



Sri Chinmoy sitzt im Schneidersitz, spielt auf der Querflöte indische Melodien.
Fotos: Norbert Ganser

Vor Massen-Meditation ein Marathonlauf Guru lockte 9000 in Kölner Sporthalle!

Von MICHAEL SANTEN

● Kurze Hose, T-Shirt: So lief Sri Chinmoy (52) morgens durch den Königsforst, 42 Kilometer(!) weit. Einige Anhänger joggten mit, kamen ganz schön außer Atem.

● Im türkisfarbenen Umhang stand der Guru des Hinduismus (450 Millionen Gläubige weltweit) abends auf der Bühne der Sporthalle, spielte Flöte und Cello.

9000 Anhänger lauschten ihm andächtig.

Mit über 100 Begleitern war er am Wochenende in die Domstadt gereist. Grund: Der in Indien ge-

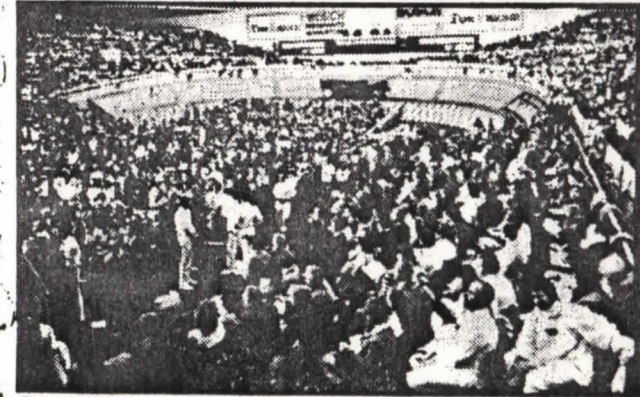
borene und in New York lebende Religionsführer hatte seine „Schüler“ zum Meditations-Festival eingeladen. „Für ihn ist mir kein Weg zu weit“, sagte eine Studentin. Mit 200 Frauen war sie extra aus Norwegen gekommen.

Im Kölner „Crest“-Hotel hatte er Quartier bezogen. Nachts schlief er oft nur eine Stunde. „Damit komme ich aus.“

Bei einem Besuch in der BILD-Redaktion sagte er: „Ich bin nur ein Instrument Gottes.“ Und weiter: „Mein Ziel ist eine bessere Welt. Wenn jeder sich selbst verbessert, wird auch unsere Welt besser.“

In der Sporthalle hielten Frauen eine Blume in den Händen, Männer trugen weiße Anzüge. Punkt acht Uhr blieb nur die mit blau-weißen Vorhängen eingerahmte Bühne beleuchtet, in der Mitte stand ein gelber, thronartiger Sessel. Kein Beifall, kein Mucks, als Sri Chinmoy meditiert, eigene Verse liest.

Ein Hallentechniker: „Teil! So viele Menschen und alles ist so friedlich. Wenn das auch bei Popkonzerten so wäre.“



Guru Chinmoy füllte die Sporthalle bis auf den letzten Platz. Eintrittskarten gab's kostenlos.

BILD
Cologne, Germany
3/26/84

Marathon Run Before Mass
Meditation
GURU DRAWS 9000 TO THE
COLOGNE SPORTHALLE.
By Michael Santen

In the morning, dressed in shorts and tee shirt, Sri Chinmoy (52) ran 42 kms through the Königsforst. Some of his followers jogged along with him, but were soon quite out of breath.

That evening, in his turquoise dhoti, the Guru (of the Hindu faith, which has 450 million believers throughout the world) appeared on the stage of the Sporthalle to play flute and cello. An audience of 9000 listened avidly.

Accompanied by 100 people, he arrived in the cathedral city for the week-end. And the reason? The religious

leader, who was born in India and lives in New York, had invited his pupils to a festival of meditation. "No journey is too far to see him," said a lady student. She had come from Norway with 100 ladies especially to see him.

He stayed at the Crest Hotel in Cologne. At night he often slept for only an hour. "An hour is enough for me," he said.

During his meeting with Bild reporters, he said, "I am a mere instrument of God." He added, "My aim is for a better world. Our world will be better when each person betters himself."

In the Sporthalle, ladies were holding flowers and men were wearing white suits. At precisely eight o'clock, the stage, which was framed by blue-white curtains, was lit up; in the middle was a yellow seat, shaped like a throne. There was no

clapping, not a sound as Sri Chinmoy meditated and read from his own verses.

A hall technician said of the event: "Great. So many people and everything is so peaceful. If only it was like that at pop concerts."

Photo Captions: Above - Sri Chinmoy plays Indian melodies on the flute. Below - Guru Chinmoy filled the Sporthalle to the last seat. Entry tickets were free.

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