

MIKHAIL, MANDELA MET WITH GURU

Not many gurus can say they've had private audiences with both Mikhail Gorbachev and Nelson Mandela. New Yorker Sri Chinmoy, who leads weekly meditation sessions for delegates at the United Nations, met with the Soviet president in May. Last month, Winnie Mandela contacted the spiritual leader and invited him to talk with her husband, African National Congress deputy president Nelson Mandela, after his speech to the U.N. General Assembly. Chinmoy, who claims to have about 2,000 followers, is perhaps best known for sponsoring the "Oneness Home Peace Run," in which teams of citizens carry a torch from country to country.

"Mrs. Mandela had asked one of our staffers at Ted Koppel's town meeting if Sri Chinmoy was available," says Nishtha Baum, a Chinmoy spokeswoman. "She had read