ours?
The idealist in Lincoln reveals:
"We trust, Sir, that God is on our side.
It is more important to know
That we are on God's side."

Mr. Jeff Kamen: To close our programme, "Abraham Lincoln: the Emancipation Consciousness," we will have readings from Abraham Lincoln's writings, after which the United Nations Meditation Group Singers will offer Sri Chinmoy's original song, "O Human Rights."

(Readings and song follow.)

On behalf of Sri Chinmoy and the United Nations Meditation Group, I would like once again to express our gratitude to our wonderful guest speakers and to all of you who have been kind enough to come.



Ambassador Illueca comments to Sri Chinmoy after the programme: "I have deep admiration for what you are doing at the United Nations. It was a very nice atmosphere, very nice spirit and inspiration."





Sri Chinmoy thanks guest speakers Ambassador Soffer and Ambassador Thomas for their illuminating statements.

EXCERPTS FROM LINCOLN'S WRITINGS

"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have."

"As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy."

"Judge Douglas says he 'don't care whether slavery is voted up or down' in the Territories. . . . Any man can say that who does not see anything wrong in slavery, but no man can logically say it who does see a wrong in it; . . . It is the eternal struggle between . . . right and wrong It is the same spirit that says, 'You toil and work and earn bread, and I'll eat it.'"

(From the *Lincoln-Douglas Debates*)

"A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important. You may

adopt all the policies you please, but how they are carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities and corporations. All your books are going to be judged, praised or condemned by him. The fate of humanity is in his hands."