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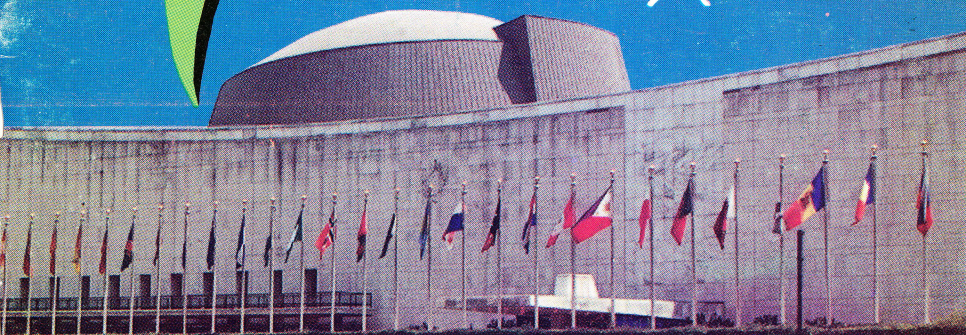
DEVOTED TO LIFE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE

SRI CHINMOY'S
PEACE MISSION

SRI AUROBINDO
ON SRI KRISHNA

RARE IMAGES
OF VINAYAKA

50



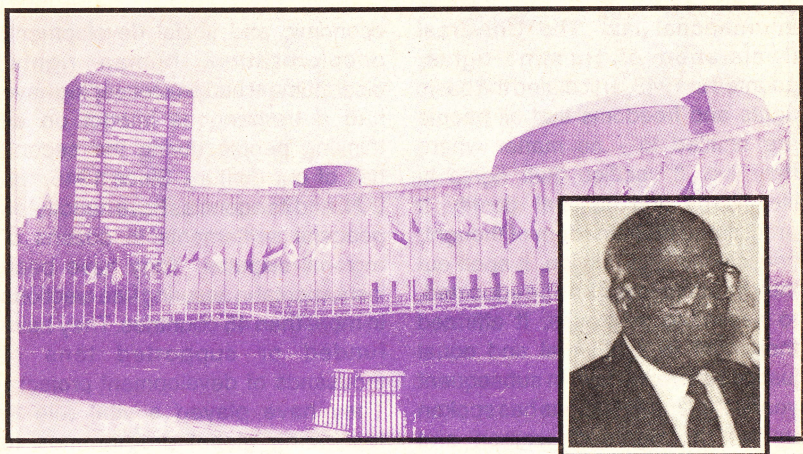
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Our Cover : United Nations - 50th Anniversary



The United Nations: Its Principles and Goals

Dr. P. Jayaraman

Executive Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, New York Kendra

Down the ages men have dreamt of a world without war, a peaceful world wherein there are opportunities for people to realise their highest potential. But the world cannot change all at once. There must be some point in time when the first steps are taken to bring about peace in the world. This happened when the League of Nations took a new form, and the United Nations Charter was signed in San Francisco 50 years ago.

The Preamble to the U.N. Charter

sets out its lofty goals: to save future generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm fundamental human rights and the dignity of the human person, and to promote social progress and a higher standard of living for all.

Each nation signing the Charter pledged itself to use its strength to advance these aims and to maintain global peace and security.

Over the years, the United Nations has sought to make these aspirations real. It evolved certain principles that gradually acquired the force of

international law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, articulated the basic rights and freedoms that all people are entitled to - no matter where they live. It codified their rights to life, liberty and national identity. It proclaimed their freedom of thought, conscience and religion. It spelt out their freedom to work, to be educated, to assemble in groups. It affirmed their right to a fair trial and equal justice before the law. In subsequent years, the United Nations has spoken up for the rights of women and children, of migrant workers, of indigenous populations and even of aliens.

While the ultimate goal of the U.N. is to usher in an ideal world of peace and prosperity, it has not neglected the immediate needs of economic and social development, especially of the poorer nations of the world. It provides struggling nations with technical assistance and capital to promote industrial and agricultural growth, environmental protection, health care and myriad social programmes. And it works tirelessly - though not always successfully - to resolve disputes between nations and to preserve peace in the troubled areas of the world.

Its failures have received widespread attention, but not its achievements. Its successes in

economic and social development, decolonization, human rights, disarmament and peacekeeping have had a tremendous impact on all thinking people during the second half of our century. Since 1945, the U.N. and its agencies have negotiated peaceful settlements to dozens of regional disputes. They have been instrumental in assuring free elections in more than 45 countries. They have funded or supported tens of thousands of development projects. They have played a vital role in fashioning global programmes to protect the environment. They have provided aid to more than 30 million refugees fleeing war, famine, or persecution. They have been responsible for drastically reducing child mortality rates and nearly doubling the life expectancy of men and women in developing countries.

In the grand sweep of human history, the United Nations is but a child. In most cases, a child can only dream and hope. But one day that child will become a man and carry the standard for all humanity. So our heartfelt prayers go out for the success of the United Nations in all its efforts for human progress in diverse fields. If not to-day, tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow our prayers are bound to be heard.

May all people be happy.

Sri Chinmoy : A Spiritual Mastermind

❖ S. Ramakrishnan ❖

Sri Chinmoy is a spiritual Mastermind striving to create peace throughout the world. For over 27 years, he has tirelessly endeavoured to foster the growth of inner peace through literature, music, arts, lectures, athletics, meditations, and meetings with world luminaries.

Born in Bengal in 1931, Sri Chinmoy spent the early years of his life in South India immersed in studying spiritual disciplines and the humanities, and excelled in several sports. He went to the United States in 1964 and since then has established over 100 meditation centres in all parts of the world. He leads an active life demonstrating vividly that spirituality is not an escape from the world but a powerful means of self-transformation and world-improvement.

Sri Chinmoy has offered hundreds

of Peace Concerts all over the world. He has been conducting twice weekly meditation sessions for world peace at the United Nations. He has never charged any fees for his concerts or meditations in his firm belief that

peace is everyone's birthright.

Sri Chinmoy has met heads of states including Mikhail S. Gorbachev and religious leaders such as Pope John Paul II in furtherance of his peace mission.

Sri Chinmoy's ennobling work

and many-faceted activities have helped increase humanity's awareness of the need to work together for global cooperation and oneness. In this way he has helped unite thousands of people from all faiths and from all fields to share their collective aspirations for a better world.

A recipient of numerous



prestigious awards including the Fountain of Universal Peace Award from the International Association of Educators for World Peace as well as the intoxicated famous Melody Queen Smt. M.S. Subbulakshmi.

As India's Prime Minister Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh told Rashtrapati Gorbachev in Moscow on Monday, July 23, 1990:

"Few leaders have deliberately chosen to unlock such elemental forces of change, and fewer still have shown the sagacity to harness popular expectations and aspirations, not only for the well-being of their people but for a better future for all mankind."

"The fact that you have embarked on this noble endeavour, with such courage and foresight, has won for you, Mr. President, the admiration and respect of the people of India and the entire world."

Gorbachev bids fair to be one of the greatest and most sagacious statesmen of this Age, **Yuga**. He is great by any standard. He seems destined to go down in history as one of its immortals.

"The true test of greatness is the page of history. The longer is the shadow on the pages, the greater is the man" - Hazlitt.

Albert Einstein Peace Award, Sri Chinmoy is a **Karma Yogi** spreading tirelessly India's message of love, peace and harmony everywhere. He is a **Bhakti Yogi** ever striving to help bring out the innate Divinity in man. He is also a **Jnana Yogi** being an authentic commentator of the Upanishads, Brahmasutras and the Bhagavad Gita. He is a **Nada Yogi** too who embodies Indian aesthetics at its noblest and elevates it to sublime spirituality.

Sri Chinmoy is a synonym for Universal Harmony, Understanding and Peace.

He is a distinguished Honorary Member of the Bhavan.

Our readers may recall that during his visit to the Berlin Wall in February 1990 Sri Chinmoy had prophesied that the Wall would not last long.

By October 4, 1990 the Wall had "crumbled into Souvenirs" and a United Germany re-emerged after 45 years of separation.

A 'Souvenir' of the Berlin Wall collected by Sri Chinmoy and sent to us by a special messenger, was taken by us to the Kanchi Acharyas. The Diwali issue (October 31, 1990) of the "Bhavan's Journal" featured on the cover H.H. Jagadguru Sri Jayendra Saraswati Swami with the Souvenir.





spiritual heritage, Sri Chinmoy, who is opening this prestigious concert with a short meditation. When the Bhavan asked Sri Chinmoy to bless its event, it chose not only a great Mahayogi but also a great lover and admirer of the United Nations, a global ambassador of peace who has been serving the ideals and vision of the United Nations for more than a quarter century.

Sri Chinmoy's association with the world organisation dates back to the spring of 1970 when, at the request of a group of staff members, Secretary-General U Thant invited

Sri Chinmoy and The Search For World Peace

❖ David K. Burke ❖

At the beginning of New York's World Music Festival*, organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (USA) in honour of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, thousands of people will be listening not to sitar or flute music but to *anahata nada*, the soundless sound. Their attention will mainly be focused on a man who symbolises for the Western World the grandeur of India's

him to lead peace meditations there. These meditations were soon expanded to twice-weekly, and the U.N. Meditation Group — later renamed "Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nation's" — became a symbol for the highest spiritual aspirations of the world community.

India has long appreciated and well understood the power of meditation to illumine humanity's

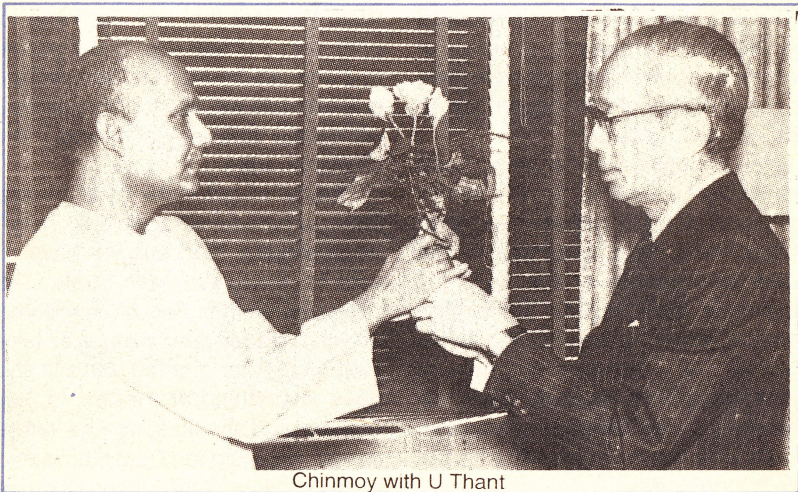
* August 25, 1995

doubting mind. Seers and sages down the ages have known the importance of building the inner foundation before trying to change the social, economic and political realities of the outer world. Unfortunately, in the West this kind of inner approach is usually viewed with rank scepticism. But right from the beginning, Sri Chinmoy has faced this challenge head-on and time and again has demonstrated how India's ancient wisdom and light can have a transforming influence on the twentieth century world of power politics.

"Whoever speaks to me about you is all appreciation and admiration," U Thant told him. "I personally feel that you have been doing a most significant task for the United Nations."

The same sentiment was voiced by Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the U.N. Office at Geneva, who recently said to him: "Your contributions and cooperation in achieving what the Charter of the United Nations asks us to do are more needed and welcome in our turbulent times."

Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the United States Shri Ananda Guruge called Sri Chinmoy "one of the rarest gifts that humankind of the twentieth century has" and the High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, Dr. L.M. Singhvi, declared: "From ages past, from Gandhi in our own time...the twentieth century spirit of spirituality has been expressed. You personify that spirit



Chinmoy with U Thant

in that great tradition.”

A visit to one of Sri Chinmoy's meditations at the U.N. cannot help but impress even the hardened sceptic. At a typical session, more than a hundred U.N. diplomats, officials and staff members sit in rapt silence in one of the conference halls as Sri Chinmoy slowly walks up to the front. Placing his hands over his heart, he bows his head for several moments, offering his inner pranam to everyone present. When he finally lifts his face, it seems transformed, as though in touch with another world. Soon a feeling of stillness, like some tangible presence, envelops the room, washing through the minds of all present, driving out thoughts, until one feels like a wave ebbing and flowing in a sea of peace. This ebb and flow seems to resonate in the heart, conveying a sense of oceanic depth, and the observer feels himself drawn into the ocean depths of his own being.

As though from far away, one is vaguely aware of Sri Chinmoy's physical form - his dhoti-punjabi blossoming like a flower against the dark background of the wall, his luminous face like the flame of a candle flickering against the white petals, an intense brightness emanating from his body, filling the room, passing through one's own body until that too seems to shimmer with brightness.

Suddenly Sri Chinmoy bows, rising from his chair, and the meditation is over. The members of the audience pass by him one by one to receive a small candy as prasad. They walk quietly, many still immersed in the world of light. Even those new to meditation find themselves inwardly vibrating with feelings they may not have experienced before, which somehow were triggered by Sri Chinmoy's spiritual presence. And long after the meditation has ended, its subtle impression remains, shaping the thoughts and actions of those who were present for days and perhaps even years to come.

“Some approach reality from the outside and feel that they have to bring the world into order first before they can have peace in their own lives. We feel that first we have to pray and meditate to bring peace and oneness to the fore from within; only then can we offer it to the political, economic and social world,” Sri Chinmoy says.

“Many do not know what we are doing or care for what we are doing,” he continues. “But still we have to care for them. We have to play the role of the mother. Very often children do not care for their mother or take their mother for granted, but still she does everything for them. In her prayers and meditations she offers peace, joy, light and satisfaction to all her children at the United Nations.

"The minds of the politicians will not believe the impact we are having, but their souls will know it and make their hearts feel it. Because of our prayer and meditation, many problems with no outer solution will somehow be solved. The human mind will call it a stroke of fate, but the heart will say it is because there are some sincere seekers who are crying for world peace. It is our accumulated prayers and meditations that are solving these problems."

Lack of Oneness

Almost all the problems of the world, he says, can be traced to one cause: lack of oneness. And the United Nations is the living embodiment of mankind's search for oneness. Right now, the U.N. represents just a kind of friendship among nations. "The different countries will not always agree with one another. But in spite of their misunderstandings and shortcomings, they are coming together at the United Nations and are trying to work out their problems. The reality of the U.N. may be far from perfect; according to many, the U.N. outwardly may be doing a few things wrong. But that is no reason to criticise it in season and out of season or to discard it. If the U.N. makes mistakes, we have to love it more in order to bring to the fore its soul's

all-illuminating revelations.

"With our outer eyes we see the United Nations as a tiny seed full of uncertainty; we feel that there may never be a plant, not to speak of a tree. But in the inner world we see that the United Nations has already grown into a most powerful tree - a tree of peace, harmony and light. Countless human beings are seated at the foot of this tree with their heart's inner hunger, and the United Nations is cheerfully, unreservedly and unconditionally offering them all its wealth.

"Woodrow Wilson's dream of a league of nations no longer exists; instead, it has blossomed into a greater dream. The United Nations is also a dream, and it too will eventually take a better, more fulfilling form; it will become a oneness-world. A league of nations is like a cluster of flowers. A united nations is an harmonious arrangement of flowers. But in a oneness-world, we will not see several individual flowers but only a single whole.

"This is God's Dream. The Kingdom of Heaven that we talk about and hear about is nothing other than full blossoming of the U.N.'s soul into a oneness-world. It may take fifty years or a few hundred years, and the outer form or structure of the U.N. may be different, but the light that the U.N. embodies is bound to cover the length and breadth of

the whole world. But even this oneness is not the end of the game. Inside oneness there must be a continuous aspiration to go higher and deeper - to go beyond, beyond, beyond - for God Himself is always transcending His own Vision-Reality."

Traveller Round the Globe

This is Sri Chinmoy's supreme vision, and he has consecrated his life to serving and manifesting it. His divinely inspired meditations at the U.N., giving new intensity to man's cry for a oneness-world, is bringing down a higher light for all humankind. But this great Yogi's work for peace extends far beyond the exalted walls of the United Nations. Since 1984, he has been travelling the length and breadth of the world, spreading peace to every corner of the globe - through music. In these peace concerts, he uses music to reveal the power of his meditation and meditation to heighten the profundity of his music. By cloaking his meditation in music, so to speak, he creates an atmosphere of peace that can be felt and experienced universally - even by those not attuned to the higher spiritual realities.

This year, in honour of the U.N.'s fiftieth anniversary, he is dedicating his musical offerings to the U.N. Just a few weeks ago he gave a major peace concert in the Great Hall of Australia's Parliament House in

Canberra. Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating wrote to him: "Your activities in inspiring a vision of peace are recognised around the world as is your special contribution to the U.N. It would be a privilege to have one of your peace concerts performed in Australia."

So Sri Chinmoy went to Canberra. At five different major highway entrances to the city, there were large signs proclaiming Canberra a "Sri Chinmoy Peace Capital," an honour no Indian has ever received from a foreign country during his lifetime. Heralded by this enormous welcome, Sri Chinmoy went to Parliament House on the evening of June 26 - the exact anniversary of the signing of the U.N. Charter in San Francisco fifty years ago. At the start of the concert, he stood in front of the overflow crowd with folded hands, deep in meditation, as a suspenseful hush settled over the audience. And for several moments, the spacious hall in the capital of Australia seemed transformed into a holy shrine on the banks of the Ganges.

The stage held a variety of instruments representing the diversity of mankind. When Sri Chinmoy took up each instrument one by one to perform his haunting, soulful compositions, different segments of humanity seemed to speak through him, expressing their own yearning

for peace. As Indian esraj and harmonium gave way to Western flute and cello, and then to the more exotic ocarina and synthesizer, the cry for peace became universal.

Peace Concert

At the same time, while this lone Indian Master sat absorbed in contemplation of God, the answer to that cry also took birth. For the music that Sri Chinmoy played was only a small part of the concert - just the solo melody in a peace concert that reverberated far beyond Parliament House. In a sense, the musical notes only skipped along the surface, weaving in and out of the main orchestral movement, which was the bedrock of absolute peace, the changeless perfection of his meditation - from which everything seemed to originate and to which everything returned. For the few fleeting hours that the concert lasted, the peace that mankind so desperately sought became a tangible reality.

It was a reality that left a deep impression on many of the country's government leaders. Speaking during an earlier session of the National Parliament, MP Garrie Gibson called the spiritual teacher "one of the world's most remarkable peace-lovers and peace-servers."

Coinciding with the concert was an exhibit at the Australian National

Senate of a selection from Sri Chinmoy's recently completed series of four million bird drawings, which he has named Four Million Dream-Freedom Peace-Birds. According to the artist, they are not birds at all but depictions of the human soul in the form of birds. Each bird is an impression of immortality, a fragment of divinity, so to speak, that he has snagged with his paint brush and brought down from heaven, still glowing with the message of divine peace.

"Each of these birds is a prayer of my heart," he declares. "These prayers I am offering to the highest Absolute Lord Supreme so that He will bless us with His Infinity's Freedom and His Immortality's Peace." Completed over a three-and-a-half year period, these four million birds represent the most powerful, far-reaching cry for peace ever expressed by a human artist. Even a partial exhibit of these drawings is enough to convert an ordinary art gallery into a veritable temple of worship. But there is nothing solemn about these bird-prayers. They literally vibrate with energy. A feeling of joy infuses the curve of their wings, every thrust of their beaks, every hesitant kick of their legs. If these birds are prayers, what the artist is worshipping is the dynamism and diversity of life itself, and the sense of peace they convey

is tinged with delight.

Perhaps the most memorable drawings of all are those composed of tens of thousands of tiny, multi-colored birds. The birds themselves are almost too small to be distinguished; there is just an impression of movement, a density of consciousness pulsing from the canvas. From afar, the birds resemble a series of furrowed fields viewed from a great height - countless rows of microscopic souls crisscrossing the face of the canvas. Each field or section of birds has its own shape, its own colour, its own movement. And within each section are other sections - tiny red birds flying their own formation amid the larger pattern of green birds, for example, like different planes of consciousness moving through one another. There is something transcendental, almost unearthly about it - like the Face of God. Sri Chinmoy has somehow managed to create a body of work as awesome as the monoliths of Stonehenge, a universe as mysterious and sacred as anything ever created by the human hand.

Religious Experience

Gazing at this universe of souls with its infinite variety of shapes, colours and moods produces an almost religious experience. It is as though the artist has somehow managed to evoke in these paintings

the beauty, the wonder, even the holiness of the soul's world. This universe of soul-birds, despite its unbelievable complexity, is very simple, highly ordered and extremely beautiful. There is something uplifting about it: a power, a calmness and, above all, a sense of inner peace. Commenting on the Canberra exhibit, Australian Senator Sid Spindler declared: "This exhibition is not a statement about peace. It is an experience of peace."

Sri Chinmoy also tries to offer the experience of peace through other non-traditional means - through sports, for example. The Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, which he founded, is a 70-nation relay run dedicated to the cause of global harmony. It has been held every other year since 1987. During the four-month event, an international group of runners passes a flaming Peace Torch from hand to hand in various countries of the world - creating a symbolic arc of light that virtually circles the globe. Local citizens join the Run as it passes through their town; they carry the Torch for a few miles, spreading the flame of peace, and then hand it to a neighbour.

The Peace Run has stirred the imagination of countless people around the earth and won the support of Presidents, Prime Ministers, religious leaders and cultural

luminaries in many countries. Queen Elizabeth II of England recently held the Peace Torch and used it to light an eternal flame at the V.E. Day celebration in London marking the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II. Pope John Paul II received the Peace Torch from Sri Chinmoy at the Vatican, saying, "I salute the runners of the Peace Run who are carrying a torch as a testimonial to peace through the streets of the world."

Inspired by his work for peace, many government leaders, parks officials and educators have dedicated their cities, states, universities, mountains and rivers to the cause of peace in Sri Chinmoy's name. Sri Chinmoy Peace-Blossoms, as this programme is called, now include such national capitals as Ottawa, Canberra and Wellington (New Zealand), the 200-kilometre border between Norway and Russia, Vietnam's Mekong Delta, the River Thames in England, Canada's Niagara Falls, America's Mt. McKinley, a Himalayan peak in Nepal, the University of Cincinnati in the U.S. and twelve American states.

Honours & Awards

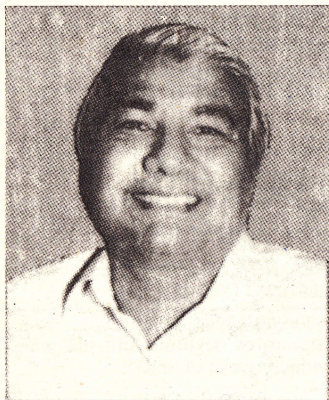
Sri Chinmoy has also received many honours and awards, including the Nehru Medallion from UNESCO, the Bhavan's Gandhi Peace Award and several honorary degrees from

universities. In 1991 the Bhavan conferred on Sri Chinmoy its "Honorary Membership," a distinction previously granted to just a handful of world leaders. It was a most significant award for Sri Chinmoy, who calls the Bhavan "not only the unparalleled culture-light of the 20th century India but also the perfect embodiment of the Vedic lore of the hoary past." *To the Bhavan's Director General, S. Ramakrishnan, Sri Chinmoy once said: "History will be the perfect witness to your sleepless aspiration and breathless dedication in spreading the supernal light of India all around the globe through Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan."* And Dr. P. Jayaraman, Executive Director of the Bhavan in America, Sri Chinmoy has described as "the harbinger mind-inspiration, heart-aspiration and life-dedication of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan."

When all is said and done, the Bhavan and Sri Chinmoy have one and the same goal: to offer India's highest light, the Light of the Lord Supreme, to the aspiring heart of humanity. For it is only here that the all-fulfilling and all-illuminating peace can ultimately be found. Right now the world is wanting in peace. But the time is fast approaching when a new vision and a new light shall dawn. "From time immemorial," Sri Chinmoy says, "history has been

dealing with tyrants and liberators. Before long, it will have to deal seriously with peace-makers." This great Yogi has dedicated his life to bringing this prophecy to fruition. In

the words of Dr. Jayaraman, "Sri Chinmoy lives, breathes, teaches and meditates for peace and peace alone."



Congratulations

Businessman and philanthropist Shri N. Sugal Chand Jain has been honoured with the *Rajasthan Shree Award* by the Rajasthan Association of Tamil Nadu.

SRI CHINMOY'S U THANT PEACE AWARD

Nemi Fredner

In 1970, a group of staff members and delegates at the United Nations headquarters in New York invited Sri Chinmoy, the noted spiritual leader and international ambassador of peace, to conduct peace meditations for the world body.

U. Thant, the first Secretary General of the U.N. and a devout Buddhist, warmly encouraged Sri Chinmoy in the early days of the Peace Meditation Group.

In 1973, Sri Chinmoy invited U. Thant to preside over the first performance of *Siddhartha Becomes the Buddha*, Sri Chinmoy's play about the life of the great spiritual Master. On that auspicious occasion, before commenting on the significance of the play itself and its relevance to modern society, U. Thant addressed the gathering thus: "Revered and highly esteemed Sri Chinmoy and brothers and sisters, it is a great

privilege to be able to participate in this spiritually rewarding experience. And for this I am most grateful to our esteemed teacher, Sri Chinmoy, for this innovative undertaking. I also feel particularly moved and touched by his very gracious blessing bestowed on me."

Sri Chinmoy offered his soulful love and admiration to the former Secretary-General: "Dear Brother, the outer political world has lost you, but the inner spiritual world has gained you and claims you as its very own".

Sri Chinmoy maintained an affectionate and devoted correspondence with U. Thant and, after U. Thant's death, with his family. This great world leader, who was a true man of peace, commands Sri Chinmoy's abiding love and regard. In late 1994, during a visit to Myanmar with many of his students from around the world, Sri Chinmoy offered his prayerful homage to U. Thant's simple memorial near the great Shwedagon Pagoda.

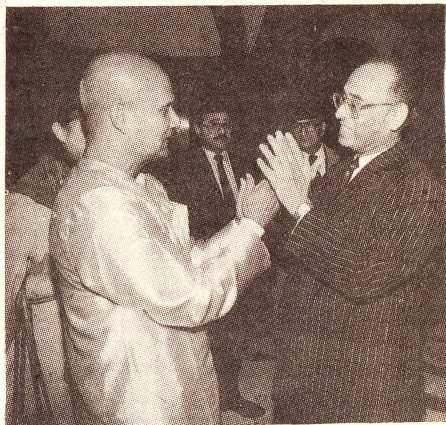
In 1977, the State of New York granted the Peace Meditation Group a lease to a very small island in the East River just a quarter-mile from the UN secretariat building. The Group dedicated this plot as "UThant Island: Compassion-Home," consecrated to the attainment of world peace through prayer and meditation. Visible from the Secretariat, and beautified by the Peace Meditation

group, U Thant Island serves as a reminder of U Thant's dedication to the highest goals. On two occasions the U Thant Peace Award ceremony was held on the island.

With the U Thant Peace Award, members of the Peace Meditation Group, inspired by Sri Chinmoy's visionary commitment to the "heart-home of the world body," seek in a humble way to commend individuals or organizations reflecting U Thant's lofty spiritual ideals through service.

The first recipient of the Award was His Excellency Ambassador Zenon Rossides of Cyprus, a vigorous and spirited senior diplomat deeply committed to the cause of disarmament and a courageous champion of spirituality as a foundation for the political work of the United Nations.

Since 1982 the Award has been presented periodically to individuals and organizations who have in unique ways demonstrated both the necessity and the efficacy of combining the contemplative inner life and the active outer life in world service. The recipients include Dr. Jorge Illueca of Panama, President of the 38th Session of the UN General Assembly and at one time President of Panama; Pir Vilayat Khan, Head of the Sufi Order in the West; Professor Guido de Marco, President of the 45th Session of the UN General Assembly and Deputy Prime Minister



Dr. L.M. Singhvi

of Malta; the late James Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF; Mother Teresa; and President Mikhail Gorbachev. On May 13, 1995, Sri Chinmoy presented the U Thant Peace Award to Dr. L.M. Singhvi in the High Commissioner's London home.

Dr. Singhvi's noble life was likened to a great tree, nurtured in the richly spiritual soil of India, and now spreading its powerful branches throughout the world, offering an abundance of fruits and flowers to all humanity.

In Dr. Singhvi's lofty vision there is no hierarchy; it is all oneness in diversity. He embodies the quintessence of East and West. Both are needed; together they can create a perfect Heaven on earth.

