

SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST

COMMEMORATING

THE UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

26 September 2000

Programme

<i>Musical Invocation</i>	Premik Russell Tubbs
<i>Master of Ceremonies</i>	Dr. Kusumita P. Pedersen
<i>Silent Meditation</i>	All present
<i>Song for Peace</i>	The Singers of The Peace Meditation
<i>Welcome</i>	H. E. Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

The Leaders in Prayer:

BUDDHISM

The Venerable Ashin Sayadaw Indaka
Chief Monk
America-Burma Buddhist Association

CHRISTIANITY

Dr. Carol Zinn, S. S. J.
Education Program Director, Global Education Associates
Main UN Representative, Congregations of St. Joseph

HINDUISM

Manoranjan Chakravorty
President
Sreemadbhagbad Gita Sangha

Please turn over

ISLAM

Al-Haj Moulana Mirza Abu Jafar Beg
Imam
Jamaica Muslim Center

JUDAISM

Rabbi Ezra M. Finkelstein
Rabbi Emeritus
Midway Jewish Center

Closing Musical Invocation

Breakfast will be served.

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Spirituality is not merely tolerance. It is not even acceptance. It is the feeling of a universal oneness. In our spiritual life, we look upon the Divine not only in terms of our own God, but in terms of everybody else's God. Our spiritual life firmly and securely establishes the basis of unity in diversity. Spirituality is not hospitality to the other's faith in God. It is the absolute recognition of the other's faith in God as one's own.

– Sri Chinmoy

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THE HOST

AMBASSADOR ANWARUL KARIM CHOWDHURY is Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, a position he has held since 1996. He is Bangladesh's representative to the United Nations Security Council for the term 2000-2001, Chairman of the Security Council Committee on Sierra Leone and President of UNICEF's Executive Board. A career diplomat, Ambassador Chowdhury specializes in UN and multilateral affairs, with special focus on economic, development and social issues. He served as Chairman of the Administrative and Budgetary Committee of the 52nd Session of the UN General Assembly and Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the five-year review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) at the 1999 Special Session of the UN General Assembly. He also served two terms as Vice President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN. His leadership resulted in the proclamation by the UN of the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace and the period 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World. Ambassador Chowdhury is the recipient of the U Thant Peace Award and the UNESCO Gandhi Award.

THE LEADERS IN PRAYER

AL-HAJ MOULANA MIRZA ABU JAFAR BEG is the Imam of the Jamaica Muslim Center/Masjid Al-Mamoor in Queens, where he has served the Muslim community for the last seven years. A native of Barisal, Bangladesh, he attended the University of Dhaka. He did graduate work at the University of Baghdad, followed by seven years of Islamic studies at the Zamitul Ummul Quara in Mecca. Returning to Dhaka, he was Imam at a major mosque of that city for seven years before coming to New York.

MANORANJAN CHAKRAVORTY is the President of the Sreemadbhagavad Gita Sangha in New York. He is originally from Dhaka, Bangladesh, and came to the United States in 1986 after working with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Gita Sangha, established in 1997, is devoted to the practice and promotion of the Sanatana Dharma, or Hinduism, and the education of the next generation in their religious tradition. The Gita Sangha, serving the Bengali-speaking community of New York, holds regular readings and classes on the Bhagavad Gita, chanting, celebration of Hindu holy days and also conducts services in the homes of the devotees.

RABBI EZRA M. FINKELSTEIN is Rabbi Emeritus of the Midway Jewish Center in Syosset, New York. A native New Yorker, he is a graduate of Columbia University and the School of International Affairs at Columbia University. He was ordained as Rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary, and has served the Conservative Movement in Judaism in the pulpit and organizationally for the last thirty-nine years. He was most recently a Senior Advisor to the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders which took place at the United Nations and the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on August 28-31 of this year.

THE VENERABLE ASHIN SAYADAW INDAKA is the Head Monk of the America-Burma Buddhist Association. Born in Myanmar, he was ordained as a Buddhist monk at the age of twenty and is a member of the Shwegin Sect of Buddhism, the second largest Buddhist group in his country. He came to the United States in 1982 and served for one year at the Buddhist Temple in Nashville, Tennessee before coming to New York. He is a graduate of the City University of New York with a B. A. in Religion. The Venerable Indaka is a teacher of Mahasi Vipassana meditation and is active in the interfaith movement.

DR. CAROL ZINN, S. S. J., is a Sister of St. Joseph from Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. She is presently Education Program Director of Global Education Associates, an international Non-Governmental Organization working to further global systemic change. She also serves as Main Representative at the United Nations of the Congregations of St. Joseph, an NGO in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC. A graduate of Chestnut Hill College, Pennsylvania, she holds the M. A. in Theology from St. Bonaventure University and completed her doctorate in Curriculum Development and Educational Foundations from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She travels extensively offering workshops, seminars, and retreats for groups in different sectors, and is the recipient of a research fellowship from the Association on Religion and Intellectual Life (ARIL).