



**Programme  
Marking the Opening  
of the 32nd Session of the  
United Nations  
General Assembly**

## CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

and for these ends  
to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and  
to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and  
to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and  
to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

have resolved to combine our efforts  
to accomplish these aims  
Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organisation to be known as the United Nations.



*Sri Chinmoy, director of the U.N. Meditation Group, leads opening meditation of Conference.*

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

*In the tradition of the silent meditation which opens each session of the General Assembly, the Conference opened and closed with a short meditation, led by United Nations Meditation Group director, Sri Chinmoy. The programme also included music and short recordings of all the Secretaries-General. Excerpts from the talks follow.*



MR. ERVIN LASZLO

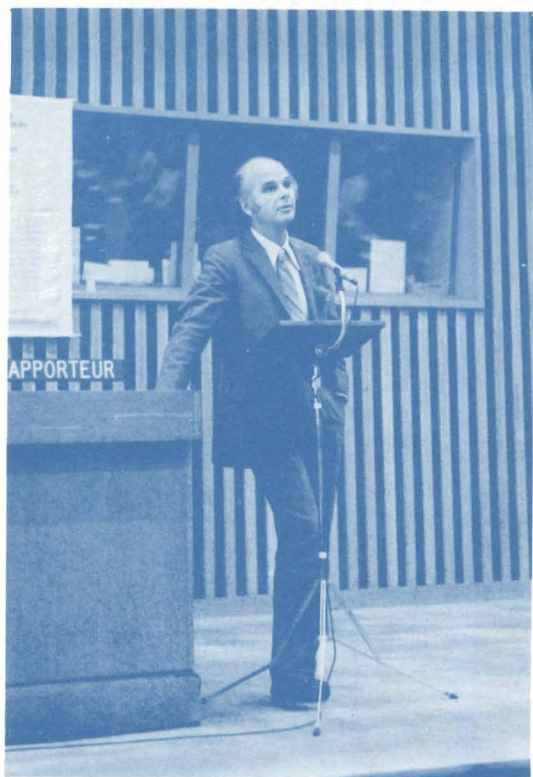
*Special Fellow*

*United Nations Institute for Training and Research*

"I would like to say a few words to continue in this atmosphere of meditation and I would like to call your attention for a moment to the historical dimension of what we are doing and the thrust of our activities. I think it is not accidental that the United Nations has come to life after the upheavals of the Second World War and of this century. And I don't think it's accidental that it is gaining in influence, that it is gaining in importance. I don't think it can go anywhere but forward, even though it has many difficulties in its way, as we're all aware.

"If we looked back over the course of human history, as perhaps we can do just to meditate on it for a moment, we would find that human societies have grown in their size and complexity all through history. . . . But in every civilisation, every society always had an information centre, a coordination centre, some place that administered the many and increasingly complex affairs of society, of people.

". . . we come across this concept of national government over three hundred years ago as being somehow the necessary and perhaps the ultimate form of administering and coordinating the affairs of human societies. But the true meaning of today's interdependence is that nations also need each other; they cannot manage entirely by themselves. They need each other, and therefore there has to be a coordinator, an information centre which works among nations, which helps the individual governments and the cultures and the peoples from different parts of the world to achieve some of



those aims that they could not achieve by themselves. I think that the growth of human societies, the growth of complexity, the growth of interactions—all of this calls for today the kind of a body that the United Nations is in the process of becoming. I think this realisation should give even the most commonplace and everyday chore or task that we may have to do, a new meaning, a new significance, because we are in a way at the hub, at the very centre of this new, emerging centre—a brain, a mind and a heart for the evolving societies of our times."

Thank you.



*Mr. Robert Chittenden*



*Mr. Ghandikota V. Subba Rao*



*Mr. William Angel*



MR. ROBERT CHITTENDEN  
*Chairman, Staff Committee*

"The vitality of the United Nations has been demonstrated over the years in its response to global change and newly recognised problems of concern to all humanity. And the United Nations has played a part in that process of transformation. The Organisation today is not what it was 30 years ago, or even five years ago; but the fundamental purposes and principles of the United Nations have never changed.

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

MR. GHANDIKOTA V. SUBBA RAO

*Senior Officer*

*Economic and Social Affairs*

"It is certainly, I think, appropriate that we have this particular gathering at a time of the conclusion of this last Assembly on the theme of the international economic order. And very soon we will be having here a gathering of world political leaders. It is not, I think, inappropriate to hope that one of these days, and sooner than later, we would have a similar meeting, if I may use that expression, of world spiritual leaders—leaders to regenerate morality and ethics, I must say, at the individual as well as at the national and international levels.

"...there has been the search for such codes of conduct in the United Nations in the economic and social as well as in the political fields. Codes of conduct must naturally include both rights as well as duties. Otherwise they would not be correct. In the final analysis, how do you judge these codes of conduct? In the case of individuals it is by their inner perceptions. . . This is precisely what is being done through the instrumentality here of the group for meditation led by Sri Chinmoy. These processes take place in the heart; you must think with the heart. It may be a contradiction in a certain sense, but this is basically at the very root of our approaches, our evolving and emerging approaches even to the world economic and social problems."

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



MR. WILLIAM ANGEL  
*Associate Officer*  
*Centre for Social Development*

"I do believe that the U.N. is the heart-home of the world-body. Some people think it is a rather sacrilegious heart. I think it is a very sacred heart. In fact for me it is *the* sacred heart, but I think the heartbeat is far from adequate. The Secretary-General on Staff Day last Friday mentioned that the U.N. in his opinion has lost a sense of adventure and innovation which it possessed in the early days. And, I would add, that since the U.N. has experienced several broken hearts and minor cardiac arrests due to the struggles between the East and the West and the North and the South, and in some cases in the early seventies, the young and the old, I think the U.N.'s heartbeat is far from adequate.

". . . it is not just a question of saying the U.N. is the heart of the world-body, but what part of the U.N. is the heart? I think to a degree the General Assembly is the heart which contracts and dilates; it projects, it is both inward and outward. It represents the people of the world in a better way than, shall we say, any other movement in the world in a sense that it brings together the thousands of delegates every year, from now approaching one hundred and fifty countries. . . . besides being an incipient brain and nervous system for the world-body, I believe the United Nations embodies the heart of this emerging universal religion of which the historical, sacred and contemporary secular faces are but branches. And I believe that the U.N. presently is working out this larger synthesis. In fact I might add on a personal note that the United Nations *is* my religion, and I'm committed to its evolution in this direction via physical, mental, moral and spiritual ways."

*[Statement made by Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim on the eve of the 32nd session of the General Assembly.]*

“I am happy to be with you again on the eve of the next session of the General Assembly. It will not be an easy one; it will be loaded with very complex, difficult problems such as the Middle East, southern Africa, Cyprus, the new international economic order, disarmament and many others. But I am sure that, with goodwill, it should be possible to contribute to a solution of those problems and I wish to add immediately that, in my opinion, the United Nations is still the best hope for a solution of those questions. Of course what is necessary is the political will of the Governments to use this instrument and to try, with the help of the United Nations, to find solutions. . . .”

*Song dedicated to the United Nations performed  
by a choral and instrumental group during the  
Conference.*

— by Sri Chinmoy

## O UNITED NATIONS

O United Nations, O U.N.,  
You are the world-body  
Crying for the world-soul.  
And you are the earth-life  
Longing for oneness-goal.

In the heart of your glowing dream,  
Big brothers and brothers small  
Shall smile, sing and dance —  
O Vision-Perfection in all.



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.

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The United Nations Meditation Group is an association of U.N. staff, delegates and NGO representatives — recognised by the United Nations Staff Recreation Council.