

SGKW

SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION AT THE
U.N.

11 SEPT 1975-18 DEC 1979

PLEASE RETAIN
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SERIES S-0910
BOX 15
FILE 7
ACC. 915

AF/jb - cc: SG

bf: RA/AR/GMM

File: Thanks/gifts

XRef: S.Chinmoy

18 December 1979

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

I should like to thank you for your good wishes on my birthday and for sending me an inscribed copy of your book "Four Hundred 400 Gratitude - Flower - Hearts".

You may be sure that I greatly appreciated the very kind words you addressed to me both in the dedication to your book and in the card which accompanied it.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Kurt Waldheim

Sri Chinmoy
Meditation at the
United Nations

AF/MS ~~TK~~ cc: SG

bf: PA/AR/JEB/MKP/GMM/AKU/MAS

File: NGO - Sri Chinmoy

12 December 1979

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

I should like to convey to you my sincere thanks for the delightful flower arrangement which you so kindly sent to me on Human Rights Day.

You may be sure that this thoughtful gesture and your words in support of my endeavours were highly appreciated.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Kurt Waldheim

Sri Chinmoy
Meditation at the United Nations
Room 1925

AF p 4/12

GMM,

The SG would like that two separate thank-you letters be drafted for his signature to thank Chinmoy for a small flower arrangement and Kamen for an orchid.

~~GMM~~

10 December 1979

To our dear Secretary-General,

On Human Rights Day, in continuing support of your untiring efforts

Sri Chinmoy
and the Meditation Group

To Secretary-General Waldheim,

With deepest gratitude,

Jeff Kamen

Kiesel
10 Dec 79

15-10

AKK ← GMM
R. d. i. e.
RA
12/10

M. G.
A. J. AR
M. J. J. 17/11

10 OCT 2 1973

You are cordially invited to attend a programme in honour of

the Anniversary of
the Federal Republic of Germany
joining the United Nations*

The programme will feature:

- H.E. Baron Rudiger von Wechmar
Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations
- A visual presentation on the Federal Republic of Germany

Tuesday, 16 October
1:00 p.m.

Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium

Sponsored by Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations

*The Federal Republic of Germany joined the United Nations on 18 September 1973.

V. Wechmar hatte wie besagt, eine eventuelle Teil-
nahme war in Aussicht gestellt worden, das Programm wurde
nach Prüfung jedoch Herrn Stollberg (3. Sekretär, Presseabtg.) übertragen,
der morgen auch den Vortrag halten wird. Die dt. Vertretung ist sehr
wichtig, daß mit dem Namen von Botschafter V. Wechmar geworben
wird.
den 15/10

ROUTING SLIP

FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO: 2. Ahmed AR/GMM
 A:
 FROM: E. Sany M G RA
 DE:
 Room No. - No de bureau Extension - Poste Date 17/10

FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE DISCUSS?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER ?
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COMME CONVENU
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NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

"outrageous"

Rec = by hand 17.10

SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

GPO 20-Room 1931 United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017

UNITED NATIONS:

17 October 1979



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.

Dear Mr. Suy,

It was a shocking experience to read your callous and ruthless reply to my letter of 1 October requesting your advice in the matter of granting Sri Chinmoy the title of Spiritual Ambassador of (to) the United Nations.

First of all, we did not request a verdict, but rather an opinion to guide us in our approach. Nor did we beg you to grant the title. Unmoved as you were, you could have stated politely that it was not possible for you to be of any help to us. Instead, you said, in effect, "Don't bother me--enough!"

Now as to the title "Ambassador"--to be quite accurate about it, Mr. Danny Kaye has been known as "Goodwill Ambassador of UNICEF" for a number of years, without in the least endangering the respectability of that worthy title. As we would never propose to call Sri Chinmoy "Ambassador", but always and exclusively "Spiritual Ambassador", we maintain that there would be no confusion, no inappropriateness, no breach of the legal niceties.

But to get to the fundamentals, Mr. Suy, I would request you to imagine that, out of his boundless generosity, someone placed an ample supply of food on your doorstep twice a week for ten years and that you regularly consumed it. Would you, could you presume to state that a "relationship" did not exist between yourself and that person? If you had hired him to bring you food, there would indeed be a "formal" relationship. But is contractual service the only type you recognise? Is a sense of gratitude not acceptable in the legal framework? Perhaps that would be asking too much. Still, you could at least simply ignore your silent benefactor. But would you slap him and beat him in return for his offerings?

Perhaps you find the analogy far-fetched. I hardly think it so. For ten years Sri Chinmoy has made countless contributions to the United Nations. Can you discover any other group--be it a club, or an NGO, or any other society--which has consistently, tirelessly, devotedly served the very essence of the United Nations, as the Meditation Group has done? The answer, as you well know, is a decided "no". There is no such group. And there is no other spiritual leader with a stature comparable to that of Sri Chinmoy. There is no one uniquely qualified to represent the crucial spiritual role of the United Nations--except Sri Chinmoy.

/...

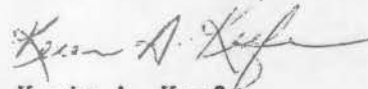
Mr. Erik Suy
Under-Secretary-General
The Legal Counsel
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations, Room 3427C

When His Holiness Pope John Paul II visited the United Nations two weeks ago, all our loftiest officials greeted him royally and paid extravagant lip-service to the spiritual ideals of mankind. But when it is a matter of action, a matter of acknowledging a group dedicated exclusively to serving the United Nations, inspired by a leader of the highest and purest spiritual qualifications, the great men merely thumb their noses.

From my layman's understanding of the law, I gather that it is a means to an end, and not an end in itself. Is there not a grave failing in that law which stifles and cripples an individual who is offering his very life-breath to serve and serve and serve, with no remuneration, with no thought even of appreciation? The Meditation Group seeks nothing from the title of Spiritual Ambassador for Sri Chinmoy save a foothold from which to serve. Yet the foothold is denied, as it was when we sought to retain the title United Nations Meditation Group, because "no formal relationship exists". The outrageous ingratitude and plain indecency of it, clothed in shoddy legal phraseology, is appalling. To what end does education serve if this is how men of education think and act! The experience you have given us makes it painfully clear that the newspapers are well justified in their scathing attacks of the high-ranking United Nations officials.

When law overrides justice in any organization, it is a sure sign of corruption and disease. All the politicking and negotiating of all the cleverest brains in all the member States of the United Nations will wretchedly fail to effect world peace if the spirit of this organisation is discarded--the spirit which Sri Chinmoy so magnificently embodies. History will bear witness to his unparalleled offering, Mr. Suy--not a hundred years from now, but much, much sooner. Do you, as an exponent of the policy of this great world body, wish to bear on your conscience a scorching brand? It might read: "To this man of God, who gave more than everything, and for whom was requested only a tiny perch, we gave abuse--smart, smug and legally impeccable."

Yours sincerely,



Kevin A. Keefe
Programme Co-ordinator
(Ext. 7938)



REFERENCE:

8 October 1979

Dear Mr. Keefe,

This is in reply to your letter to me of 1 October 1979, requesting the views of the Legal Office on the Meditation Group's wish "to arrange for Sri Chinmoy to be given the title of either 'Spiritual Ambassador of (to) the United Nations', 'Spiritual Goodwill Ambassador of (to) the United Nations', or 'Spiritual Ambassador-at-Large of the United Nations' ".

While we fully appreciate Sri Chinmoy's efforts on behalf of the United Nations, we very much regret to inform you that, from a legal standpoint, your proposal is not acceptable. In international law, the title of Ambassador is reserved exclusively for the chief representatives accredited by Sovereign States. Moreover, the term "Ambassador" has a clearly defined meaning in international legal instruments, such as the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, and in United Nations diplomatic practice where it refers to the principal representatives of Member States. In the light of the foregoing, use of the title Ambassador outside its proper context would, in our view, be neither desirable nor appropriate, particularly if the term "Ambassador" is in any way associated with the words "United Nations". Use of any of the titles mentioned in the penultimate paragraph of your letter would imply some formal relationship between your Group and the United Nations and, as I am sure you will appreciate, this would be misleading and confusing since such a relationship does not exist.

Yours sincerely,

Erik Suy
The Legal Counsel

Mr. Kevin A. Keefe
Programme Coordinator
Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations
Room 1925
United Nations
New York, N Y 10017

ROUTING SLIP

FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO: Mr. E. Suy
A:

FROM: Kevin A. Keefe *Kevin A Keefe*
DE:

Room No. - No de bureau: A 6242
Extension - Poste: 7938
Date: 1 October 1979

FOR ACTION	POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL	POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE	POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS	POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE DISCUSS?	POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER ?
YOUR ATTENTION	VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED	COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED	SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND RETURN	NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION	POUR INFORMATION

I discussed this matter briefly with Mr. Marcella.
The question as to who should award the title can be worked out elsewhere. For now, we just want to determine if the proposal is workable from the legal point of view.
Thank you.

SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

GPO 20 - Room 1925 United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017

UNITED NATIONS:

1 October 1979



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.

Dear Mr. Suy,

As we deeply value your advice and have profited from your profound counsel in the past, we are writing to get your kind opinion before proceeding further with an idea that we feel has merit.

As you are aware, Sri Chinmoy has been leading meditations at the United Nations for nearly ten years. He has lectured extensively on the spiritual role of the United Nations and has published a number of books on this subject. He has also composed over thirty songs to inspire others to appreciate the highest goals of the Charter.

Through his inspiration, a number of organisations around the world have sponsored events drawing attention to such occasions as U.N. Day, the International Year of the Child and other aspects of our Organisation. The Meditation Group has organised an extensive series of programmes commemorating anniversaries of significant events in the history of the United Nations - such as the opening of the General Assembly - and honouring the men and women who have lent greatness to the United Nations - such as the four Secretaries-General, Eleanor Roosevelt and Pablo Casals. Other programmes have honoured member states on the occasion of their national days or anniversary of entry to the United Nations. This impressive variety of programmes is the direct result of the cohesive effect of Sri Chinmoy's encouraging leadership, which was praised by Pope Paul VI during the first of his three meetings at the Vatican with Sri Chinmoy. As early as 1972 the Pontiff had heard from his staff of Sri Chinmoy's unique service to the world community at the United Nations. This appreciation has been reaffirmed on several occasions by Archbishop Giovanni Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, who declared during a programme of the Meditation Group, "Your

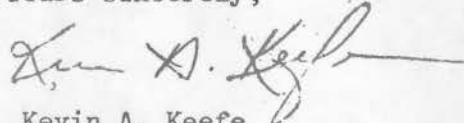
Mr. Erik Suy
Under-Secretary-General
The Legal Counsel
Office of Legal Affairs
Room 3427C
United Nations
New York, New York 10017

intentions and your work in this beautiful Meditation Group under the leadership of this highly respected Master of spirituality, Sri Chinmoy, are in harmony with those of the Pope."

For all of these reasons we would like to arrange for Sri Chinmoy to be given the title of either "Spiritual Ambassador of (to) the United Nations", "Spiritual Goodwill Ambassador of (to) the United Nations", or "Spiritual Ambassador-at-Large of the United Nations". Considering his many activities in support of the United Nations, which aim to represent the United Nations in its best light to the world at large, we feel the title of Spiritual Ambassador would be quite fitting.

Before proceeding further, we would appreciate your advising us whether you see any legal difficulty. We hope there would be none, since the title would be honorary and carry no political connotations. We would be very grateful for your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin A. Keefe
Programme Coordinator
(Ext. 7938)

AF/jb - cc: SG

bf: RA/AR/JPB/MKP/AKU

File: S.C.Meditation

RA
17/10

15 October 1979

Dear Ms. Tooker,

I wish to refer to your letter of 10 October 1979 addressed to Mrs. Waldheim concerning the luncheon and concert honouring women in the international community, to be held on 19 October 1979.

Mrs. Waldheim has asked me to express to you her appreciation for your kind invitation to be present at this luncheon. However, she regrets that a longstanding previous engagement will prevent her from attending.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a most enjoyable luncheon.

Yours sincerely,

Georg Mautner-Markhof
Special Assistant
to the Secretary-General

Ms. Carol A. Tooker
Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the
United Nations
room 3558

SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

GPO 20-Room 1931 United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017

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.

10 October 1979

Dear Mrs. Waldheim,

On behalf of the Meditation Group at the United Nations, I would like to express to you and to the Secretary-General our highest esteem for the supremely significant and dedicated service which you are offering to the entire world.

This fall, the Meditation Group is pleased to host a luncheon and concert honouring women in the international community who are present in New York during the 34th General Assembly. This is our third annual event, and we hope this year's programme will again be successful in providing an opportunity for professional women and the wives of delegation members to meet and enjoy an informal atmosphere, a buffet luncheon and an esraj concert.

As the "First Lady" of the United Nations, you are most cordially invited to attend, and we would be deeply grateful if you would offer some brief introductory remarks to greet the ladies who will be present. The programme will also include readings from famous women in the United Nations' history and a slide presentation.

This tribute will be held on Friday, 19 October, from 1:00 to 2:30 PM in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium of the United Nations. We look forward to your distinguished presence.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Carol A. Tooker

Carol A. Tooker
United Nations, Room 3558
754-5295

Mrs. Kurt Waldheim
Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, New York

bf: RA/AR

wo
/ LK

NOTE FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Sri Chinmoy Meditation Group at the United Nations has invited Mrs. Waldheim to attend a buffet luncheon and esraj concert which the group will host on 19 October in honour of ladies of the international community present in New York during the 34th Session of the General Assembly. They also requested that Mrs. Waldheim offer some brief introductory remarks. The programme will also include readings from famous women in the United Nations' history and a slide presentation.

I discussed with Rafee who felt that this event does not warrant Mrs. Waldheim's attendance. I, therefore, propose to regret pointing to longstanding previous engagements of Mrs. Waldheim.

G. Mautner-Markhof/EF
10 October 1979



10-10
RA
bf: RA/AR 10/10
M

NOTE FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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10 October 1979

SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

GPO 20-Room 1931 United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017

UNITED NATIONS:



Heart-Home
of the World-Body

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Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Carol A. Tooker

Carol A. Tooker
United Nations, Room 3558
754-5295

Mrs. Kurt Waldheim
Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, New York

dispatched 13/11/78
file

Observance of the Secretary-General's birthday

15 December 1978

Dag Hammerskjöld Auditorium

Mr. Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grünbühel, Special Assistant to the Secretary-General: Thank you very much. I should like to tell you how glad I am to be here with you today. The main part of the programme concerned Austria and the commemoration of its joining the United Nations, which indeed for Austria was a very important event. As an Austrian I am very pleased to have been here on this occasion. Of course, my present allegiance is only to the United Nations, but I can confess to you that at times I still feel homesick for Austria. Perhaps some of you will understand that feeling after having seen the beautiful slides which we have just been shown.

The other part of the programme, of course, deals with the Secretary-General and his forthcoming 60th birthday. He has asked me to thank all of you, and in particular the members of the Meditation Group, for this programme. He has also asked me to convey his sincere and very best greetings and wishes to all of you.

Dr. Ortner has already spoken about the beautiful music here today. I must say that I liked the most recent song ("Congratulation") especially.

When I informed Mr. Keefe that the Secretary-General would unfortunately not be able to be with you today, he asked me whether I would speak about the Secretary-General. I told him that I really didn't think that it would be appropriate for an assistant of the Secretary-General to speak about his superior. Therefore, I just want to say one thing: I have worked for the Secretary-General for almost six years now; for two years when he was Foreign Minister of Austria and almost four years here in New York. I can tell you only that it most certainly is worth working for him.

Thank you very much.

SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

GPO 20 - Room 1925 United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017

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FTB
after return
M
39

UNITED NATIONS:



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

27 March 1979

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.

Dear Mr. Mayrhofer,

Enclosed please find some excerpts from your remarks at our recent programme marking the anniversary of Austria's joining the United Nations and celebrating the Secretary-General's birthday. With your approval, we would like to use these excerpts in our monthly bulletin which reports on the activities of the Meditation Group. If you would like to make any revisions to these remarks before they are printed, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Gershon".

Gail Gershon
Secretary

Mr. Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
Special Assistant to the Secretary-General
Room 3802C

Observance of the Secretary-General's birthday
15 December 1978

Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium

Mr. Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grubuhel, Special Assistant to the Secretary-General: Thank you very much. I would like to tell you how glad I am to be here with you today. The main part of the programme concerned Austria and the commemoration of it joining the United Nations, which indeed for Austria was a very important event. And as an Austrian I am very glad to have been here on this occasion. Of course, my present allegiance is only to the United Nations, which I serve now. But I can confess to you that at times I still feel ~~terribly~~ homesick for Austria, and maybe some of you will understand that after having seen these beautiful slides which were just shown to us.

The other part of the programme, of course, deals with our Secretary-General and his forthcoming 60th birthday. He has asked me to thank all of you, and in particular the members of the Meditation Group, for this programme. He has asked me to convey his sincere and very best greetings and wishes to all of you.

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Thank you very much.

AF/MC/jb - cc: SG

~~bf: RA~~

File: Sri Chinmoy

26-3

AM
/8/3

26 March 1979

Dear Ms. Gershon,

In the absence of the Secretary-General on official business abroad, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 20 March 1979 enclosing a copy of Sri Chinmoy's book "Einstein: Scientist - Sage".

You may be assured that I shall bring this book to the attention of the Secretary-General upon his return to Headquarters. I know that the Secretary-General would wish me to convey to Sri Chinmoy his appreciation of this kind gesture.

Yours sincerely,

Albert Rohan
Director

Ms. Gail Gershon
Secretary
Sri Chinmoy Meditation
at the United Nations
New York

room 1925

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SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

GPO 20 - Room 1925 United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017

UNITED NATIONS:



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

MC
pls write thank you letter
in MR in Job's absence

20 March 1979

JM 23.3.

FMG
RA
2013

Dear Mr. Waldheim,

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.

United Nations Ambassadors as well as colleagues of Albert Einstein offered very moving tributes to the scientist-humanitarian in our programme today, "Einstein and World Peace."

It is in this spirit and with this inspiration that I am very happy to forward to you Sri Chinmoy's recently published book, Einstein: Scientist-Sage, which Sri Chinmoy sends with his deepest respect and gratitude.

Yours sincerely,

Gail Gershon

Gail Gershon
Secretary

Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General
United Nations
Room 3800A

MC/jb - cc: SG

bf: RA/AR/FMG

File: ~~21220/21220~~ 60 b'day

KRef: Meditation group

20 December 1978

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

I wish to thank you for the kind wishes which you extended to me in connexion with my 60th birthday and for the beautiful flowers you sent me for this occasion.

I very much regret that official commitments relating to the General Assembly made it impossible for me to join you for your Group's gathering on 15 December, but I greatly appreciated this invitation to take part in this programme. Mr. Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel told me of the activities that had so kindly been arranged, for which I am indeed grateful.

Yours sincerely,

Kurt Waldheim

Sri Chinmoy
Meditation at the United Nations
New York

room 1925

Kecid 11 xii 78

SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

11-12

GPO 20-Room 1925 United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017

FM6
RA
11/12

UNITED NATIONS:



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

8 December 1978

H.E. Mr Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General
United Nations

Dear Mr. Waldheim,

On 15 December 1978 the Meditation Group is sponsoring a programme marking Austria's acceptance into the United Nations family. Ambassador Klestil is expected to attend and speak on what membership in the U.N. has meant to your country.

We are happy to invite you to attend the programme. We do so not so much because it pertains to Austria, but because we wish to mark in our humble way your upcoming sixtieth birthday. Therefore we are designating a portion of the programme as being in your honour.

The gathering is scheduled for Friday 15 December at 1:00 p.m. in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium.

Thank you for your most kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Peck
Programme Co-ordinator

PS. We understand that your excessively busy schedule may prevent your attending. If such is the case, may we request Mr. Mayrhofer to briefly speak about you. Thank you.

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file FMG RA
6.11. 3/11

GPO 20 - Room 1925
United Nations, New York
2 November 1978

Dear Secretary-General,

I am so grateful that you were able to take time from your busy schedule to see me on U.N. Day. It was an unparalleled privilege and honour for me to be able to meet with you and offer you my soulful homage.

Dear Secretary-General, you are the Supreme Pilot of the United Nations Boat, guiding the world to a new illumination-dawn, and all peace-loving human beings are your oarsmen. Those who are blessed with inner aspiration and vision are indeed happy and proud to have you as their Boatman.

Once more I wish to offer you my heart's garland of gratitude for saving our Meditation Group and granting us the supreme opportunity to continue serving you through our devoted activities at the United Nations.

Yours in the Supreme,

Sri Chinmoy
Sri Chinmoy

H. E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
United Nations, New York

23/10

by RA/AAA/mg

DM

City of New York

22, 10.

Know ye by these presents that I

Edward I. Koch

Mayor of the City of New York

do hereby present this

Certificate of Appreciation

to

SRI CHINMOY

Whose contributions as ~~spiritual~~ leader, meditation teacher, musician, artist and poet have been an inspiration to thousands of New Yorkers and whose community activities in Jamaica Hill, Queens, have benefitted the entire City. I commend this fine humanitarian on behalf of all our citizens.



In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of New York to be affixed this sixteenth day of August, 1978.

Ed Koch



Mayor Koch applauds spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy yesterday at City Hall

Honors for sage of Jamaica

By Joseph M. Treen

It was the first day of an 11-day birthday party yesterday: a party to celebrate the 47th birthday of Indian spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy, who both got a present and gave one.

Chinmoy received a special "letter of appreciation" from Mayor Edward Koch, on the steps of City Hall, for "his contributions as a spiritual leader, teacher, musician, artist, poet, who has been an inspiration to thousands of New Yorkers and (for) his community activities in his community of Jamaica Hills, Queens."

Chinmoy responded with a song. A choral group sang "Pilot Brave, Oneness-Heart!" which Chinmoy wrote about and for Koch:

*O Pilot brave, your selfless role
Is now silencing the dart
That tortured New York City.
You are its perfection-cry.*

*Millions shall treasure your vision high
The celebration will consist of 11 days of plays,*

songs, circus acts, athletic competitions and meditation sessions, climaxed by a 47-mile race on Aug. 27, Chinmoy's 47th birthday. The events will center around the spiritual leader's teachings, which urge people to accept the world, to love humanity and to try to perfect themselves in the service of humanity.

Thus, said follower Jeff Kamen, a newscaster for WPIX-TV, Chinmoy encourages hard work, physical fitness and self-development through meditation. Kamen said that Chinmoy has been a decathlon champion and has written 360 books, composed 2,000 songs and painted 135,000 paintings.

Chinmoy has about a thousand followers in the United States, Kamen said, many of whom will be present for the birthday party.

After presenting the letter of appreciation and hearing his song, Koch left for another appointment, and his aide, Herbert Rickman, filled in. "You have given all of us at City Hall a beautiful moment, one that we will treasure for quite some time," Rickman told the 200 followers on the steps.



Indian spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy is honored by New York Mayor Ed Koch. (UPI photo)

Disciples of Indian spiritual master Sri Chinmoy want to be sure their guru's birthday is properly celebrated, so they'll work on it for the next 11 days. They kicked off a marathon party yesterday on the steps of New York's city hall, with Mayor Edward Koch on hand to present a special award to Chinmoy, who conducts daily meditation sessions for delegates at the United Nations. The party will feature almost nonstop meditation sessions, several hundred songs and plays written by Chinmoy, and a 47-mile marathon — a mile for each year — on the guru's 47th birthday, Aug. 27.

United Press International

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GURU: Disciples of Indian spiritual master Sri Chinmoy want to be sure their guru's birthday is properly celebrated, so they'll work on it for the next 11 days. They kicked off a marathon party Wednesday on the steps of New York's city hall, with Mayor Edward Koch on hand to present a special award to Chinmoy, who conducts daily meditation sessions for delegates at the United Nations. The party will feature almost nonstop meditation sessions, several hundred songs and plays written by Chinmoy, and a 47-mile marathon — a mile for each year — on the guru's 47th birthday, Aug. 27.

THE JERSEY JOURNAL, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1978

Personalities

THE WASHINGTON POST
Friday, August 18, 1978

Disciples of Indian spiritual master Sri Chinmoy kicked off an 11-day birthday party for their guru Wednesday, with the presentation of a special award to Chinmoy by New York Mayor Edward Koch on the steps of city hall. The party will feature almost non-stop meditation sessions, several hundred songs and plays written by the guru and a 47-mile marathon in honor of his 47th birthday Aug. 27. Chinmoy conducts daily meditation sessions for delegates at the United Nations.

NEA YOPKH 25C
ETIΕ ΑΛΛΕΕ ΠΟΛΕΙΕ 35C
ΚΑΝΑΔΑΕ 40C



in Power

211 E 43RD ST NEW YORK N.Y. 10017
VOL 2 No 433 PHONE: 557-1960

Pröim Greek-American B



Δέν μαλόνουν ό κομισάριος και ό γίδης έντολής... Ο Δήμαρχος προσφέρει στό άναμνηστικό δώρο γιά τό γενέθλιο κοικιλόμορφα βλέματα τών όμ

THE REPORTER DISPATCH

White Plains, N.Y., Sunday, August 27, 1978

Earthly cares didn't concern guru's fo

By STEVE BURGARD

Somewhere there were earthly cares Thursday, such as up in Putnam County, where they have dam problems. Or even at Fox Lane High School in Bedford, administrators probably were scurrying about indoors to work out seating charts for the coming trying school year.

None of those mundane anxieties amounted to much in the late summer heat at the high school track, however. It was sun and good vibes for Sports Day, part of an 11-day celebration of the 47th birthday of the Indian guru Sri Chinmoy. A whole stream of young people out fitted in colorful shorts were off and running on a five-mile race around the track.

The event was one of a number of track and field activities, including javelin, shot put, discus, long jump and high jump. The guru was at trackside, getting his legs rubbed down by a disciple, reportedly a former Puerto Rican boxer and trainer. Sri Chinmoy sat under an umbrella in a lawn chair watching the disciples run by.

CARS in the parking lot suggested how far many of them had traveled. There were license plates from Onta

rio and far-flung states. And there were two gigantic blue buses up from the Sri Chinmoy community in Jamaica, Queens.

The message of the movement could be found on the trunks and bumpers of the automobiles. One sticker carried a quotation from the guru: "When the power of love replaces the love of power, man will have a new name, God."

Another carried a picture of the guru, a head shot of a shaven monk with bright eyes and a serene visage, his ear to a telephone. "Dial-a-meditation with Sri Chinmoy," it said, "(212) 526-1111."

One of the participants, 23-year-old Wolf Meywald, came with a group from Europe, in his case all the way from Freiburg, Germany. He is a chemistry student at the university there.

"I WAS LOOKING for something before (getting involved with the movement) — one has to have the inner flame to search for something," he said. "Someone from Zurich came and gave a lecture... and that was it."

In all, Sri Chinmoy has about 1,000 disciples around the world, with centers in about 60 cities, according to Dave Burke, an oil company public relations writer who does publicity for the group. Followers are encouraged to pursue careers; single disciples are celibate.

According to Meywald, participation in sports helps the devotees progress spiritually. "To be an instrument of higher life," he said, "you want to be in shape."

Steve Hein who grew up a little closer to home, in Thornwood (Westlake High, Class of 1966), said he met Sri Chinmoy while a college student and has been a follower ever since.

"It changed my life," he said. Hein, who now has a spiritual name, "Dhruba" is an editor of publications at the United Nations and does publicity for Sri Chinmoy. He said the guru came to the United States in 1964, after years of meditation in India, on "inner direction" to help spiritual seekers in this country.

According to Hein, the guru doesn't charge for his teachings. The movement is sustained financially through contributions and the sale of the teacher's books.

SANTANA looks like a graduate student these days.

ἡ Ἐπιτομή

ΣΕΛΙΔΕΣ
36

NEW YORK N.Y. 10017
PHONE: 557-1960

Ἡ Ἑλληνο-Ἀμερικανικὴ ἡμερησίως Ἐπιτομή

FRIDAY AUGUST 18 1978



UPI Photo
Δὲν μαλάνουν ὁ κομισσάριος καὶ ὁ γιόγκι ποιός θὰ πάρει τίς 10 ἐντολές... Ὁ Δήμαρχος προσφέρει στὸν Ἰνδὸ Σρί Τσιμονόυ ἀναμνηστικὸ δῶρο γιὰ τὰ γενέθλιά του κατὰ ἀπὸ τὰ κοικιλόμερα βλέμματα τῶν ἀμοιρόσκων του.

Boston Herald American
Friday, August 18, 1978



UPI Photo
New York Mayor Edward Koch presents Indian spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy with a special award at the start of the Guru' 11-day birthday celebration. Several hundred of the 47-year-old Guru's disciples watch the ceremony.

Office of the President
of the
Borough of Manhattan
City of New York

Proclamation

Whereas: The Borough of Manhattan is not only the center of this nation's culture, and commerce, but is also a home to religious and spiritual organizations, and

WHEREAS: Sri Chinmoy, renowned spiritual leader is an example of the diversity that our city cherishes, and

WHEREAS: Sri Chinmoy has contributed to the spiritual well-being of the Borough's 1.5 million residents, now

THEREFORE: By the power vested in me as President of the Borough of Manhattan, I, Andrew J. Stein, do hereby proclaim Sunday, August 27th, 1978 to be Sri Chinmoy Day in the Borough of Manhattan.



Andrew Stein

ANDREW J. STEIN
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

THE REPORTER DISPATCH

White Plains, N.Y., Sunday, August 27, 1978

It concern guru's followers

There were two gigantic guru communities in Jamaica, N.Y. One was founded on the obsolescence of the guru. When the power of love will have a new name.

The guru, a head shot of a serene visage, his meditation with Sri Chinmoy. In his case all the way to a chemistry student at

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"It changed my life," he said. Hein, who now has a spiritual name, "Dhruva" is an editor of publications at the United Nations and does publicity for Sri Chinmoy. He said the guru came to the United States in 1964, after years of meditation in India, an "inner direction" to help spiritual seekers in this country.

According to Hein, the guru doesn't charge for his teachings. The movement is sustained financially through contributions and the sale of the teacher's books.

There were celebrities in the flock that day at Fox Lane too. Dressed in white shorts and shirt, and sporting a Sri Chinmoy sun visor, was a follower who goes by the name "Devadip" (Deva-DEEP). He's known to popular music followers as Carlos Santana.

SANTANA looks like a graduate student these days, and he is celibate.

with trimmed curly hair and wire-rim glasses, a far cry from the rock musician of the late 1960s who played "Black Magic Woman."

The musician's wife, Debbie, is also a follower. She said she and her husband come east frequently from their California home to see the spiritual leader.

"Everything we do reflects our inner life," she said. "Through his (Santana's) work, he reaches thousands. But when they hear his music, they hear a very deep part of him. It's something more than notes."

Also on hand was Jeff Kamen, a police reporter for WPIX.

"IMAGINE being told by your guru that you're not being tough enough in your work?" he asked. Kamen said he went to a meeting with the teacher after a television newscast and was scolded in front of the other disciples for being too soft. In his line of questioning.

"A lot of people think these people are not a part of the action," he said. "But he teaches us to accept life, to be of service."

Kamen said he met Sri Chinmoy while doing a documentary some years ago for public television on what people were doing and thinking.

"I went around talking to swamis and gurus," he said. "I met him and something happened inside of me."

GREENWICH TIME, THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1978

Sri Chinmoy followers mark birthday with 47-mile run

Three Greenwich men — Prem Childs, owner of Love and Sever Restaurant, and Steve DeAngelo and Vin Szczesul, co-workers at the vegetarian restaurant — completed a 47-mile run in celebration of the 47th birthday of their guru, Sri Chinmoy, last Sunday in Queens.

Participating in the race, which began at 12:07 a.m., were 57 men and women students of meditation; and all but one finished. The race was won in five hours and 37 minutes by 36-year-old Tarak Kauff, director of another running event — the second annual Sri Chinmoy 10-Mile Race to be held in Greenwich on Sept. 24.

Sri Chinmoy himself was a champion sprinter and decathlete in southern India, where he resided and practiced intense meditation before coming to the United States in 1964. Director of more than 60 free meditation centers around

the world, he places great importance on physical fitness as well as meditation.

"The body," Sri Chinmoy says, "needs proper training so that it will be fit to receive the message of the soul. If the body is strong and healthy, then it can receive the message of the soul unreservedly and eventually become a perfect instrument."

Greenwich runners Childs, DeAngelo and Szczesul have completed 26-mile

marathons and are in training for the New York City Marathon this October in which Sri Chinmoy will also run.

Following the 10-mile Greenwich race on Sept. 24, there will be a vegetarian meal for the runners; and that evening Sri Chinmoy will give a free concert of music and meditation in Greenwich.

Entry forms and information may be obtained at Love and Serve Restaurant.

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Howard Golden

OF THE BRONX



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN
CITY OF NEW YORK

Proclamation

WHEREAS, SRI CHINMOY IS A NATIVE OF INDIA WHO CAME TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1964 AND HAS SINCE FOUNDED 60 CENTERS WHERE MEDITATION AND OTHER SPIRITUAL SKILLS ARE TAUGHT; AND

WHEREAS, SRI CHINMOY'S TEACHINGS, BOOKS, WATERCOLORS AND DRAWINGS, AND HIS MUSICAL PERFORMANCES HAVE PROVIDED THOUSANDS OF NEW YORKERS WITH SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE AND AESTHETIC ENJOYMENT; AND

WHEREAS, SRI CHINMOY HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LEADERS IN MANY OF THE WORLD'S COUNTRIES; AND

WHEREAS, SRI CHINMOY'S MANY FOLLOWERS AND ADMIRERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CELEBRATION OF HIS BIRTHDAY ON AUGUST 27TH, 1978;

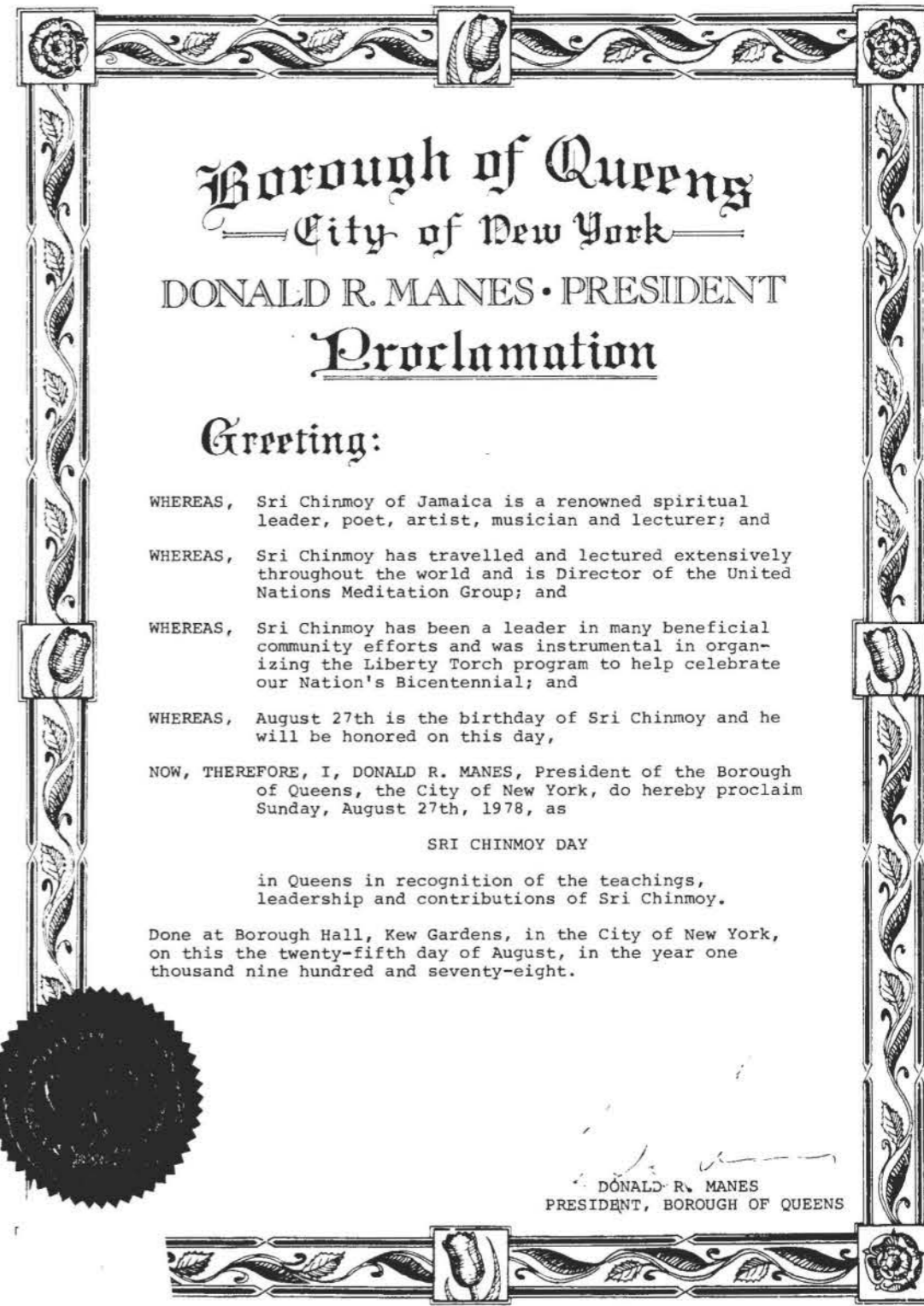
NOW, THEREFORE, I, HOWARD GOLDEN, PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH, 1978, AS

SRI CHINMOY DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN TO BE AFFIXED THIS 25TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1978.



Howard Golden
PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN



Borough of Queens
City of New York

DONALD R. MANES • PRESIDENT

Proclamation

Greeting:

WHEREAS, Sri Chinmoy of Jamaica is a renowned spiritual leader, poet, artist, musician and lecturer; and

WHEREAS, Sri Chinmoy has travelled and lectured extensively throughout the world and is Director of the United Nations Meditation Group; and

WHEREAS, Sri Chinmoy has been a leader in many beneficial community efforts and was instrumental in organizing the Liberty Torch program to help celebrate our Nation's Bicentennial; and

WHEREAS, August 27th is the birthday of Sri Chinmoy and he will be honored on this day,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD R. MANES, President of the Borough of Queens, the City of New York, do hereby proclaim Sunday, August 27th, 1978, as

SRI CHINMOY DAY

in Queens in recognition of the teachings, leadership and contributions of Sri Chinmoy.

Done at Borough Hall, Kew Gardens, in the City of New York, on this the twenty-fifth day of August, in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight.



Donald R. Manes
DONALD R. MANES
PRESIDENT, BOROUGH OF QUEENS

Robert Abrams

**President of the Borough of
The Bronx**

Presents this

Citation of Merit

to

SRI CHINMOY

In recognition of his enormous contributions in the spiritual, artistic, literary and musical fields.

Sri Chinmoy has served the public as an administrator at the Indian Consulate in New York and has devoted himself to spiritual, artistic and literary pursuits. He has discussed his spiritual philosophy with many world leaders and has lectured at major universities throughout the United States, the Far East, Europe and Australia.

A man of diverse talent, Sri Chinmoy has composed music that has been performed at such places as Lincoln Center, Carnegie and Town Halls, and his poetry has won international acclaim. He has also been awarded the "Contribution to the Arts" award by the New York School of Visual Arts in recognition of his many paintings which have been exhibited in various galleries and museums in the United States and Europe.

Today, August 27, 1978, in honor of his birthday, my fellow citizens in the Borough of The Bronx join me in saluting Sri Chinmoy for his great contributions to the spiritual, literary and artistic fields, and in wishing him many more years of joy and happiness which he has tirelessly endeavored to bring to countless others.



Robert Abrams
ROBERT ABRAMS
PRESIDENT, BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

Office of the President
of the
Borough of Staten Island
City of New York

Proclamation

Whereas: The remarkable career of Sri Chinmoy, spiritual teacher, artist, composer and poet, continues with superlatives heralding the unselfish motivation of this New Yorker; and

WHEREAS: Sri Chinmoy's contribution to our spiritual and cultural life remains unrivaled, and has been noted by world leaders, educators, and, most significantly, by the thousands of persons he has touched with his good will and commitment; and

WHEREAS: Through traditional and unique communicative techniques, Sri Chinmoy maintains a quieting empathy with multitudes of people dedicated to continuing understanding of all men and all beliefs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANTHONY R. GAETA, President of the Borough of Staten Island by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the laws of the City and State of New York do hereby proclaim Sunday, August 27, 1978, as

SRI CHINMOY DAY

in the Borough of Staten Island and urge our 352,000 residents to join with me in celebrating the unique achievements of this spiritual teacher on the occasion of his 47th birthday.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Borough of Staten Island this twenty-fourth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight.



Anthony R. Gaeta

ANTHONY R. GAETA

Sri Chinmoy

California Concert-Lecture Tour

27 September-5 October 1978



City Of Berkeley

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

WARREN WIDENER
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

SRI CHINMOY DAY

WHEREAS, Sri Chinmoy heads an international spiritual organization with centers in some 60 cities around the world and presently serves as Director of the United Nations Meditation Group conducting meditation for U.N. delegates and staff and delivers the monthly Dag Hammarskjold Lecture Series; and

WHEREAS, Sri Chinmoy has met with a number of world figures in his efforts to introduce the practice of meditation as an inner approach to world peace—including the late Pope Paul VI (who awarded him the Papal Medallion), Presidents Eldjarn of Iceland and Childers of Ireland, Prime Minister Desai of India and numerous U.S. senators and congressmen, as well as a variety of state and local officials; and

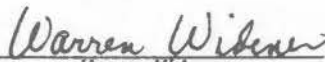
WHEREAS, these particular involvements are typical of his unselfish attitude and his concern about the welfare of others; and

WHEREAS, Sri Chinmoy has expressed his inner realizations not only through his literature and music, but through his paintings and thus will soon celebrate the anniversary of the completion of his one hundred thousandth painting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Warren Widener, Mayor of the City of Berkeley, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, September 27, 1978 as

SRI CHINMOY DAY

in Berkeley to commemorate the occasion of Sri Chinmoy's lecture and concert presentation at the University of California this date.


Warren Widener
Mayor

City of Berkeley
September 27, 1978

Consul General L.L. Mehrotra's Tribute to Sri Chinmoy

On Wednesday, 27 September 1978, during a concert at San Francisco State University given by Sri Chinmoy and his disciples, Mr. L.L. Mehrotra, Consul General of India in California and Sri Chinmoy's former boss at the Indian Consulate in New York City, spontaneously offered the following most special message.

Mr. Mehrotra: Reverend Sri Chinmoy, his devoted disciples and my brothers and sisters of America, I feel very humble at this moment. Whereas all my life and career it has been my ambition to mingle with the dust, Sri Chinmoy is trying to seek a place for me in the skies. I would therefore be one of the most ungrateful persons on the earth if I did not interrupt this programme if only to express my gratitude. My heart is very heavy with that sentiment.

I have known Sri Chinmoy as Chinmoy Ghose now for several years, and "Ghose" means resonance. Sri Chinmoy the resonant will always reverberate in our hearts with his eternal message. He brings to you a spiritual tradition which sprang and flourished in the mountain-vastness of the Himalayas several thousands of years ago and which is carried across the seven seas by Everest-streams and rivers. Sri Chinmoy is part and parcel of that eternal Stream. Sri Chinmoy belongs to that stream of thought and sentiment which has shown us the Light for ages. He recited a verse from the Upanishads a little while ago: Tamaso mā jyotir gamaya, "Lead me from darkness to Light"; Mrtvor mā amrtam gamaya, "Lead me from death to Immortality." May I say that while we mortals pray for that Immortality, Sri Chinmoy is part of that Immortality.

I consider those blessed who sit in his presence and who seek his presence, and I know that even after I and you and everyone is gone, his voice and his message will be with us, for that is the Message Supreme to which I bow.

Thank you very much.



PETE WILSON
MAYOR

September 27, 1978

Sri Chinmoy
2438 - 16th Avenue
San Francisco, California 94116

Dear Mr. Chinmoy:

I am pleased to welcome you to San Diego as part of your California tour of major universities, for a fall concert and lecture series September 27 through October 6th.

Amide your full schedule, I hope that you will find some time to explore the magic of our city. San Diegans are proud of their city, rich in a splendid heritage spanning more than 200 years, and proud of a city that is, at the same time, young with the spirit of progress and achievement.

Again, I join with the people of my city in welcoming you to San Diego. And I congratulate you for your excellent efforts to establish a peaceful and brotherly human society. I share your hope for peace for all mankind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete Wilson".

PETE WILSON

Proclamation

Issued by the Mayor

City of Sacramento

SRI CHINMOY DAY

WHEREAS, Sri Chinmoy is the Director of the United Nations Meditation Group; and

WHEREAS, as head of a Non-Governmental Organization, he conducts weekly meditations for United Nations delegates and staff and delivers the monthly Dag Hammarskhold Lecture Series;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phillip L. Isenberg, Mayor of the City of Sacramento, do hereby proclaim September 29, 1978 as SRI CHINMOY DAY in honor of his visit to Sacramento.

ISSUED this 28th day of September, 1978.



Phillip L. Isenberg
PHILLIP L. ISENBERG
MAYOR

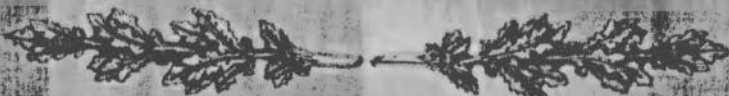


28 September 1978



RUNNER'S WORLD MAGAZINE

Distinguished Service Award



SRI CHINMOY

*

*For dedicated service
to
humanity through
the promotion of running*

*

September 28, 1978

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS, The City of Stockton wishes to express its honor upon the official visit of Sri Chinmoy, a native of India, who arrived in 1964 in the United States of America and since has founded 60 centers where meditation and other spiritual skills are taught; and
- WHEREAS, Sri Chinmoy, as Director of the United Nations Meditation Group and a well known spiritual leader will present a fall lecture and concert tour encompassing California's major universities September 27 through October 6, 1978, including Stockton; and
- WHEREAS, Sri Chinmoy's teachings, books, watercolors and drawings, and his musical performances have provided many with spiritual guidance and aesthetic enjoyment; and
- WHEREAS, His many followers and admirers will participate in his many California tours, including the one in Stockton.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD I. RUE, as Mayor of the City of Stockton do hereby proclaim Friday, September 29, 1978 as

"SRI CHINMOY DAY IN STOCKTON"

and urge the citizens of the City of Stockton to attend the lecture scheduled for September 29.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Stockton to be affixed this 25th Day of September, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Eight.



ARNOLD I. RUE
Mayor of the City of Stockton





2 October 1978



PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that in view of his creative achievements in ecumenical religious interpretation and in behalf of humanity

SRI CHINMOY

has been appointed an Honorary Visiting Scholar at Pacific School of Religion.

A. Durwood Foster
A. Durwood Foster
Dean

John von Rohr
John von Rohr
Interim President

October 5, 1978



COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY
205 TRESIDDER MEMORIAL UNION, STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

5 October 1978

The Associated Students are pleased and honored to have Sri Chinmoy among us tonight. No one of us can gauge the effect that you have had on the Stanford community over the years; whether deeply familiar or newly exposed to your teachings and music, everybody present will leave this hall a little better for the experience.

We thank Sri Chinmoy for his generosity and good will, and we heartily welcome him back to our home at any point in the future.

Andrew Neil Goldenkranz
ASSU Council of Presidents

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

To SRI CHINMOY, composer, singer,
performer on many instruments, poet,
painter, spiritual leader:

On behalf of the Department of Music,
Stanford University, I offer you welcome at
the culmination of your tour of California
universities and colleges. Your presence on
the campus is appreciated in recognition of
your accomplishments in service to the world
community and of your embodiment of the
oneness of music with other creative
manifestations of our common humanity.

Edward E. Colby
Lecturer in Music



Meditation Group

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS—ADRESSE POSTALE UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE UNATIONS NEWYORK

REFERENCE:

ju
pm 13 10

13 October 1978

Dear Mr. Mayrhofer,

We wish to sincerely thank you on behalf of the Meditation Group for your long efforts on our behalf. Please accept the flowers as a small token of our appreciation and gratitude. At some time we would like the opportunity to personally express our feelings to you.

We have received a copy of the Secretary-General's letter through Ambassador Rossides, and as we understand it we now are at liberty to request and receive meeting rooms. We intend to proceed in this today unless we hear otherwise from you.

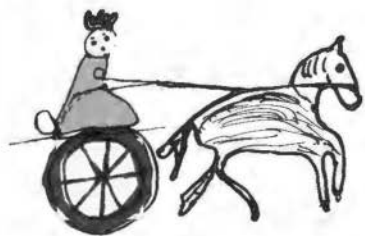
With best regards,

K. Keefe

K.T. 1

Kevin Keefe
Kenneth Peck
Meditation Group
754-7833
754-5827

Mr. F. Mayrhofer
Special Assistant to the
Secretary-General
Room 3802C



2018

With
soulful appreciation
and gratitude

the members of the
Meditation Group

All artwork and quotations by Sri Chinmoy.

NGE-5 20

SHANTI GALLA
112 5th Avenue
Palisades, N.Y. 10964

cc: Edward Dowling, T. C. ...
~~Shurrock~~

UNITED NATIONS
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM



NATIONS UNIES
MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

pls. parvoin
memo
gr

TO: Mr. Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
A: Special Assistant to the Secretary-General

DATE: 10 October 1978

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM: Erik Suy, The Legal Counsel
DE:

RA
18/10

SUBJECT: Sri Chinmoy Meditation Group
OBJET:

I should like to comment as follows on the two questions raised in your memorandum of 8 September 1978 in connexion with the abovementioned Meditation Group:

- (1) As regards the name of the Group, either the first alternative suggested by Mr. Keefe or the name suggested in my memorandum of 12 May 1978 would be acceptable to us;
- (2) As regards the use of meeting rooms, we agree with the attached letter dated 29 September 1978 from the Secretary-General to Ambassador Rossides.

18-10

Mr. Keefe called me on behalf of the Meditation Group and inquired about pt. (1). I explained to him that the Legal Counsel had not found any objection with regard to the name Mr. Keefe had suggested. As to a written statement in this matter I referred him to the Legal Counsel.

RA / AN MR

18.10.

FMG/SR
bf: RA/AR/MC

seen before signature

12/9/1978

Mr. Erik Suy, Legal Counsel

Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
Special Assistant to the Secretary-General

Meditation Group

As you know the Meditation Group has meanwhile withdrawn from the Recreation Council. In this connexion two questions have arisen:

1. Name of the Group

With reference to my letter to the Group of 27 June 1978 (of which you have a copy) Mr. Keefe, on behalf of the Meditation Group, has suggested the following wording:

- Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the UN (preferred)
- Meditation at the UN
- Oneness Meditation at the UN

In your memo of 12 May you suggested a title such as "Sri Chinmoy Meditation Group in the UN Community". It seems that such a name would provide better and clearer identification of the Group.

2. Use of meeting rooms

Please see attached letter of Sri Chinmoy of 10 August. I have discussed the matter with Conference Services, who told me that they cannot take the responsibility for deciding who is entitled to use UN meeting rooms and that rooms have to be requested through either of the following channels:

- Delegation (through the Chief of Protocol)
- Recreation Council (for member groups)
- Staff Council or
- Visitors Service

The Meditation Group has informed me that for the time being they will make their requests through Delegations of Member States, pending a decision which channel should be used in future.

Your advice would be appreciated.

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Mr. Mayrhofer

DATE: 31 August 1978

A:

REFERENCE: _____

THROUGH:
S/C DE:FROM: Kevin Keefe
DE: Meditation Group*JK JK*SUBJECT:
OBJET:

- A. As discussed, possible wording for name of Group:
1. Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations* (preferred)
 2. Meditation at the United Nations*
 3. Oneness Meditation at the United Nations*

*(name of group) is an association of U.N. delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents.

- B. Sri Chinmoy's schedule permits him to be in New York on the following dates in September:

September 1-12

September 21-26

cc devarandouski
Tombrell
de Charnuel

cc: Amb. of Liberia
Amb. of Panama

cc: SG

Meditation Group
FMG/SR
File: Meditation Group
bf: RA/AR/JFB/MKB/MC/IL

29 September 1978

RA
11/10

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of 12 September, which was also signed by the Permanent Representatives of Panama and Liberia.

First of all, let me assure you that I am aware of the esteem in which the Meditation Group is held by many staff members and members of diplomatic missions. I understand that the problems which have arisen regarding the use of meeting rooms by the Group are a consequence of its decision to withdraw from the United Nations Staff Recreation Council. As you may know, the Council is the proper body responsible for coordinating staff activities unrelated to official duties and groups of staff members are normally only granted the use of meeting rooms if they are members of the Council.

However, according to the established practice, a Mission to the United Nations may request facilities for such uses as it deems appropriate, thereby assuming the responsibility for the event or the events in question. In view of your request, therefore, I have asked the departments concerned to grant appropriate facilities to the Meditation Group subject to their availability in terms of the needs of the Organization and the member states. The detailed arrangements will be worked out by the relevant departments.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Kurt Waldheim

His Excellency
Mr. Ezena Rossides
Permanent Representative
of Cyprus to the United Nations

Mr. Lewandowski has a
copy of this draft which
he fully approves

D R A F T

29 September 1978

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Yours sincerely,

Kurt Waldheim

His Excellency
Mr. Zenon Rossides
Permanent Representative
of Cyprus to the United Nations

cc Lewandowski, Treibell, read 21/12/78 ef
diurnica

Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, New York

12 September 1978

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

We are writing to you to express our strong support for the Meditation Group and the type of meaningful and fruitful programmes which over the years this group has come to represent.

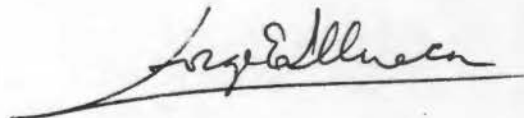
Having participated in some of these programmes, we are concerned upon discovering that this worthwhile group is encountering inexplicable difficulty in obtaining use of the facilities at United Nations Headquarters.

We therefore request your assurances that in the future the Meditation Group will be granted use of the meeting rooms on a permanent basis, so that their activities in the spirit of service to the international community will add inner glory to the United Nations.

Accept, sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Zenon Rossides
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Cyprus



Jorge E. Illueca
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Panama



David M. Thomas
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Liberia

Recd 21/IX 78

Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, New York

12 September 1978

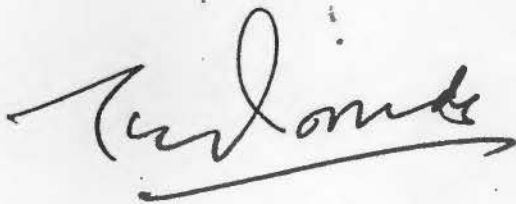
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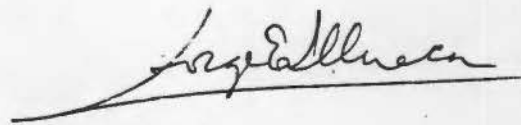
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Zenon Rossides
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Cyprus



Jorge E. Illueca
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Panama



David M. Thomas
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Liberia

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS—ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE: UNATIONS NEWYORK

rec 14/8/78
memorandum file up
gm

REFERENCE:

10 August 1978

Dear Mr. Mayrhofer,

I regret that I must relate to you this most shocking experience which the Meditation Group has received from the Department of Conference Services. The behaviour of certain officials within the Interpretation and Meetings Division can only be described as highly irresponsible and small-minded.

On 8 August it was the wish of the Meditation Group to hold a programme in memory of Pope Paul VI whose famous pilgrimage to the United Nations in October 1965 greatly enhanced both the papacy and the Organization. Needless to say, Pope Paul's inner concern for the United Nations was constant and Secretary-General Waldheim's public statement on the Pope's passing was indicative of their great mutual respect. It is only natural that two such high-minded individuals should recognize and support each other in these trying times.

..... We therefore sent a memorandum dated 7 August 1978 (attached) to Mr. G. Figueroa, Chief of Meetings Service, requesting the use of a particular room. The memorandum referred to your letter of 27 June 1978 addressed to me in which you stated, "In view of the Meditation Group's long affiliation with UN staff members and delegates, the group could be granted the use of meeting rooms on a discretionary basis, depending of course, on the official needs of the Organization and of the delegations."

As our memorandum was hand delivered, we were totally surprised and unprepared for Mr. Figueroa's reaction. He initially disregarded your letter entirely and stated that since the Meditation Group had withdrawn from the UN Staff Recreation Council it could no longer request rooms here at Headquarters. When he was advised that your letter gave the advice of the Office of the Secretary-General in this regard, he consented to read the relevant parts of your letter. However, we were shocked and unbelieving when he announced that your decisions were not binding on him. When we expressed our disbelief, he flatly stated that he was under instructions not to grant rooms

Mr. Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
Special Assistant to the Secretary-General
Office of the Secretary-General

Delegation
Annexes



- 2 -

to the Meditation Group. He then consulted with his superior Mr. G. Oudovenko who agreed with his actions. The motive for denying rooms to our Group is extremely curious if not blatantly obvious when it is noted that Mr. B. Lewandowski is head of both Conference Services and the UN Staff Recreation Council.

We suggested that the whole matter be deferred until your return but requested that a room be made available on a one-time-only basis so that this programme of special meaning to the UN community could take place. This request too was denied by Mr. Figueroa saying that he would not let a precedent be set. Yet he clearly was establishing new precedents in callousness and lack of regard. (It should be noted that this programme did eventually take place in a rented hall across the Plaza with a capacity crowd of approximately 150 UN people.)

This kind of action is something we have long feared since it speaks so poorly of the high Organization that we are all trying to foster. Mr. Mayrhofer, you believe in God, truth and peace; we believe in God, truth and peace; but people who do things like this don't believe in anything. They only derive satisfaction in exercising their extremely limited powers over others.

We denounce this behaviour and these actions, which certainly cannot be in anyone's best interests, and we ask for your concern in resolving this impasse.

With sincere regards,

Sri Chinmoy
Sri Chinmoy
Meditation Group



United Nations Staff Recreation Council

10-7-78

AR
RA

f.f. / JMR
RA RA
1/8
MR 19/7

7 July 1978

Dear Mr. Ahmed,

The Executive Committee of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council was informed recently that the Meditation Group had withdrawn from the Council. As the Council had not been advised formally of this action, a letter was sent to the Meditation Group to inform them that the Executive Committee had received and noted this information. They were advised that unless the Executive Committee heard otherwise by 30 June 1978, their group would be removed from the listing of member clubs of the Council.

As the deadline of 30 June has now passed with no reply, the Executive Committee is obliged to inform you that the Meditation Group did formally withdraw from the Staff Recreation Council.

Yours sincerely,

Bohdan Lewandowski
Chairman

Mr. Rafeeuddin Ahmed
Executive Assistant
to the Secretary-General
United Nations



United Nations Staff Recreation Council

Sri Chinmoy
Med. Group AR
RA

10-7-78

f.f. / GMR
RA

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with RA

MR 197

7 July 1978

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Yours sincerely,

Bohdan Lewandowski

Bohdan Lewandowski
Chairman

Mr. Rafe'uddin Ahmed
Executive Assistant
to the Secretary-General
United Nations

MC/jb

cc: SG

✓ bf: FMS

18 July 1978

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

On behalf of the Secretary-General who is at present on official business abroad, I wish to thank you for the flower arrangement and the card which you sent to him today.

I know that the Secretary-General will very much appreciate this thoughtful gesture.

Yours sincerely,

Albert Rohan
Director

Sri Chinmoy
Meditation Group

Rec'd 18-VII-78

18 July 1978

Sri Chinmoy and the members of the Meditation Group offer the Secretary-General their soulful gratitude for his granting them the first short interview two years ago, 16 July, and for allowing them to sing the song "O Kurt Waldheim."

*A flower arrangement
was sent up with card.*

RMG/JP

AR/JPD/MP/IL/MC
MR H R

27 June 1978

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

I wish to refer to your letter of 20 April 1978, which I acknowledged on behalf of the Secretary-General on 3 May. The questions which you had raised have now been considered by the relevant departments and I apologise for any inconvenience caused by the delay which has occurred. This was in part due to the Special Session on Disarmament, which has kept us all extremely busy.

As you are no doubt aware, I have had various discussions with representatives of the Meditation Group, who have indicated that it is the intention of the Group to leave the UN Staff Recreation Council, as you had already noted in your letter. While this decision is one which can be taken only by the Meditation Group itself, and while the reasons for which it would prefer not to be referred to as a Staff Recreation Council Club can be understood, I should nevertheless mention to you that the senior officials whom we have consulted feel that the amended constitution of the UN Recreation Council would not impose any impossible conditions on your Group. This would also seem to apply to the provisions contained in paragraph I B and paragraph VI F which were specifically referred to in the course of the contacts I had. These and other provisions appear to be entirely normal and proper, and particularly desirable for groups making use of the name of the UN.

/...

Sri Chinmoy
Meditation Group

However, there is no objection in principle to the participation of staff-members in activities outside the Staff Recreation Council. The departments concerned have raised a number of points in this connexion, of which I wish to bring the following to your particular attention;

- Use of the name UN. of the emblem or flag

By law and custom such use is reserved exclusively for the Organisation, which has always sought to protect it and to avoid any unwarranted confusion. It is most important to ensure that the titles and activities of groups which are not part of the Organisation do not in any way convey the impression that they are officially sanctioned by the United Nations. It was for this reason that the constitution of the Staff Recreation Council was amended, to provide that all member clubs include the full title of the Council in their club names rather than only the words "United Nations". Obviously the same considerations would have to be taken into account for any organisation outside the Staff Recreation Council.

- Use of meeting rooms at UN Headquarters

The use of meeting rooms for non-official purposes or outside groups has always been extremely restricted and has only been granted after very careful and thorough investigation. A number of considerations of principle as well as of a practical nature are taken into account in this connexion. In view of the Meditation Group's long affiliation with UN staff members and delegates, the group could be granted the use of meeting rooms on a discretionary basis, depending of course, on the official needs of the Organisation and of the delegations. This use would, however, be restricted to the United Nations community.

/...

- 3 -

I hope that the above sheds some light on the questions raised in your letter. I am, of course, at the disposal of the Meditation Group to discuss these matters further. I would like to assure you that our main concern is to resolve this matter in a way which takes into account the best interests of the Meditation Group as well as of our Organisation.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grünbühel
Special Assistant to the
Secretary-General

7/14/6
RA
20/4

Meditation Group
Room 1925 - GPO 20
United Nations, N.Y. 10017
20 April 1978

Dear Secretary-General,

May I refer to your assistant Mr. Mayrhofer's kind letter of March 21 in which he assured me that your good office is considering a request by the Meditation Group. More specifically we are requesting your assurance that if we fail to continue to be a part of the U.N. Staff Recreation Council, we will still be able to use the meeting rooms here at Headquarters for our weekly meditation meetings. I understand that there are a number of other groups, such as the Women's Guild, the Association of Former International Civil Servants and the Ad Hoc Group on Equal Rights for Women among others, which as associations of staffmembers are granted use of U.N. facilities.

The members of the Meditation Group wish to be of service to the United Nations by furthering the tradition of meditation and offering the renewed dedication to U.N. ideals that meditation brings. The tradition as you know began at San Francisco in 1945 and continues at the opening and closing of each Session of the General Assembly. The "light and the rock" of the Meditation Room bears permanent testimony to the need for a room of quiet in the midst of the debates, successes and failures in the daily work of the organization. It is our hope that the Meditation Group can continue to be of service to the U.N. community through its regular meditation meetings and its special programmes of an inspirational nature. We sincerely wish that we shall each year be able to present to you a devoted Report of our collective activities as we did in 1977.

Now, as it seems fairly certain that we shall have to part with the Staff Recreation Council, we hope that you will look favourably upon our request and grant that we may continue to meet and offer our humble service to you and the United Nations family.

With sincere regards,

Sri Chinmoy

Sri Chinmoy

H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
United Nations, N.Y. 10017

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: **Mr. Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grünbühel**
A: **Special Assistant to the
Secretary-General**

DATE: 23 June 1978

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

REFERENCE: _____

FROM: **Clayton C. Timbrell**
DE: **Assistant Secretary-General
for General Services**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clayton C. Timbrell".

SUBJECT: **Draft letter to the Meditation Group**
OBJET: **Draft letter to the Meditation Group**

I have read with interest your draft letter to Sri Chinmoy regarding use of United Nations facilities by the Meditation Group. Although there does not seem to be any direct point at issue which falls within my area of responsibility. I would say, as a general observation, that the text of your letter appears to be entirely correct and a careful presentation of the official position of the Organization.

I fully share the concern which has been expressed regarding the uncontrolled use of the United Nations name and I believe that the steps taken by the Recreation Council have been thoroughly warranted.

23/68 copies sent with yellow slip (for comments) to Messrs Singh, Khandawala, Trivelpiece + Davidson.

D R A F T

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

I wish to refer to your letter of 20 April 1978, which I acknowledged on behalf of the Secretary-General on 3 May. The questions which you had raised have now been considered by the relevant departments and I apologize for any inconvenience caused by the delay which has occurred. This was in part due to the special Session on Disarmament, which has kept us all extremely busy.

As you are no doubt aware, I have had various discussions with representatives of the Meditation Group, who have indicated that it is the intention of the Group to leave the UN Staff Recreation Council, as you had already noted in your letter. While this decision is one which clearly can be taken only by the Meditation Group itself, and while the reasons for which it would prefer not to be referred to as a Staff Recreation Council Club ^{can be} ^{ood} ~~are~~ understandable, I should nevertheless mention to you that the senior officials whom we have consulted feel that the amended constitution of the UN Recreation Council would not impose any impossible conditions on your Group. This would also seem to apply to the provisions contained in paragraph I B and paragraph VI F which were specifically referred to in the course of the contacts I had. These and other provisions appear to be entirely normal and proper, and particularly desirable for groups making use of the name of the UN.

.../..

However, there is no objection in principle to the participation of staff-members in activities outside the Staff Recreation Council. The departments concerned have raised a number of points in this connexion, of which I wish to bring the following to your particular attention;

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basis, depending of course, on the official needs of the Organization and of the delegations. This use would, however, be restricted to the United Nations community.

I hope that the above sheds some light on the questions raised in your letter. I am, of course, at the disposal of the Meditation Group to discuss these matters further. I would like to assure you that our main concern ^{is} to resolve this matter in a way which takes into account the best interests of the Meditation Group as well as of our Organization.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grünbühel
Special Assistant to the
Secretary-General

AF/jb

- cc: SG

df: BA/AR/EME/JPB/MKP

File: Sri Chinmoy

19-
15 June 1979

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

I wish to acknowledge your letter of 12 June to the Secretary-General transmitting a copy of the "Devoted Report" for 1978.

The Secretary-General has asked me to convey to you his sincere appreciation for your thoughtfulness in sending him this report and for the kind words which you addressed to him.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
Deputy Director

Sri Chinmoy
Meditation at the United Nations
Room 1925

rec'd. 10-6-79.

12-

SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

GPO 20-Room 1925 United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017

UNITED NATIONS:

12 June 1979

FMS
AF Thank you for my
signature ps
13/6
JM 14.6.



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

Dear Secretary-General,

On behalf of the members of the Meditation Group, I am happy to present to you our annual Devoted Report, covering our activities during 1978.

It was our heart's desire to soulfully and devotedly serve the United Nations community with more activities, but as you know, last year the Group unfortunately met with some inclement weather. In this respect we are eternally grateful to you, our dear Secretary-General, for so graciously and generously saving us from our painful difficulties. It is all due to your kindness and compassion that our Meditation Group exists today and is able to continue to offer the U.N. its inner good will and outer service. So it is with our deepest gratitude and appreciation that we again dedicate this Report to you for your untiring, constant and unconditional work for mankind and the supreme cause of world peace.


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.

We can never adequately express how thankful we are for your superb guidance and inspiration, especially during this last year, but we do hope that you feel our heart's most sincere and unending gratitude.

Yours in the Supreme,

Sri Chinmoy
Sri Chinmoy +

Mr. Kurt Waldheim
The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
United Nations, New York

TO:		Mr. F. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel	
FROM:		Kevin Keefe 	
DE:			
Room No. - No de bureau	Extension	Poste	Date
A-515-N	7833		16 June 1978
FOR ACTION			POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL			POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE			POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS			POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE DISCUSS?			POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER ?
YOUR ATTENTION			VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED			COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND RETURN			NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION			POUR INFORMATION

Here are the points of concern regarding the new U.N. Staff Recreation Council Constitution, as well as a copy of both Constitutions for your information.

I would like to thank you and convey that Sri Chinmoy is extremely grateful to you for your kind and sincere concern for our Meditation Group.

16 June 1978

Regarding the U.N. Staff Recreation Council Constitution--attached

Your letter of 10 March 1978 stated that our request had been taken up with the Recreation Council and a further acknowledgement dated 21 March was received from your Office.

A memorandum from the Secretary of the R.C. Executive Committee dated 23 March announced a meeting for the 29th of March dealing with a proposed new Constitution (first notice of this).

The adoption of the Constitution was postponed at the 29th of March meeting (not without cost to us) but it was maneuvered through the Council in an irregular manner on 12 April.

I have marked sections that only come into force with this new Constitution. They clearly show the intent of the Executive Committee to give itself powers beyond the 1966 constitutional mandate of stimulation, co-ordination and assistance of groups.

UNITED MARINE STAFF RECREATION COUNCIL

10 May 1978

To: All Clubs
From: Martha Clark, Secretary
Subject: Constitution

..... Attached herewith is the text of the revised Constitution of the Staff Recreation Council. Only those amendments have been included which were approved by a two-thirds majority at the General Meeting on 12 April 1978.

It is our hope that the member clubs will amend their own constitutions if necessary and also will bear in mind any changes in the regulations when planning any future activities.

The Executive Committee would like to thank all the clubs for their cooperation.

Martha Clark

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS STAFF RECREATION COUNCIL

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the United Nations, its staff members and the United Nations community that there be groups formed for the purpose of recreation, including sports, social and cultural activities;

WHEREAS FURTHER, there should be formed, an organization, responsible to the United Nations staff members through their elected representatives in consultation with the Secretary-General and the General Assembly, for the purpose of stimulating, co-ordinating, advising and assisting all such groups in the carrying out of their purposes and in the administration of funds, whether provided out of the United Nations budget or otherwise; NEW

NOW THEREFORE, there is established an organization to be known as the UNITED NATIONS STAFF RECREATION COUNCIL. WORD "STAFF" added

I. Purpose

The purposes of the organization shall be:

A. To stimulate, co-ordinate, advise and assist all groups formed for the purpose of recreation, which groups shall be composed primarily of staff members and open for their participation as well as that of their families, retired staff members, delegation members, members of the Press accredited to the United Nations, persons under contractual status with the United Nations, and members of organizations with United Nations accredited NGO status and their families.

B. To protect the interests of the United Nations community through the screening, authorization and approval of the constituent documents of groups at the time of their formation and the continued consultation of an advisory nature with all such groups; ALL
NEW

C. To receive, raise, administer and hold-in trust monies for these purposes and to maintain all necessary bank accounts of the Council or any individual clubs which request such assistance.

D. To make grants and loans to groups as may be deemed necessary or expedient by the organization and to make such other expenditures consistent with its purpose;

E. To ensure that groups act in such a way as to be consistent with the primary purpose of recreation and avoid participation either in activities which may imply any official commitment or approval by the United Nations or in activities of a commercial nature or otherwise inconsistent with their primary purpose; ALL
NEW

F. To conduct whatever other activities, and take whatever other actions may from time to time be necessary or prudent in protecting the integrity of the organization and fulfilling its obligations to the United Nations, its staff members and the United Nations community.

ALL
NEW

II. Membership

A. Membership in the United Nations Staff Recreation Council is open to any group whose purpose is primarily that of recreation and which is composed of at least ten staff members.

→ limit to STAFF (NEW)

B. Any application for admission of a group to membership shall be made in writing and supported by copies of the group's Constitution and by-laws and such other proof of qualification and financial arrangements as from time to time be requested by the Executive Committee of the Council.

NEW

C. The Council through its Executive Committee may at its discretion review the qualifications for membership of any group and may make such inquiry of a group as to permit its verification that such group continues to qualify as a member of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council on the basis of purpose and membership. The Council on the recommendation of its Executive Committee may for good cause remove, suspend or take such other action with regard to a group as may be consistent with the Council's purposes.

ALL
NEW

D. The Council shall consist of:

- (1) One representative of each United Nations Staff Recreation Council group;
- (2) Ex-officio, non-voting representatives of relevant sections of the Secretariat, as may be proposed by the Executive Committee and approved by the Council.

E. Each group shall submit in writing to the Secretary of the Council the names of its officers and shall notify the Council of any changes. Groups may delegate other of their members to represent them in the absence of the duly designated officers or their alternates.

F. The officers of each group shall only be elected from among its members. The Chairman and Treasurer of each group shall be a UN staff member.

ALL
NEW

G. The name of each group shall be composed of the term "United Nations Staff Recreation Council" preceding the substantive designation of the group. This shall be its official name and shall appear as such on its letterhead and all other issuances. The term 'UN' or 'United Nations' shall not otherwise appear in any group name or designation.

ALL
NEW

III. Officers

The officers of the Council shall be elected for a one-year term and shall consist of the Chairman, First Vice-Chairman, Second Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary and Assistant Secretary. Officers may be re-elected.

A. Chairman

- (1) Shall preside at all meetings.
- (2) Shall be one of the officers who may co-sign checks of the Council.
- (3) Shall present in March of each year a report on the organization and activities of the Council and of the Executive Committee.

B. First Vice-Chairman

- (1) In the event of the absence or inability of the Chairman to exercise the office, shall act as Chairman of the Council, with all of the rights and duties of that office.
- (2) Shall be one of the officers who may co-sign checks of the Council.

C. Second Vice-Chairman

- (1) In the event of the absence or inability of the Chairman and First Vice-Chairman to exercise their functions, shall act as Chairman of the Council with all of the rights and duties of that office.
- (2) Shall be one of the officers who may co-sign checks of the Council.

D. Treasurer

- (1) Shall have the care and custody of all monies and securities belonging to the Council.
- (2) Shall deposit in the bank all funds received by the Council.
- (3) Shall have the care and custody of all bankbooks and checkbooks of the Council.
- (4) Shall be one of the officers who may co-sign checks of the Council.
- (5) Shall keep records of all monies received and disbursed by the Council.

- (6) Shall present a financial statement each year, showing the income and expenditures of the fiscal year ending 31 December and the status of the funds at that date.
- (7) Shall submit the Council's books and records for audit to the Internal Audit Service in January of each year.
- (8) Shall receive and disburse monies held in trust by the Council.

E. Assistant Treasurer

- (1) Shall assist the Treasurer in the performance of the functions of that office.
- (2) In the event of the absence or inability of the Treasurer to exercise the office, shall assume the duties of the Treasurer and shall discharge such other functions as may be assigned by the Executive Committee.

F. Secretary

- (1) Shall be the official custodian of all records and correspondence of the Council.
- Dropped* (2) Shall present to the Council any correspondence addressed to Sec. of Council.
- (2) Shall attend to all correspondence of the Council.
- (3) Shall prepare the annual activities report and other material for publicity purposes.
- (4) Shall notify the bank and other parties concerned of any change of officers or status of the Council.
- (5) Shall be one of the officers who may co-sign checks of the Council.

G. Assistant Secretary

- (1) Shall assist the Secretary in the performance of the functions of that office.
- (2) Shall be responsible for sending out notices of meetings, including the provisional agenda.
- (3) Shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Council and of the Executive Committee.
- (4) Shall discharge such other responsibilities as may be assigned by the Executive Committee.

IV. Executive Committee

A. The duly elected officers of the Council and ex-officio, non-voting representatives of relevant sections of the Secretariat, shall constitute an Executive Committee.

B. It shall be empowered to conduct any official negotiations with the representatives of the Secretary-General or any other organization on behalf of, or in relation to, any group activity which the Executive Committee may deem necessary. > NEW

C. The Executive Committee shall appoint all sub-committees. > NEW

D. It shall consider and accept or reject any new applications for membership, subject to appeal to the Council.

E. It may review the status of any group and make such recommendations to the Council as are consistent with its purposes. > NEW

F. It shall examine all requests for grants and loans and submit recommendations to the Council.

G. It shall be empowered to authorize grants, loans or expenditures on behalf of the Council provided none of the above exceeds \$300.00.

V. Nominating Committee

The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three persons, who will present to the Annual Meeting names of candidates they recommend for election as officers for the following year. The members of the Council may present candidates during the annual meeting.

VI. Finances

A. Grants and loans may be made to groups in respect of their recreation activities.

B. In making a grant or loan, the following shall be considered:

- (1) The financial standing of the group at the time the request is made.
- (2) The group's attempts to meet its own financial needs.
- (3) Whether the financial need is of a temporary or permanent nature.

C. The Council may decide that any monies which it has held in trust for individual groups at their direction (cf. Article V, sub-paragraph D.8) shall become part of the general funds of the Staff Recreation Council, if the groups for which it has held monies in trust shall have been inactive for at least three years.

D. The signatures of at least two officers shall be required on all checks issued.

E. Individual membership dues in a group requesting funds from the Staff Recreation Council shall not be less than \$5.00.

F. Each group shall submit its financial report when requested by the Executive Committee.

> New

VII. Meetings of the Staff Recreation Council

A. An Annual Meeting shall be held during the month of March.

B. All members of the Council shall receive two weeks before the meeting:

- (1) A provisional agenda;
- (2) A full financial report, duly audited, for the preceding fiscal year; and
- (3) An activities report.

C. Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting.

D. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall consist of one member in excess of half the membership.

E. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of those present and voting. Each group shall have one vote.

F. If one-third of the membership of the Council petitions the Chairman to call a meeting, such meeting must be held within two weeks of receipt of written petition.

G. Extraordinary meetings may also be called by the Executive Committee.

VIII. Amendments

A. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the Council. Recommendations for amendment of this Constitution shall be submitted to the Secretary in time for the members to be advised at least two weeks before the meeting.

B. If a group cannot be represented at the annual meeting, an absentee vote may be cast in writing on behalf of the group by one of its officers.

IX. Ratification

Signature of this Constitution by a duly authorized official of a member group shall constitute consent to the dissolution of the United Nations Recreation Council as formerly constituted and adherence to and ratification of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council as its duly constituted successor organization.

in effect until
April 12, 1978

UNITED NATIONS RECREATION COUNCIL
CONSTITUTION

(as revised 31 January 1966)

I. The name of the Council shall be the United Nations Recreation Council.

II. Purpose

The purpose of the Council shall be:

- A. To stimulate, co-ordinate and assist all recreational groups of United Nations staff members, as well as delegation members who desire to participate, in the sporting, social and/or cultural fields.
- B. To receive, raise and administer monies for recreational purposes.
- C. To make grants and/or loans to member groups as deemed necessary by the Council.

III. Responsibility

The Council shall be ultimately responsible to the Staff of the United Nations through the Staff Association, but in the administration of funds provided out of the United Nations budget, it is responsible to the administrative authorities through the Internal Audit Service.

IV. Membership

- A. Any group of at least ten members which concerns itself primarily with the recreation of United Nations staff members and delegation members may be admitted to membership in the Council.
- B. The admission of a group to membership shall be approved by the Council upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, made on the basis of its written application, its constitution and by-laws and financial arrangements.
- C. The Council shall consist of:
 - (1) One representative of each U.N. group;
 - (2) One representative of the Staff Council
 - (3) Ex-officio, non-voting representatives from the relevant sections of the Secretariat, i.e., Staff Activities Section, Volunteer Services.
- D. Each group shall submit in writing to the Secretary of the Council the names of its officers and shall notify the Council of any changes. Group officers may represent

their groups in the absence of the duly designated representative or alternate.

V. Officers

The officers of the Council shall be elected for a one-year term and shall consist of the Chairman, First Vice-Chairman, Second Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Executive Secretary and Assistant Executive Secretary.

A. Chairmen

- (1) He shall preside as Chairman at all meetings.
- (2) He shall appoint all sub-committees, subject to the approval of the Council.
- (3) He shall be one of the officers who will co-sign checks or drafts of the Council
- (4) He shall present in May of each year a report on the organization and activities of the Council.
- 9 (5) He shall have such power as may be reasonably considered as belonging to the Chief Executive of any similar organization

B. First Vice-Chairman

- (1) In the event of the absence or inability of the Chairman to exercise his office, he shall become Acting Chairman of the Council, with all rights, privileges and powers.
- (2) He shall be one of the officers who will co-sign checks or drafts of the Council.

C. Second Vice-Chairman

- (1) In the event of the absence or inability of the Chairman or First Vice-Chairmen to exercise their offices, he shall become Acting Chairman of the Council with all rights, privileges and powers.
- (2) He shall be one of the officers who will co-sign checks or drafts of the Council.

D. Treasurer

- (1) He shall have the care and custody of all monies and securities belonging to the Council.
- (2) He shall deposit in the bank all funds received by the Council.
- (3) He shall have the care and custody of all bankbooks and checkbooks of the Council.
- (4) He shall be one of the officers who will co-sign checks or drafts of the Council.
- (5) He shall keep records of all monies received and disbursed by the Council.

- (6) He shall present a financial statement each year, showing the income and expenditures of the fiscal year ending 31 December and the status of the funds at that date.
- (7) He shall receive and disburse monies held in trust by the Council for individual groups, at their discretion.

V. E. Assistant Treasurer

- (1) He shall assist the Treasurer in the performance of his duties.
- (2) In the event of the absence or inability of the Treasurer to exercise his functions, the Assistant Treasurer shall assume the duties of the Treasurer and shall discharge such other functions as may be assigned by the Executive Committee.

F. Executive Secretary

- (1) He shall be the official custodian of all records and correspondence of the Council.
- (2) He shall present to the Council any correspondence addressed to him as Secretary of the Council. →
- (3) He shall attend to all correspondence of the Council.
- (4) He shall edit and prepare the annual activities report and other material for publicity purposes.
- (5) It shall be his duty to notify the bank and other parties concerned of any change of officers or status of the Council.
- (6) He shall be one of the officers who will co-sign checks or drafts of the Council.

G. Assistant Executive Secretary

- (1) He shall assist the Executive Secretary in the performance of his duties.
- (2) He shall be responsible for sending out notices of meetings, including the provisional agenda.
- (3) He shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Council and of the Executive Committee.
- (4) He shall discharge such other responsibilities as may be assigned to him by the Executive Committee.

VI. Executive Committee

- A. The duly elected officers of the Council and the representative of the Staff Activities Section shall constitute an Executive Committee.
- B. It shall be empowered to conduct official negotiations with administrative representatives of the Secretary-General and the Staff Council of the Staff Association.

- C. The Executive Committee shall examine all requests for grants and loans and submit recommendations to the Council
- D. It shall be empowered to authorize grants, loans or expenditures on behalf of the Council provided none of the above exceeds \$200.00.
- E. It shall be empowered to fill any vacancies which may occur in the Committee during the year.

VII. Nominating Committee

The Chairman shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three persons, who will present to the Annual Meeting names of candidates they recommend for election as officers for the following year.

VIII. Finances

- A. The Council shall approve at its annual meeting in February a budget for the following fiscal year, and shall make such revisions as may be necessary at subsequent meetings.
- B. The Council may make grants or loans as follows:
 - (1) Grants may be made only to groups for purposes consistent with II, A, above.
 - (2) Loans may be made to groups in respect of their recreation activities.
- C. In making a grant or loan the Council shall consider:
 - (1) The financial standing of the group at the time the request is made.
 - (2) The group's attempts to meet its own financial needs.
 - (3) Whether the financial need is of a temporary or permanent nature.
- D. The Council may decide that any monies which it has held in trust for individual clubs at their direction (cf. Article V, sub-paragraph D 7) shall become part of the general funds of the Recreation Council, if the clubs for which it has held monies in trust shall have been inactive for at least three years.
- E. The Council shall submit its books and records for audit to the Internal Audit Service in January of each year.
- F. The Council shall distribute by 1 March to all member groups and to the Staff Council:
 - (1) A full financial report, duly audited, for the preceding fiscal year.
 - (2) A full activities report.

IX. Meetings of the Council

- A. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting to be held during the month of January.
- B. The Council shall meet at least once every four months.
- C. A quorum of the Council shall consist of one member in excess of half the membership.
- D. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of those present and voting. Each group shall have one vote.
- E. If one-third of the membership petitions the Chairman to call a meeting, he must do so within two weeks of the written petition.
- F. Extraordinary meetings may also be called by the Executive Committee.

I. Amendment

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the Council. Recommendations for amendment of this Constitution shall be submitted normally to the Executive Secretary in time for the members to be advised at least two weeks before the meeting.

XI. Ratification

Signature of this Constitution by a duly authorized official of each member or associate member group implies dissolution of the Recreation Committee as formerly constituted and the ratification of the United Nations Recreation Council.



United Nations Staff Recreation Council

16 June 1978

Dear Mr. Keefe,

I have been informed today by the Legal Counsel that the Meditation Group formally withdrew from the Staff Recreation Council. - ?

The Executive Committee took note of this information. Unless we hear from you otherwise by 30 June 1978, the Meditation Group you are representing will be removed from the listing of the member clubs of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council.

Yours sincerely,

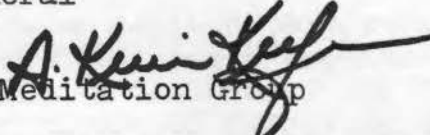
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Bohdan Lewandowski'.

Bohdan Lewandowski
Chairman

Mr. Kevin Keefe
Programme Coordinator
Meditation Group
Room A-515L

16 June 1978

TO: Mr. F. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
Special Assistant to the
Secretary-General

FROM: A. Kevin Keefe 
United Nations Meditation Group

SUBJECT: Points of concern in United Nations Staff Recreation
Council Constitution

1. Name of club

We feel a blanket rule compelling adoption of phrasing within the name of the club is wholly unreasonable and inflexible. As the nature of the clubs vary, so should the name. A club whose main activity is related to sports and exercise might not care that it is referred to as the Staff Recreation Council _____ Club. However other clubs whose activities are more serious and service oriented, such as the Meditation Group, would find such phrasing irksome and unworkable, particularly after having been established for many years and having gained recognizance as such. It is a question of maintaining the integrity of the Group. A number of ambassadors have participated in our programmes and strongly supported our Group. Their concern is best voiced by Ambassador Illueca of Panama:

"I note with some concern the effort to change the name of this Group to one which includes the words 'Staff Recreation Council'. I find this unadvisable in that it does not reflect the real nature of the Group and it tends to discourage participation of delegations through the terms 'Staff Recreation'."

We are extremely sorry that the Executive Committee chose to deliberately ignore this and similar entreaties by several other noted ambassadors.

2. Financial report

Since the Meditation Group has always relied on voluntary contributions from within its membership to defray costs of programmes and has never sought funding of any kind from the Recreation Council, we feel that the finances of the Group do not need the approval of any authority from the Executive Committee of the Council. Since our usual outlays are only minor printing costs, we tend to deal with such matters as they arise and seldom keep what could be termed official records.

3. Review of activities and publications

It is simply impossible for us to accept any rule that could lead to the role of Steering Committee or Censorship Board for the Executive Committee of the Council. As staffmembers we have a right to pursue our common interest--meditation--and to seek to inspire others in a more meaningful and thoughtful commitment to the U.N. Not only does the Executive Committee criticise our

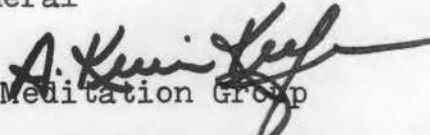
activities, but they also have deliberately attacked our teacher, Sri Chinmoy. The Executive Committee's repeatedly questioning attitude toward the high-minded teacher of our Group is an all-too-ready example of their misuse of authority and one which we find totally incredible and painfully shocking. Our late Secretary-General U Thant was kind enough to have Sri Chinmoy as his dear friend and he once remarked to him:

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

4. In all sincerity we feel compelled to state our hesitancy to have any further dealings with the Executive Committee of the Staff Recreation Council. Our relationship with this Committee has been poisoned by what we see as inordinate actions and completely illogical allegations directed at the Meditation Group. This recent Constitutional adoption was just a means to gain authority and control over clubs such as ours which the Committee never really had, yet had been trying to exercise. But the height of affrontery was reached when, in replying to ambassadors who had written in our support, the Executive Committee questioned the very motives of the Meditation Group and vaguely alluded to some kind of financial improprieties. We can only refer to this as baseless and uncomely behavior, particularly in that it occurred within the United Nations.

16 June 1978

TO: Mr. F. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
Special Assistant to the
Secretary-General

FROM: A. Kevin Keefe 
United Nations Meditation Group

SUBJECT: Points of concern in United Nations Staff Recreation
Council Constitution

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activities, but they also have deliberately attacked our teacher, Sri Chinmoy. The Executive Committee's repeatedly questioning attitude toward the high-minded teacher of our Group is an all-too-ready example of their misuse of authority and one which we find totally incredible and painfully shocking. Our late Secretary-General U Thant was kind enough to have Sri Chinmoy as his dear friend and he once remarked to him:

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Note for the Secretary-General

File

United Nations Meditation Group

In a letter to the Secretary-General Sri Chinmoy indicates on behalf of the group that it would like to leave the United Nations Staff Recreation Council. He asked, however, for your permission ~~for the group~~ to continue using meeting rooms at headquarters for their weekly meetings.

Several members of the group have contacted me and it appears that ~~their~~ wish to leave the Staff Recreation Council stems from their feeling that the activities they engage in should not be termed recreation. Therefore also they do not want to use the designation "United Nations Staff Recreation Council" on the letter-head as the rules stipulate.

~~With~~ With the help of Mr. Suy and Mr. Lewandowski we have looked into the matter and the situation can be summed up as follows:

1) With regard to the use of meeting rooms it would be extremely difficult to deny their continued use, esp. ^{essentially} since a significant number of influential ambassadors have sent letters to Mr. Lewandowski in which they express their support for the group.

2) However, with regard to the designation "United Nations" Meditation Group ~~serious~~ difficulties are seen if ~~we~~ should agree to the continued use of this name ^{be granted} which is obviously ~~may~~ ^{lead to} ~~misleading~~ ^{misunderstanding} (unless with the addition which clarifies that they are a group of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council). Mr. Suy therefore suggested a title such as "Sri Chinmoy's Meditation Group in the United Nations Community".

3) In both regards a positive decision would entail unwelcomed precedents. ^{from a} ~~A~~ positive decision would ^{be} unfair to several other religious or philosophical groups of staff members and

delegates which are within the Staff Recreation Council or might induce them to leave the Staff Recreation Council counting on enjoying the same privileges (meeting room and name) without having to stay inside the rules of the Council.

The best solution in my opinion therefore would be to persuade the Meditation Group not to leave the Recreation Council, esp. since their reasons for wanting to leave are not really convincing. This could possibly be done in a meeting between Sri Chinmoy and myself, where I convey a request from you that this matter be resolved in a spirit of understanding and co-operation. Alternatively we could arrange a meeting with the group in which Mr. Suy, Mr. Lewandowski and myself could participate, where we bring to their attention some of the problems involved and convey the suggestion that it would be in the interest of everybody concerned if the group continued its activities as in the past within the Recreation Council.

F. Mayrhofer

22/5/78

FMG/SR

If you have no objection,
FMG will send this
today.

OK.
RA

ROUTING SLIP

FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO:
A- Mr. Mayrhofer

FROM:
DE: B. Lewandowski

Room No. - No de bureau	Extension - Poste	Date
		23.6.78

FOR ACTION	POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL	POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE	POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS	POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE DISCUSS?	POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER ?
YOUR ATTENTION	VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED	COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED	SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND RETURN	NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION	POUR INFORMATION

A perfect letter -- nothing to add, nothing to subtract. This is the only comment I can offer.

ROUTING SLIP

FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO:

A: Mr. B. Lewandowski

FROM:

DE: F. Mayrhofer

Room No. - No de bureau

Extension - Poste

Date

23/6/78

FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
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MAY WE DISCUSS?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER ?
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AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

Your early comments would be very much appreciated. (Copies have also gone to Messrs. Suy, Timbrell and Davidson).

DRAFT

Dear Sri Chinnoy,

I wish to refer to your letter of 20 April 1978, which I acknowledged on behalf of the Secretary-General on 3 May. The questions which you had raised have now been considered by the relevant departments and I apologize for any inconvenience caused by the delay which has occurred. This was in part due to the special Session on Disarmament, which has kept us all extremely busy.

As you are no doubt aware, I have had various discussions with representatives of the Meditation Group, who have indicated that it is the intention of the Group to leave the UN Staff Recreation Council, as you had already noted in your letter. While this decision is one which clearly can be taken only by the Meditation Group itself, and while the reasons for which it would prefer not to be referred to as a Staff Recreation Council Club are understandable, I should nevertheless mention to you that the senior officials whom we have consulted feel that the amended constitution of the UN Recreation Council would not impose any impossible conditions on your Group. This would also seem to apply to the provisions contained in paragraph I B and paragraph VI F which were specifically referred to in the course of the contacts I had. These and other provisions appear to be entirely normal and proper, and particularly desirable for groups making use of the name of the UN.

However, there is no objection in principle to the participation of staff-members in activities outside the Staff Recreation Council. The departments concerned have raised a number of points in this connexion, of which I wish to bring the following to your particular attention;

- Use of the name UN, of the emblem or flag

By law and custom such use is reserved exclusively for the Organization, which has always sought to protect it and to avoid any unwarranted confusion. It is most important to ensure that the titles and activities of groups which are not part of the Organization do not in any way convey the impression that they are officially sanctioned by the United Nations. It was for this reason that the constitution of the Staff Recreation Council was amended, to provide that all member clubs include the full title of the Council in their club names rather than only the words "United Nations". The same considerations would have to be taken into account for any organization outside the Staff Recreation Council.

- Use of meeting rooms at UN Headquarters

The use of meeting rooms for non-official purposes or outside groups has always been extremely restricted and has only been granted after very careful and thorough investigation. A number of considerations of principle as well as of a practical nature are taken into account in this connexion. In view of the Meditation Group's long affiliation with UN staff members and delegates, the group could be granted the use of meeting rooms on a discretionary

basis, depending of course, on the official needs of the Organization and of the delegations. This use would, however, be restricted to the United Nations community.

I hope that the above sheds some light on the questions raised in your letter. I am, of course, at the disposal of the Meditation Group to discuss these matters further. I would like to assure you that our main concern ^{is} to resolve this matter in a way which takes into account the best interests of the Meditation Group as well as of our Organization.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grünbühel
Special Assistant to the
Secretary-General

File 6
R.A.
20/4

Meditation Group
Room 1925 - GPO 20
United Nations, N.Y. 10017
20 April 1978

Dear Secretary-General,

May I refer to your assistant Mr. Mayrhofer's kind letter of March 21 in which he assured me that your good office is considering a request by the Meditation Group. More specifically we are requesting your assurance that if we fail to continue to be a part of the U.N. Staff Recreation Council, we will still be able to use the meeting rooms here at Headquarters for our weekly meditation meetings. I understand that there are a number of other groups, such as the Women's Guild, the Association of Former International Civil Servants and the Ad Hoc Group on Equal Rights for Women among others, which as associations of staffmembers are granted use of U.N. facilities.

The members of the Meditation Group wish to be of service to the United Nations by furthering the tradition of meditation and offering the renewed dedication to U.N. ideals that meditation brings. The tradition as you know began at San Francisco in 1945 and continues at the opening and closing of each Session of the General Assembly. The "light and the rock" of the Meditation Room bears permanent testimony to the need for a room of quiet in the midst of the debates, successes and failures in the daily work of the organization. It is our hope that the Meditation Group can continue to be of service to the U.N. community through its regular meditation meetings and its special programmes of an inspirational nature. We sincerely wish that we shall each year be able to present to you a devoted Report of our collective activities as we did in 1977.

Now, as it seems fairly certain that we shall have to part with the Staff Recreation Council, we hope that you will look favourably upon our request and grant that we may continue to meet and offer our humble service to you and the United Nations family.

With sincere regards,

Sri Chinmoy

Sri Chinmoy

H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
United Nations, N.Y. 10017

ROUTING SLIP

FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO:
A: Mr. E. SuyFROM:
DE: F. MayrhoferRoom No. - No de bureau | Extension - Poste | Date
23/6/78

FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE DISCUSS?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER ?
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

Your early comments would be very much appreciated (copies have also gone to Messrs. Lewandowski, Timbrell and Davidson).

While you make some proposals as to the use of meeting rooms, you omit any suggestion on the name. I would propose a name

D R A F T

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

I wish to refer to your letter of 20 April 1978, which I acknowledged on behalf of the Secretary-General on 3 May. The questions which you had raised have now been considered by the relevant departments and I apologize for any inconvenience caused by the delay which has occurred. This was in part due to the special Session on Disarmament, which has kept us all extremely busy.

As you are no doubt aware, I have had various discussions with representatives of the Meditation Group, who have indicated that it is the intention of the Group to leave the UN Staff Recreation Council, as you had already noted in your letter. While this decision is one which clearly can be taken only by the Meditation Group itself, and while the reasons for which it would prefer not to be referred to as a Staff Recreation Council Club are understandable, I should nevertheless mention to you that the senior officials whom we have consulted feel that the amended constitution of the UN Recreation Council would not impose any impossible conditions on your Group. This would also seem to apply to the provisions contained in paragraph I B and paragraph VI F which were specifically referred to in the course of the contacts I had. These and other provisions appear to be entirely normal and proper, and particularly desirable for groups making use of the name of the UN.

.../..

However, there is no objection in principle to the participation of staff-members in activities outside the Staff Recreation Council. The departments concerned have raised a number of points in this connexion, of which I wish to bring the following to your particular attention;

- Use of the name UN, of the emblem or flag

By law and custom such use is reserved exclusively for the Organization, which has always sought to protect it and to avoid any unwarranted confusion. It is most important to ensure that the titles and activities of groups which are not part of the Organization do not in any way convey the impression that they are officially sanctioned by the United Nations. It was for this reason that the constitution of the Staff Recreation Council was amended, to provide that all member clubs include the full title of the Council in their club names rather than only the words "United Nations". The same considerations would have to be taken into account for any organization outside the Staff Recreation Council.

- Use of meeting rooms at UN Headquarters

The use of meeting rooms for non-official purposes or outside groups has always been extremely restricted and has only been granted after very careful and thorough investigation. A number of considerations of principle as well as of a practical nature are taken into account in this connexion. In view of the Meditation Group's long affiliation with UN staff members and delegates, the group could be granted the use of meeting rooms on a discretionary

basis, depending of course, on the official needs of the Organization and of the delegations. This use would, however, be restricted to the United Nations community.

I hope that the above sheds some light on the questions raised in your letter. I am, of course, at the disposal of the Meditation Group to discuss these matters further. I would like to assure you that our main concern ^{is} to resolve this matter in a way which takes into account the best interests of the Meditation Group as well as of our Organization.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grünbühel
Special Assistant to the
Secretary-General

2000
File 6
A.H.
20/4

Meditation Group
Room 1925 - GPO 20
United Nations, N.Y. 10017
20 April 1978

Dear Secretary-General,

May I refer to your assistant Mr. Mayrhofer's kind letter of March 21 in which he assured me that your good office is considering a request by the Meditation Group. More specifically we are requesting your assurance that if we fail to continue to be a part of the U.N. Staff Recreation Council, we will still be able to use the meeting rooms here at Headquarters for our weekly meditation meetings. I understand that there are a number of other groups, such as the Women's Guild, the Association of Former International Civil Servants and the Ad Hoc Group on Equal Rights for Women among others, which as associations of staffmembers are granted use of U.N. facilities.

The members of the Meditation Group wish to be of service to the United Nations by furthering the tradition of meditation and offering the renewed dedication to U.N. ideals that meditation brings. The tradition as you know began at San Francisco in 1945 and continues at the opening and closing of each Session of the General Assembly. The "light and the rock" of the Meditation Room bears permanent testimony to the need for a room of quiet in the midst of the debates, successes and failures in the daily work of the organization. It is our hope that the Meditation Group can continue to be of service to the U.N. community through its regular meditation meetings and its special programmes of an inspirational nature. We sincerely wish that we shall each year be able to present to you a devoted Report of our collective activities as we did in 1977.

Now, as it seems fairly certain that we shall have to part with the Staff Recreation Council, we hope that you will look favourably upon our request and grant that we may continue to meet and offer our humble service to you and the United Nations family.

With sincere regards,

Sri Chinmoy

Sri Chinmoy

H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
United Nations, N.Y. 10017

Frederick Mayhew

The sentence underlined on p 2 is far from clear. Perhaps this is intentional. Are you telling them that if they do not remain in the Staff Recreation Council they can not use United Nations in their title inasmuch as the use of it would convey the impression that they are officially sanctioned by the U.N. even though not members of the Council? Will they understand this?

Underlined sentence on page 3
also. What is meant by the U.N. community? Does it mean that they can hold meetings, if official permission is given, in the building but only those who are in some way a part of the U.N. community (delegations staff etc) can attend; in other words outside meditation groups can not be given facilities in the building, - for joint U.N. and outside groups?

CFD 24/6/78

ROUTING SLIP

FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO: **Mr. G. Davidson**

A:

FROM:
DE: **F. Mayrhofer**

Room No. - No de bureau Extension - Poste Date

23/6/78

FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE DISCUSS?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER ?
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

Your early comments would be very much appreciated. (Copies have also gone to Messrs. Suy, Lewandowski and Timbrell.

DRAFT

*John's comment with
SFD. He opines that the
letter should be sent as
it is
AM 27.6*

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

I wish to refer to your letter of 20 April 1978, which I acknowledged on behalf of the Secretary-General on 3 May. The questions which you had raised have now been considered by the relevant departments and I apologize for any inconvenience caused by the delay which has occurred. This was in part due to the special session on Disarmament, which has kept us all extremely busy.

As you are no doubt aware, I have had various discussions with representatives of the Meditation Group, who have indicated that it is the intention of the Group to leave the UN Staff Recreation Council, as you had already noted in your letter. While this decision is one which clearly can be taken only by the Meditation Group itself, and while the reasons for which it would prefer not to be referred to as a Staff Recreation Council Club are understandable, I should nevertheless mention to you that the senior officials whom we have consulted feel that the amended constitution of the UN Recreation Council would not impose any impossible conditions on your Group. This would also seem to apply to the provisions contained in paragraph I B and paragraph VI F which were specifically referred to in the course of the contacts I had. These and other provisions appear to be entirely normal and proper, and particularly desirable for groups making use of the name of the UN.

.../..

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basis, depending of course, on the official needs of the Organization and of the delegations. This use would, however, be restricted to the United Nations community.

I hope that the above sheds some light on the questions raised in your letter. I am, of course, at the disposal of the Meditation Group to discuss these matters further. I would like to assure you that our main concern ^{is} to resolve this matter in a way which takes into account the best interests of the Meditation Group as well as of our Organisation.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grünbühel
Special Assistant to the
Secretary-General

FMG

AM
20/4

Meditation Group
Room 1925 - GPO 20
United Nations, N.Y. 10017
20 April 1978

Dear Secretary-General,

May I refer to your assistant Mr. Mayrhofer's kind letter of March 21 in which he assured me that your good office is considering a request by the Meditation Group. More specifically we are requesting your assurance that if we fail to continue to be a part of the U.N. Staff Recreation Council, we will still be able to use the meeting rooms here at Headquarters for our weekly meditation meetings. I understand that there are a number of other groups, such as the Women's Guild, the Association of Former International Civil Servants and the Ad Hoc Group on Equal Rights for Women among others, which as associations of staffmembers are granted use of U.N. facilities.

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Now, as it seems fairly certain that we shall have to part with the Staff Recreation Council, we hope that you will look favourably upon our request and grant that we may continue to meet and offer our humble service to you and the United Nations family.

With sincere regards,

Sri Chinmoy

Sri Chinmoy

H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
United Nations, N.Y. 10017



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Mr. F. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
A: Special Assistant to the Secretary-General

DATE: 12 May 1978

REFERENCE: _____

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM: Erik Suy
DE: The Legal Counsel

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Erik Suy', is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: Request by the United Nations Meditation Group
OBJET:

1. In his memorandum of 3 May 1978, Mr. Lewandowski posed two potential problems regarding the status of the Meditation Group. These problems arise in connexion with what now appears to be the decision of the Group to leave the United Nations Staff Recreation Council. It is understood that the Group, after breaking its official ties with the Organization, wishes to continue to use both UN meeting facilities and some form of the UN name and emblem. Mr. Lewandowski advised that the opinion of the Office of Legal Affairs be secured on these questions.

2. First, despite no official affiliation, the Meditation Group could be allowed on a discretionary basis to use UN facilities. It should, however, be made to understand that as a matter of policy first preference for facilities must be reserved for the official needs of the Organization and the delegations.

3. As to the second question, use of the UN name, emblem or flag are reserved both by law and custom exclusively for the use of the Organization. The United Nations has always sought to protect these as its own and to avoid any unfavourable confusion. Recently, for example, the United Nations Staff Recreation Council amended its constitution to provide that all member clubs include the full title of the Council in their club names rather than only the words "United Nations". This was done in order to protect the Organization and to ensure that the titles and activities of the clubs could not be construed as officially sanctioned or supported by the United Nations.

4. Of course, exceptions to this policy can and had been made. Within the Secretariat, the UN Women's Guild and the UN Blood Drive are two examples. Outside activities may also be granted such use. For example, UN We Believe has been permitted the use of an abbreviated form of the name and a modified form of the emblem. This permission is granted only if the requesting group clearly supports the principles and goals of the United Nations.

/...

5. The Meditation Group has had a long-term affiliation with the Organization and many UN staff members and delegates of the Permanent Missions participate in its activities. As such, there may be some basis for granting the Group use of the term "United Nations" in its title. However, it must also be remembered that within the United Nations Staff Recreation Council there are several other religious or philosophical groups composed of staff members and delegates. The Transcendental Meditation group, the Mystics Round Table and the Pacem in Terris group are but three. In permitting the Meditation Group to use the United Nations' name, care should be taken not to give the impression that it alone or predominantly represents staff and delegates in this type of activity. Therefore, if the Meditation Group, as an unaffiliated organization, is to be granted its request, care should be taken to avoid any misconception as to the scope of its representation. We suggest that a title such as "Sri Chinmoy Meditation Group in the United Nations Community" should satisfy that Group's request as well as protect the status of other groups such as those mentioned. Of course, the permission for the use of even this title may carry conditions and be made subject to revocation for cause.

6. A final determination on the request of the Meditation Group for use of facilities and the name or emblem of the United Nations should be made on the basis of the above considerations. We, therefore, recommend that the Secretary-General's decision with regard to the request of the Group be made on the basis of the general policy of the Organization together with due consideration for the interests of the Meditation Group as well as other staff groups already established within the United Nations community.

cc 5/5/78

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Mr. F. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
A: Special Assistant to the
Secretary General

DATE: 5 May 1978

REFERENCE: _____

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM: Gail Gershon
DE: Meditation Group

Gail Gershon

*Free
am*

SUBJECT:
OBJET:

Sri Chinmoy wishes me to convey to you that he is extremely grateful for your letter of 3 May 1978 and for the kind consideration you have been giving this matter.

*they should not write
office memos!*

copy sent to Mr. Sney 6/5

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Mr. F. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
A: Special Assistant to the Secretary-General

DATE: 3 May 1978

REFERENCE: _____

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM: Bohdan Lewandowski
DE: Under-Secretary-General for
Conference Services and Special Assignments

SUBJECT: Request by the United Nations Meditation Group
OBJET:

1. The letter dated 20 April 1978 from Sri Chimnoy, of which you sent me a copy, seems to close the case as far as the United Nations Staff Recreation Council is concerned. I might however, add I am still at a loss to know why it was necessary for Meditation Group to leave the Council in order to avoid using the name of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council on its letterhead logo.

2. As it looks to me now, there are two problems involved. First, I think that like any other organizational group involving staff members and not associated with the existing and recognized associations of the Organization, the group will have to get the approval of the Secretary-General to conduct its activities on United Nations premises with the assistance of United Nations personnel. Secondly, since the group in question is active outside the United Nations - and I still do not know whether it is self-contained entity or part of a larger non-United Nations organization - there might be some legal problems involved in its continued use of the United Nations name, logo and flag. It would therefore seem to be advisable to seek the opinion of our Office of Legal Affairs on these questions which are contingent on the fact that the Meditation Group is breaking its ties with any recognized association of United Nations staff members.

3. If and when the Secretary-General recognizes this group, as indicated in paragraph 2 above, our Department of Conference Services, the Office of General Services and Security will treat them in accordance with their new status.

B. Lewandowski

of: RA/AR/MSE
RA
FMG/SA/5 MC

3. May 1978

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

On behalf of the Secretary-General I would like to acknowledge with thanks your letter of 20 April. I wish to assure you that the questions raised therein will receive the most careful consideration and we will of course keep you informed in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
Special Assistant
to the Secretary-General

Sri Chinmoy
Meditation Group
Room 1925

Mr. E. Suy
The Legal Counsel

3 May 1978

FNG/SR

F. Mayrhofer-Grumbel
Special Assistant to the Secretary-General

Request by the United Nations Meditation Group

... Kindly see the attached letter of Sri
Chinmoy. We would be grateful for your advise
as to the possibility of retaining the words
"United Nations" in the designation of the
UN Meditation Group in case it discontinues
its membership in the UN Staff Recreation
Council as indicated by Sri Chinmoy.

Mr. B. Lewandowski
Under-Secretary-General
Dept. of Conference Services

3 May 1978

FMG/SR

F. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
Special Assistant to the Secretary-General

Request by the United Nations Meditation Group

... Kindly see the attached letter of Sri Chirmoy.
We would be grateful for your advise on the
question of the use of meeting rooms in case
the Meditation Group discontinues its membership
in the Staff Recreation Council as indicated
in Sri Chirmoy's letter.

20-4
Rec'd 20-iv-78

FMG

RM
20/4

Meditation Group
Room 1925 - GPO 20
United Nations, N.Y. 10017
20 April 1978

Dear Secretary-General,

May I refer to your assistant Mr. Mayrhofer's kind letter of March 21 in which he assured me that your good office is considering a request by the Meditation Group. More specifically we are requesting your assurance that if we fail to continue to be a part of the U.N. Staff Recreation Council, we will still be able to use the meeting rooms here at Headquarters for our weekly meditation meetings. I understand that there are a number of other groups, such as the Women's Guild, the Association of Former International Civil Servants and the Ad Hoc Group on Equal Rights for Women among others, which as associations of staffmembers are granted use of U.N. facilities.

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With sincere regards,
Sri Chinmoy
Sri Chinmoy

H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
United Nations, N.Y. 10017

ec 23/3

United Nations
Meditation Group
GPO 20-Room 1925
23 March 1978

file pending
Jan 27, 3.

Dear Mr. Mayrhofer,

I wish to offer you my sincere gratitude for your kind letter of acknowledgement on behalf of the Secretary-General. Your time and attention are most precious. Please feel that we deeply value your concern in our present, tiring difficulties.

Regarding my request for a meeting with the Secretary-General to present my book, I fully understand and appreciate each day the heavy burden of work which he continues to shoulder. May I therefore request to arrange an appointment at a more distant and hopefully less occupied date, as in late May or June?

Again, please feel my deepest gratitude for your kind consideration in these respects.

With warm regards,

Sri Chinmoy
Sri Chinmoy

Mr. Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
Special Assistant
to the Secretary-General
Room 3802C
United Nations, New York

KCC 12 111
FM 6
AM
20/4

Meditation Group
Room 1925 - GPO 20
United Nations, N.Y. 10017
20 April 1978

Dear Secretary-General,

May I refer to your assistant Mr. Mayrhofer's kind letter of March 21 in which he assured me that your good office is considering a request by the Meditation Group. More specifically we are requesting your assurance that if we fail to continue to be a part of the U.N. Staff Recreation Council, we will still be able to use the meeting rooms here at Headquarters for our weekly meditation meetings. I understand that there are a number of other groups, such as the Women's Guild, the Association of Former International Civil Servants and the Ad Hoc Group on Equal Rights for Women among others, which as associations of staffmembers are granted use of U.N. facilities.

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With sincere regards,

Sri Chinmoy
Sri Chinmoy

H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
United Nations, N.Y. 10017

ROUTING SLIP

FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO:
A: **Mr. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel**

FROM:
DE: **B. Lewandowski**

Room No. - No de bureau	Extension - Poste	Date
		18.4.78

FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE DISCUSS?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER ?
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION	XXX	POUR INFORMATION

Mr. Bohdan Lewandowski
Conference Services
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

4/17/78
file: Meditation Group
JMK 24.42

April 13, 1978
WPIX INC.
11 WPIX PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY 10017
(212) 883-1100
personal

Dear Mr. Lewandowski,

I have taken the liberty of distributing to the Recreation Council this letter to you, as you did with my previous, personal note.

First let me say I am shocked at your uncomely behavior and must assume you have been disproportionately and dangerously misled or your very ideals have become twisted or ill-founded. Your letter of 10 April is filled with the kind of vicious innuendo and distortion beneath the dignity of a career public servant known to the world in the past as a courageous anti-Nazi. Where is the understanding and insight of the man who demanded the continued prosecution of war criminals past the deadline established in postwar German regulations? How can you duck issues of substance and cloak in the pettiness of conformity a clear-cut attempt at wounding if not destroying a group whose only sin has been to bring together in absolute quiet harmony diplomats and staff who might never have met under any other circumstances?

Your letter impunes the motives of the Meditation Group and even implies misuse of the U.N. name for some unsavory monetary purpose. Where is the proof for this Nazi-like smear? Have you and your fine name been misled and sullied by someone with crass political or personal motives of jealousy? Have you really changed? Is your letter reflective of the kind of leadership the World Organization is supposed to provide?

You wonder why Ambassadors and others have bothered to assist the Meditation Group on "resisting" your "request", which I am informed was made outside the legal bounds of the Recreation Council? Because the Meditation Group has really done some fine, decent and valuable things. And now you and those who have misled you are setting a mini-Reichstag fire by ramming through a new constitution--over THIS!!

As the brave people of Poland refused to "accept" the Nazi invasion, as the determined Black people of my own nation refused to "accept" the "request" of their white oppressors for conformity to unjust rules which restricted their contribution to their country and the world, so on a smaller, less dramatic scale must the Meditation Group and its friends resist what has become a filthy and despicable effort to first relegate and then eliminate a quiet and peaceful organization that only spoke and acted within the highest values espoused but sadly not practised by some employees of the United Nations.

If, in fact, you have been misled, I pray you will have the integrity to discover the source and reverse your position.

I am still ready to believe you have not really changed.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kamel

United Nations Correspondent



United Nations Staff Recreation Council

10 April 1978

Dear Mr. Kamen,

Thank you for your letter of March 13, 1978 concerning the designation of the Meditation Group. As it was addressed to me in my capacity as Chairman of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council, I had to delay answering it until I had had an opportunity to bring this situation to the attention of the Executive Committee and to ascertain the views of its members. The following reply, which I am sending also to others who evinced similar concern, is written on behalf of the Executive Committee.

The appeals made with regard to the designation of the Meditation Group appear to be based on some misunderstanding. It is now and has always been the policy of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council not to interfere in the substance of the activities of the staff clubs at the United Nations. A matter, not of substance but of a constitutional nature, came before the Council a little more than a year ago, with regard to the Fishing and Hunting Club, when the question was raised whether the designation "United Nations" in the names of the clubs implied that a given activity had the sanction of the Organization. You are aware that this is not so. No group belonging to the Staff Recreation Council can claim that its activities have official recognition with any United Nations organs.

You will appreciate that this opens up a delicate problem, especially where non-United Nations money and property are involved. People not familiar with the United Nations might be under a misapprehension. It is obvious that the activities of some groups may have financial ramifications outside the United Nations, but while these might be of interest to the fiscal authorities of the United States, they do not come under the supervision of the United Nations Secretariat or the Staff Recreation Council. However, you will doubtless agree that we owe it to the general public to ensure honest information lest they be misled into thinking that any staff activity has the official endorsement of the United Nations.

With this concern in view, the United Nations Staff Recreation Council decided, on the advice of the Legal Counsel, that each club belonging to the Staff Recreation Council should make it unmistakably clear, in its letterhead and notices, that its activities were non-professional activities of staff members and delegates and not official United Nations-sponsored activities. Accordingly, the Council requested all clubs to use the designation "United Nations Staff Recreation Council -- (name of the club)" in their letterheads and on any material they posted. Attached, for your information, is a list of all the clubs under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council.

.../



All of the clubs -- with the exception of the Meditation Group -- agreed to comply with the Council's request, which, I might add, was made in January 1977 -- more than a year ago. We in the Executive Committee fail to see that this requirement would limit or diminish any club's legitimate activities inside or outside the United Nations.

It is a matter of surprise to the members of the Executive Committee -- as it is to me -- that the Meditation Group should have put so much effort into resisting a request which all of the other clubs accepted without difficulty. Does it not make you wonder, what the real motive of such resistance might be?

The possibility is of course always open to members of the United Nations staff or of delegations or associated groups of organizing activities outside the framework of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council. The rules and restrictions of the Council would not then apply to them, and such groups would be free to find their own legal framework, either with the assistance of the Office of Legal Affairs or with that of the authorities of the host country. I am sure, Mr. Kamen, that you will agree that if any group wants to belong to the United Nations Staff Recreation Council, it should abide by the Council's rules and regulations.

This statement of our position will, I trust, meet the concern you expressed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bohdan Lewandowski".

Bohdan Lewandowski
Chairman, United Nations
Staff Recreation Council

Mr. Jeff Kamen
United Nations Correspondent
WPIX-TV
11 WPIX Plaza
New York City 10017

Mr. Bohdan Lewandowski
Conference Services
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

March 13, 1978

WPIX INC.
11 WPIX PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY 10017
(212) 949-1100
personal

Dear Mr. Lewandowski,

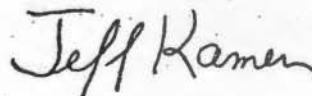
As a U-N Correspondent for WPIX-TV, I have become familiar with the activities of the UN Meditation Group which has earned my deep respect, admiration and even participation. I have personally heard praises of the Group's work from such distinguished persons as Meguid of Egypt, Soffer of Israel, Lowenstein of the US and Mhlambiso of the African National Congress to name a few.

Usually, as you know, local t.v. stations tend to cover the U-N on a purely crisis/episode basis. That was essentially true for me. However, this last year I have put so much time into covering U-N matters and getting them out to our 10 affiliated stations that Messrs. Stadjuhar and Powell have thanked me for my concern and commitment. Truly, this concern and commitment was heightened by my participation in the Meditation Group activities which always seem to capture the essence of the U-N's role.

UN Meditation Group publications have won high praise from diplomats such as Andrew Young. Andrew Young had just returned from Atlanta where Mrs. King showed him her copy of the UN Meditation Group's "Martin Luther King" program. The Ambassador described the booklet as "a beautifully produced and moving keepsake that made Coretta and a lot of other people feel very good. A good piece of work." I have known Mr. Young well for the past thirteen years. He is not loose with his praise.

The Meditation Group has earned a fine name and changing it would surely damage its credibility and its capacity to serve all people of all faiths of all political persuasions. The UN Meditation Group was a friend of U Thant and he of it. In its own humble way, the Meditation Group is heir to his legacy of peace-in-quiet. Shouldn't its good name be preserved unchanged?

Sincerely,



Jeff Kamen
United Nations Correspondent
WPIX-TV

JK:kh

6-4-78

Original sent to Recreation Council
Mr. Lewandowski / 7 April 78

FMG

New York, April 6th 1978

Handwritten notes:
by MC
ms. di um
feci.
file
mediation group
[Signature]

RA
44

Dear Mr. Kurt Waldheim, J.

I am writing to protest against what I think is a defamation of the United Nations good image abroad and mainly in the United States.

The complaint is against Mr. Chinmoy who uses the United Nations emblem and name for the purpose of propagating the cult of his personality.

At the Madison Square Garden just the other day he was introduced to a big crowd as the SPIRITUAL ADVISER OF THE UNITED NATIONS. He also uses the United Nations emblem and underneath it the words THE HEART HOME OF THE WORLD BODY. Take a closer look at those words and the context in which they were written, then you might get their true meaning.

Taking into consideration that the public in the United States is very badly informed by the press who twists the former's mind as they please (and as political games change), it would come as no surprise to me if one of these days your own name and the name of this Organization appeared in the News Papers in a jeopardized manner.

Mr. Chinmoy's activities in the United Nations are admitted under the regulation of the Recreational Council and yet he does not want to abide by the rules of this very same Council. He pretends to have a different status... "The United Nations Meditation Group". According to these rules he should use "United Nations Recreational Council" in all his correspondence and activities and yet he does not. He just refuses to do it. His reasoning is... "We have done the United Nations so much good and we cannot be equalled to any club of the Recreational Council.

I am not a member of any club but as a Staff Member of the United Nations I urge you to take a stand on the issue before it gets out of hand.

Truly yours,

[Signature]
Kleiber Gama
Room 2074-D

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO:
A:

Mr. Bohdan Lewandowski
Chairman, UN Recreation Council

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM:
DE:

Kenneth Peck
Meditation Group

K. Peck

SUBJECT:
OBJET:

Publications

by RA 23-3
Free 23.8

DATE: 23 March 1978
REFERENCE: _____

Upon consideration of the discussion regarding our publications at the last meeting of the Executive Committee, we are taking the following steps to resolve the problem which you had foreseen.

1. On the inside cover of all our publications, along with the approved phrase denoting the character and composition of our Group, will be included the following line: "The views expressed herein are presented as a service by the Meditation Group and are not intended to represent the official views of the United Nations or its Agencies.
2. As well, we will delete the words "United Nations - New York" from the covers of our publications as it seemed to cause you some concern.
3. And so as to relieve criticism of reports of our activities which appear in the press or our own publications, we will henceforth refer to Sri Chinmoy not as our Director, but as a teacher of our Group who leads meditation.

cc: Mr. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel

FNG/FMB
File: UN Med. Group
before dispatch: RA
b.f. AR/JPB/HP/IL/MC

21 March 1978

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 17 March 1978, addressed to the Secretary-General.

The request which you have made with regard to the use of rooms by the Meditation Group is being carefully reviewed, and I wish to assure you that it will receive all due consideration. With reference to your other request, I have to inform you that the Secretary-General will be abroad on official business during a good deal of April and, upon his return will then be heavily occupied with the special session of the General Assembly on Namibia.

I am sure you will understand therefore that it will be difficult to arrange for a meeting during the time indicated.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grunbuhl
Special Assistant
to the Secretary-General

Sri Chinmoy
Director
UN Meditation Group
New York

Mr. B. Lewandowski
Chairman
UN Staff Recreation Council

20 March 1978

F. Mayrhofer-Grunbehal
Special Assistant
to the Secretary-General

Use of Room for Meetings of UN Meditation Group

The Secretary-General has received the following request from Mr. Sri Chinnoy, Director of the UN Meditation Group, concerning the above subject.

"May I request your kind assistance in a certain regard. I would like you to grant that our Meditation Group will still be able to use the rooms here in the building to conduct meetings even if we fail to continue to be a part of the UN Staff Recreation Council. The Meditation Group and I shall be eternally grateful to you if you could help us in this predicament.

I feel that this arrangement would also be most satisfactory to the ambassadors of the United States, Tanzania, Panama, Cyprus, Liberia, Italy and the Dominican Republic who were so kind as to write letters of deep appreciation and support for us in our unending difficulties (copies of these letters were forwarded to Mr. Mayrhofer)."

It would be appreciated if you could have this matter examined.

UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP
GPO 20-Room 1925 United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017

File
10/11
17/3
RECEIVED
17 MAR 1978

UNITED NATIONS:

17 March 1978



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.

—U.N.M.G.

Dear Secretary-General,

I am very happy that by this time you have received our Devoted Report to the Secretary-General covering the activities of our Meditation Group during the year 1977. It is my hope that we may be able to offer you this report on our efforts each year.

" May I request your kind assurance in a certain regard. I would like you to grant that our Meditation Group will still be able to use the rooms here in the building to conduct meetings even if we fail to continue to be a part of the U.N. Staff Recreation Council. The Meditation Group and I shall be eternally grateful to you if you could help us in this predicament.

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May I also at this time make another humble request. I promised you last year while presenting you with a copy of my book on U Thant that I would also write a book on you. I recently completed work on this book and I expect it will soon be back from the publisher. Would it be possible at some time in April for me to briefly meet with you and present you with my devoted offering? Again, I am extremely grateful to your assistant Mr. Mayrhofer for supplying me with much needed information as well as his own personal feelings toward you.

Thank you for your kind consideration in these respects.

With warm and devoted regards,

Sri Chinmoy
Sri Chinmoy
Director

H.E. Dr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General
of the United Nations
United Nations, New York



TO: Mr. G. Figueroa
A: Chief, Planning and Meetings
Servicing Section

DATE: 14 March 1978

REFERENCE: _____

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM: Kenneth Peck
DE: *K. Peck*
United Nations Meditation Group

SUBJECT: Request for Conference Room 4
OBJET:

1. I refer to your letter of 7 March 1978 of which I have only this day seen Mr. Keefe's copy as I was somehow never sent one.
 2. I regret the clerical error in requesting the Conference Room at such a late date. I thought a memorandum had been sent to your office when I had originally inquired by phone in early February as to the room's availability. When I realised a memorandum had, in fact, not been sent, I delivered to you the correspondence of 6 March 1978. I would like to stress however that I was in communication with your office prior to Miss Reilly's correspondence, and I received the assurances of your office that Conference Room 4 would be available for our programme upon the conclusion of any official meetings therein that day.
 3. As is stated in Miss Reilly's letter to the Secretary-General, the United Nations Meditation Group is sponsoring this programme in conjunction with the Peace Corps. I had conveyed to her my communication with your office and whereupon, as a co-sponsor of this programme, she addressed her letter to the Secretary-General with the said information.
 4. I would like to confirm that the United Nations Meditation Group will assume responsibility for any costs involved in the use of Conference Room 4 with the services I requested.
- cc: Mr. B. Lewandowski, Chairman, Recreation Council
Mr. G. Oudovenko, Director, Interpretation and Meetings Division
Mr. H. Jaran, First Vice-Chairman, Recreation Council
Mr. F. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel, Special Assistant to the Secretary-General
Mr. K. Keefe, Programme-Coordinator, United Nations Meditation Group

THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, 11 March 1978


714

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

Let me first of all congratulate you for the initiative of compiling a book on the Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and his work at the United Nations.

I am very glad to contribute with my personal memories to the realisation of the book which, I am sure, will be as successful as the previous one you published on the late U Thant.

Yours sincerely,


Piero Vinci
Ambassador

Sri Chinmoy
Director
United Nations Meditation Group
United Nations - Room 1925
New York, N.Y. 10017

Lillian G. Carter
PLAINS, GEORGIA 31780

Mar-2-1976

Dear "Meditation Group" -

Thank you very much
for the subscription for
the monthly booklet -

I'm sure I will enjoy
every one of you -

With kindest regards to
Sri Chinnoy and all the group -

Sincerely

Lillian Carter



PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION
OF THE HOLY SEE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

January 25, 1978

United Nations Meditation Group
Attention: Ms. Gail Gershon
Room 1925
United Nations,
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Friends:

We are writing to thank you for participating in the World Day of Peace and for the contribution of your presence among us as well as the pamphlet. It was so perfectly appropriate to have the picture of the Pope in everyone's hands as we reflected on his message and prayed with him for peace. Thank you for responding to the inspiration to share your beautiful hand-work and the inspiring thoughts of Sri Chinmoy and the other contributors.

With our warmest good wishes and our most sincere prayers that God will continue to bless you.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Cheli

Monsignor Giovanni Cheli

sjr



CABLE ADDRESS
AUSTUNAT, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE
212-421-6910

AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
885 SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

14 February 1978

Dear Mr Chinmoy,

I wish to thank you and the UN Meditation Group for the banner which was so kindly presented to me through Mr Rex Harris of our Information Service. I am only sorry that I was not able to be available to accept the banner in person. However, it will serve as a reminder of a very pleasant occasion.

With renewed thanks and my best wishes to you and to the Meditation Group.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ralph L. Harry'.

(Ralph L. Harry)
Permanent Representative

Mr Sri Chinmoy
UN Meditation Group
Room 3001,
United Nations Headquarters
NEW YORK. NY. 10017

UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

GPO 20-Room 1925 United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017

REC 14/3 sf

c: Mr Lewandowski
14/3

13 March 1978

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.

—U.N.M.G.

Dear Mr. Mayrhofer,

Thank you so much for your kind letter of 10 March acknowledging our programmes report on behalf of the Secretary-General. These activities represent our aspirations to serve the United Nations in whatever way we can.

RA of RA / AR
14/3 then file MR
14.3

We are also very appreciative of your assurance that the Secretary-General's office is considering our appeal to be able to retain our name as it has stood for the past eight years. We are very moved and encouraged by a number of letters of support from those very persons whom we have endeavoured to serve: ambassadors, delegates and staff members. I have attached just some of the many letters that have been submitted.

It has been suggested to us that one possibility would be that the Recreation Council alter the rule on club names to include the phrase "... (the rule as stated) shall be the case normally; however, exceptions may be made after review by the Recreation Council and the Office of Legal Affairs where it is deemed appropriate." Or perhaps policies concerning the names of clubs could be non-retroactive, that is, could pertain to clubs applying for recognition after a certain date and not to those already established and operating. The clubs that need variation in the use of the seal and the approval of certain phrasing on their letterhead could be directed to the legal office.

We remain indebted to you for the kindness and interest you showed in helping with the book Sri Chinmoy is writing on the Secretary-General. It is inspiring to us that you would give so generously of your time in speaking to me about the Secretary-General.

If you have any questions about our proposals, I would be most happy to try to answer them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Gershon".

Gail Gershon
Secretary

Mr. Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
Special Assistant to the Secretary-General
Room 3802C

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Mr. Kevin Keefe
A: UN Meditation Group

DATE: 6 March 1978

REFERENCE: _____

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM: Blaine Sloan, Director of the General Legal Division
DE: in charge of the Office of Legal Affairs

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Blaine Sloan".

SUBJECT:
OBJET: Request for approval of name

In reply to your memorandum of 28 February 1978 I am pleased to inform you that we see no legal objection to your group continuing to use the name "United Nations Meditation Group" together with the descriptive phrase referred to in my memorandum to you of 22 February 1978.

I understand that you will be in consultation with the United Nations Recreation Council on this matter.

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Mr. Kevin Keefe
A: UN Meditation Group

DATE: 22 February 1978

REFERENCE: _____

THROUGH:
S/C DE.

FROM: Blaine Sloan, Director of the
DE: General Legal Division, in charge of
the Office of Legal Affairs

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Blaine Sloan".

SUBJECT: Request for approval of letterhead
OBJET: Request for approval of letterhead

With reference to your memorandum of 16 February 1978, I am pleased to inform you that we see no objection to your adding on the printed face of your correspondence and on your publications the phrase "The United Nations Meditation Group is an association of UN delegates, staff, ngo representatives and accredited press correspondents" as it accurately describes the membership of your group and does not imply official United Nations endorsement of your group or its publications.

I appreciate your having consulted us on this matter.

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

201 EAST 42nd STREET - 8th Floor

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

972-9160

March 13, 1978

Mr. Bohdan Lewandowski
Under-Secretary-General
Department of Conference Services
United Nations
Room 1527B
New York

Dear Mr. Lewandowski:

My attention has been drawn to the fact that efforts have been made to change the title of the United Nations Meditation Group. As one of those who is familiar with the excellent work of the Group, I am writing to express my personal concern at the adverse effects that such a change of title would have. At the same time, I am writing to solicit your support so that the United Nations Meditation Group retains its original name.

It is my conviction that only with its present title can the Group provide for a cross section of participants in its activities from the United Nations diplomatic corps as well as members of the Secretariat. I myself had the opportunity to take part in one of the United Nations Meditation Group's programmes. I did so last month when the Group organized a commemoration to honour Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I need hardly point out the unique nature of this Group and the need for all of us to give such a Group all the support and encouragement. It is therefore in this spirit that I have decided to write this communication to you in the confident belief of your co-operation.

With my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Salim Ahmed Salim
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND
PLENIPOTENTIARY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

SAS/amg

N.O.O. Mr. K. Peck
United Nations Meditation Group
Room 2611, United Nations



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

March 7, 1978

Mr. Bohdan Lewandowski
Under Secretary General
Department of Conference Services
United Nations

Dear Mr. Lewandowski:

I am writing to seek your support for the UN Meditation Group's retention of their name. As you are aware, there has been some interest in changing the title of this worthwhile organization. I would only say that the name of the United Nations Meditation Group has, over the years, become associated with a variety of activities and programs where delegates and staff members come together to share a special vision of the United Nations. I was able to participate in the UN Meditation Group's program last month honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and experienced then the dedication and good work of this Group.

Groups such as this are a distinct asset to the United Nations, and I, as well as others at this Mission who have joined their efforts with the United Nations Meditation Group, would hope that their name can remain unchanged.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Allard K. Lowenstein
Ambassador for Special
Political Affairs



*Mision Permanente de Panama
en las Naciones Unidas*

New York, March 7, 1978

Dear Mr. Lewandowski:

The name of the United Nations Meditation Group has over the years become associated with programmes of a very positive nature where delegates and staffmembers gather to share and reinforce their spiritual vision of the United Nations. As a member of the diplomatic community who has participated in the meetings of this Group, I would like to extend my appreciation and support for their meaningful work. Their programmes help to bring us in touch with the founding spirit of the United Nations and inspire renewed dedication to its ideals.

I note with some concern the effort to change the name of this group to one which includes the words "Staff Recreation Council". I find this unadvisable in that it does not reflect the real nature of the Group and it tends to discourage participation of delegations through the terms "Staff Recreation".

It is my hope that "The United Nations Meditation Group" name will be maintained to allow Delegations to continue participation with this Group.

Accept, Mr. Lewandowski, the assurances to my highest consideration.

Jorge E. Illueca
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Mr. Bohdan Lewandowski
Under-Secretary-General
Department of Conference Services
United Nations
Room 1527B
New York

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
820 SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

10 March 1978

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

This is to reiterate my view that the name "United Nations Meditation Group" should be retained not only for the popularity it has earned, but more so as a symbol of what it stands for. The group has always been known for its many-faceted activities and whatever name is now proposed cannot compete with its original symbolic and historical name. The suggested name of "Staff Recreation Council-Meditation Group" in its literal meaning is hardly appropriate to the functions of the Meditation Group.

I, therefore, believe that the original name should stand.

Yours sincerely,

was a brotherly feeling

Zenon Rossides
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations

Sri Chinmoy
Director
United Nations Meditation Group
G. P. O. 20, Room 1925
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

MISIÓN PERMANENTE
DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

New York, N. Y.,
9 de Marzo, 1978.

Distinguido Sr. Lewandowski:

Tengo el honor de dirigirme a usted en ocasión de referirme al Grupo de Meditación de las Naciones Unidas, el cual, a través de varios años, se ha constituido en el núcleo orientador y captador de una conciencia enaltecida de la comunidad internacional representada en nuestra Organización mundial, por el que los representantes diplomáticos y los miembros del personal de la Secretaría han contado con programas y presentaciones lírico-culturales de hondo esparcimiento espiritual, acordes con la esencia misma de los ideales que forjaron las Naciones Unidas.

Según nos hemos informado, hay algún grupo de personas interesado en transformar el carácter del Grupo de Meditación proponiendo que se le cambie su nombre actual por el de "Consejo de Recreación del Personal". Creemos que el nombre con el cual ha estado actuando tan positivamente hasta la fecha es muy digno de conservarse. Sin embargo, para armonizar las diferentes puntos de vista, se nos ocurre la idea de que podría dársele el nombre de: GRUPO DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA MEDITACION Y EL DESARROLLO HUMANO INTEGRAL.

El nombre que me permito sugerir, aparte de contener una finalidad conciliatoria entre los diferentes Grupos, contribuiría a enriquecer y ampliar las posibilidades de actuación del referido Grupo haciéndolo receptivo no sólo para el desarrollo de las actividades de "recreo", sino también para todo tipo de actividades a las que puedan dedicarse cualquier grupo del tipo que sea de las Naciones Unidas.

Para concluir, formulamos votos por los mejores y progresivos éxitos del Grupo de Meditación, que le da vida a la parte más sublime de nuestra Organización mundial.

Le saludo con los sentimientos de mi más alta y distinguida consideración,

Pablo R. Casimiro Castro,
Embajador,
Representante Permanente.

Al Señor
Bohdan Lewandowski,
Subsecretario General, Departamento de
Servicios de Conferencias de las Naciones Unidas,
New York, N. Y.



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
820 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

7-78/UN.MISC.

13 March 1978

Dear Mr. Lewandowski:

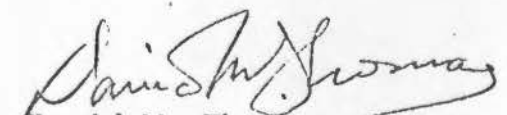
I am writing to seek your support for the UN Meditation Group's retention of their name.

In the midst of one's daily activities, he feels the need of a pause for relaxation. This pause, even though it be brief, can afford resuscitation, invigoration and revival.

In my opinion, the period that is observed by the United Nations Meditation Group offers a good opportunity for relaxation and spiritual communion. Man is no less spiritual than physical, therefore needs some time to commune with God, the divine creator of the universe. This is most desirable.

In view of the above, it is my opinion that it would be a sad mistake to change the name of the United Nations Meditation Group to another.

Kind regards,


David M. Thomas
Ambassador

Mr. Bohdan Lewandowski
Under-Secretary-General
for Conference Services
United Nations, Room 1527-B
New York, New York 10017

THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, 9 March 1978

Mr. Bohdan Lewandowski
Under-Secretary-General
Department of Conference Services
United Nations - Room 1527
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Lewandowski,

I am writing to seek your support for the UN Meditation Group's retention of their name. As you are aware, there has been some interest in changing the title of this worthwhile organization. I would only say that the name of the United Nations Meditation Group has, over the years, become associated with a variety of activities and programs where delegates and staff members come together to share a special vision of the United Nations. I was able to participate in the UN Meditation Group's program last January honoring the late U Thant and experienced then the dedication and good work of this Group.

Groups such as this are a distinct asset to the United Nations, and I would hope that their name can remain unchanged.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Piero Vinci
Ambassador

Mr. Bohdan Lewandowski
Conference Services
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

March 13, 1978

WPIX INC.
11 WPIX PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY 10017
(212) 949-1100
personal

Dear Mr. Lewandowski,

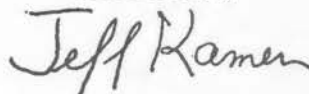
As a U-N Correspondent for WPIX-TV, I have become familiar with the activities of the UN Meditation Group which has earned my deep respect, admiration and even participation. I have personally heard praises of the Group's work from such distinguished persons as Meguid of Egypt, Soffer of Israel, Lowenstein of the US and Mhlambiso of the African National Congress to name a few.

Usually, as you know, local t.v. stations tend to cover the U-N on a purely crisis/episode basis. That was essentially true for me. However, this last year I have put so much time into covering U-N matters and getting them out to our 10 affiliated stations that Messrs. Stadjuhar and Powell have thanked me for my concern and commitment. Truly, this concern and commitment was heightened by my participation in the Meditation Group activities which always seem to capture the essence of the U-N's role.

UN Meditation Group publications have won high praise from diplomats such as Andrew Young. Andrew Young had just returned from Atlanta where Mrs. King showed him her copy of the UN Meditation Group's "Martin Luther King" program. The Ambassador described the booklet as "a beautifully produced and moving keepsake that made Coretta and a lot of other people feel very good. A good piece of work." I have known Mr. Young well for the past thirteen years. He is not loose with his praise.

The Meditation Group has earned a fine name and changing it would surely damage its credibility and its capacity to serve all people of all faiths of all political persuasions. The UN Meditation Group was a friend of U Thant and he of it. In its own humble way, the Meditation Group is heir to his legacy of peace-in-quiet. Shouldn't its good name be preserved unchanged?

Sincerely,



Jeff Kamen
United Nations Correspondent
WPIX-TV

JK:kh

8.2.78

United Nations Meditation Group
GPO 20-Room 1925
United Nations, N.Y. 10017
21 February 1978

Dear Mrs. Sipila,

I would be very grateful if you could kindly offer a statement for a book I am compiling about Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and his work at the United Nations. In my recently published book about his predecessor, U Thant, many United Nations Ambassadors, Officials and others who knew the former Secretary-General well, submitted remarks, both personal anecdotes and more formal comments, and I would be deeply appreciative of any contribution you might wish to make to this humble undertaking for our dear Secretary-General.

Yours sincerely,

Sri Chinmoy

Sri Chinmoy
Director

Mrs. Helvi Sipila
Assistant Secretary-General
ESA/CSDHA Room DC-1022
United Nations, New York 10017

A DEVOTED REPORT
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1977



by
The United Nations Meditation Group

UNITED NATIONS:



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

A DEVOTED REPORT
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1977

by
THE UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

DEDICATION

This brochure offers a brief look at the various activities of the United Nations Meditation Group during the calendar year 1977, as excerpted from the Group's monthly bulletin, *Meditation at the United Nations*.

We, the members of the Meditation Group, humbly dedicate these activities to our dear Secretary-General for his extraordinary and untiring service to the United Nations and to the whole world.

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U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry

A programme of music and speech in tribute to the late Secretary-General U Thant took place 21 January in the ECOSOC Chamber, the day before what would have been his 68th birthday.

U Thant's daughter, Mrs. Aye Aye Myint-U, and her family were present as Ambassador Rossides of Cyprus, Ambassador Vinci of Italy and Director and Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs Dr. Robert Muller spoke movingly about the ex-Secretary-General. Sri Chinmoy, Director of the United Nations Meditation Group, presented Dr. and Mrs. Myint-U with copies of his newly published book, *U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry*, which contains comments and essays about U Thant by United Nations and other international figures. The book is available in the U.N. Bookshop. News of the programme for U Thant was broadcast in Burma the following day.

Excerpts from the speeches follow.



H. E. Mr. Zenon Rossides, Permanent Representative of Cyprus: U Thant is a luminous ideal that moved among us as a human figure. His thoughts and actions had a transcendental quality. Because he was eminently a man of the spirit in the integrity of his mind, he transcended the adversities and limitations of the intellect.

Through his intrinsic dedication to the universality of man and his inspired leadership, he saved the United Nations and the world at the most critical junctures.



H. E. Mr. Piero Vinci, Permanent Representative of Italy: I think the best way we can pay tribute to U Thant is by keeping alive his highly spiritual message. For me, the message is one that called for a radical change in our political thinking as well as in our moral approach to life and to the problems that we all face today.



Dr. Robert Muller: I intended to speak about U Thant's influence on my personal life, but when I saw the beautiful title of this ceremony, which is also the title of Sri Chinmoy's new book, *U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry*, I felt that I should direct my thoughts to this theme.

U Thant was a great man because he was able to distill from the immense complexity of the surrounding world and from his observation of life, a few basic, deeply felt principles. These were always the same: that every human being had physical, mental, moral and spiritual qualities and needs. He established a hierarchy among these, as if the whole evolution of mankind was directed to the achievement of the highest level, namely the spiritual level. This inspired his entire work.



Sri Chinmoy thanks Dr. and Mrs. Myint-U for their gift to him of a colour photograph of U Thant.

Participation in President Carter's Inaugural Ceremonies

At the invitation of the President Carter/ Vice-President Mondale Inaugural Committee, the Meditation Group ushered at the Inauguration Day early morning prayer service held on 20 January 1977 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Group gathered at 6:30 a.m. in the sub-freezing temperature to pass out programmes, seat people and generally help out, for a crowd which grew to 5,000.

The 8:00 a.m. service was led by the Rev. Bruce Edwards of the Plains Baptist Church, assisted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr., while Ruth Carter Stapleton, sister of the President, read from the scriptures.

Following is a letter of appreciation from the Inaugural Committee for the Meditation Group's assistance.

1977 Inaugural Committee



January 13, 1977

Mr. Sri Chinmoy, Director
United Nations Meditation Group
Room A-515, United Nations
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Chinmoy:

On behalf of President-elect Carter, we wish to deeply thank you for the assistance that the United Nations Meditation Group will provide at the Inaugural Day Lincoln Memorial Prayer Service and throughout Inaugural Day. Our planned program of free concerts, dances, poetry readings, plays and other entertainment reflects President-elect Carter's strong desire to make this a true "People's Inaugural".

We are particularly impressed by the dedication and co-operative spirit of your members, who are outstanding examples of the philosophy of brotherhood and goodwill which you seek to implement at the United Nations.

Thank you again for your generosity and public spirit. You represent America's idealism and spiritual values at their best. Your contribution is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,
Fredy R. Tuome
Co-Chairperson

Send and J. Slanki S.O., Washington D.C. 20544, (202) 472-4000

Announcement of Geneva Meditation Group

At a meeting of the United Nations Meditation Group on 8 February 1977; Sri Chinmoy announced: Several days ago, a branch of our Meditation Group was established in Geneva. Our Elizabeth Addison was there for a conference. With the help of Andreas Beyer, she has officially formed a Meditation Group at the United Nations in Geneva, so this is a very encouraging and illuminating achievement.

In telling about the Geneva group, Ms. Addison said: The group meditates every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. with about twenty members. The people there were really glad to have something like this, and they are especially interested in having a theme for each meditation pertaining to things that the United Nations is doing and various conferences that it is holding.

A Visit to the United Nations Gift Center

On 11 February 1977 Sri Chinmoy visited the United Nations Gift Center, managed by Ms. June Henneberger, a member of the United Nations Meditation Group. Sri Chinmoy meditated with the staff of the shop before their working day began and then gave a short talk.

An excerpt from his talk follows.



U.N. Gift Center staff listen to Sri Chinmoy during his talk in their shop.

Sri Chinmoy: Every day people come to this shop from various parts of the world. They come here to identify themselves with the large, larger and largest world. Let me give you an example. I come from a tiny, obscure village in Bengal, India. If I buy something from this place and take it back to my little home and show it to my friends, immediately a new world dawns before them—a world of vastness, a world of oneness, a world of satisfaction. The tiniest possible world is my village, Shakpura, in Bengal, India. The tiniest world comes into this shop and gets a gift which comes from another part of the world. Perhaps that part of the world where the gift was made may also be

a small village. But my coming to this shop from one tiny place and your offering this gift from another tiny place makes a happy union between the two places.

We come to the United Nations to be united and to serve humanity with one heart, with one soul and with one body. In this way the little, little worlds become one with the big world, and again, the big world gives to the little worlds what it has and what it is.

* * *

The inner vision of the United Nations is the gift supreme. This vision the world can deny for ten, twenty, thirty, forty, one hundred years. But a day will dawn when the vision of the United Nations will save the world. And when the reality of the United Nations starts bearing fruit, then the breath of Immortality will be a living reality on earth.

A Welcome to Dr. Robert Muller

On 7 January 1977 Sri Chinmoy welcomed Dr. Robert Muller, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination, as a member of the United Nations Meditation Group family. At that time Sri Chinmoy presented him with a copy of a tribute to U Thant that Dr. Muller had written, which the Meditation Group had printed as a special supplement to its Bulletin.

Sri Chinmoy: Dearest Robert Muller, dearest brother, on behalf of the Meditation Group, I wish to welcome you to our small, soulful Group with our hearts' deepest love, joy, pride and gratitude. We sincerely feel that your very presence has considerably enhanced our journey here to the ultimate goal, which is one world family and a oneness-world. To have you as a member of our Meditation Group is to have someone whose love of Truth, whose concern not only for the United Nations but for the entire humanity, can help us, guide us and illumine our search for the ultimate Truth. This ultimate Truth we really need here at the United Nations to found a world-family that will grow and glow.

Dr. Robert Muller: Thank you. I attended two of your ceremonies, and I felt forthwith that your approach to the United Nations was the same as mine. Hence, I decided to become a member of your group. It is very important that people everywhere, especially public servants, be inspired not only by their skills, knowledge, education, expectations and ambitions, but also by the certainty that whatever they do must be for the



Sri Chinmoy welcomes Dr. Robert Muller as a member of the United Nations Meditation Group.

good of the human family. A person gives his best only if beyond talent and intelligence he also offers his heart. This is how I have always approached public service and my place in it.

I entered the United Nations as a young man with an ideal. Since then that ideal has grown. Today it is more than an ideal: it is a religion. It is a daily religion to try to do good for my fellow brothers and sisters and for our beautiful planet Earth. We must care for them and love them very much, for they are such incredible miracles in the universe.

Presentation of Mazzone's Sculpture

On 18 February 1977 Dr. Robert Muller presented Sri Chinmoy with a bust of U Thant by sculptor Domenico Mazzone. Dr. Muller had commissioned Mr. Mazzone to do this special sculpture in honour of Sri Chinmoy's recent programme in tribute to U Thant and the publication of his book, U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry. Sculptor Mazzone was also present at the ceremony.



Dr. Robert Muller and the sculptor Domenico Mazzone present a bust of U Thant to Sri Chinmoy.

A Meeting with the Secretary-General

On 7 March 1977 Sri Chinmoy met privately with Secretary-General Waldheim to present him with a copy of his book, U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry. Following is Sri Chinmoy's account of their most significant meeting, which lasted from 9:49 a.m. to 10:05 a.m.

As soon as I entered into his office, the Secretary-General came to the door. With a smiling face and a warm heart he said, "Good morning."

I said to him also, "Good morning." Then we shook hands and, for a few seconds, both of us remained in a contemplative mood. Then he signaled me to sit down. He also sat. He was in a very deep and, at the same time, benevolent mood. I offered the book to him and he looked at the cover and said, "Ah, here is my dear friend, my humane friend. I had the greatest admiration for him. In simple and genuine modesty he surpassed us all. Nobody knew how he sacrificed his life to bring about world peace, world understanding, practically to the end of his life. He carried a tremendous load on his shoulders. He suffered and suffered for humanity. His vision was so clear and, at the same time, so broad."

At this point I turned to page thirteen where his own comment on U Thant was. He read the whole page very carefully, completely absorbed, and then said, "He was really great. I talked to him many, many times while I was serving my country as Ambassador. He inspired me in so many ways. His heart never wanted to compromise to the wrong and destructive forces of the world. Slowly and steadily he did everything. His great responsibilities at the United Nations did affect his health. His death was a tragic end. We all dearly miss him. His steady vision for the world community is still inspiring us. I personally am extremely, extremely grateful to him."

Then I said to him, "As you know, everything has a divine sanction. We are extremely grateful to God, for He has given us you to steer the Boat of the United Nations so devotedly, speedily, surprisingly and successfully. I always see you as God's lightning speed. Today you are here, tomorrow there and the day after tomorrow elsewhere. Your penetrating vision not only enters into the world problems, but also solves the problems of the world most miraculously. In you

I always see a divinely inspired miracle-man. You see, you touch and you cure the suffering heart of humanity."

Then he said to me, "I am so sincerely grateful to you for your encouraging words. This world needs only one thing: cooperation. U Thant gave his all to bring about world cooperation. I am trying to do the same with all my heart's concern and love for humanity. You are also doing the same with your prayer and meditation at the United Nations. I am sincerely grateful to you, for you are offering your depth and vision to the United Nations through the Meditation Group."



Secretary-General Waldheim and Sri Chinmoy.

Then I told him, "Every day I pray for you, for your success; I pray that the world will accept your most illumining light. On Tuesday and Friday, in the special meditations we hold here at the United Nations, I regularly offer my gratitude-heart to your world-illumining soul. I have started writing a book about you and I do hope to be able to complete it in a month or two. And I hope

to be able to offer it to you the way I am offering you this book on U Thant."

He said, "You know, in the coming few months I shall be extremely busy, but I am sure I will be able to set aside some time for you as I have done today."

I said, "I know. I know how extremely busy you are with the world problems. My mind knows it and my heart feels it. It is your heart's magnanimity that has granted me this rare opportunity to offer you this book."

Then he said, "Oh no, I am extremely happy to see you and to have you here with me. It is very nice and kind of you to write something about me. By the way, please be in touch with Mr. Rohan. He will be able to assist you, if you need any special information about me. Again, I wish to say it was extremely thoughtful of you to present to me my best friend. I miss him; we all miss him. Indeed, he was our true friend."

At this time he stood up and I stood up. I folded my hands and his eyes were extremely soulful. Then I shook hands with him. He came to the door and, placing his left hand on my right shoulder and holding my right hand, he said to me, "Please tell the members of your Meditation Group that I am sending them my greetings."

I said to him, "I shall do that. I am offering you on behalf of our Meditation Group our heart's deepest gratitude."

* * *

The League of Nations was a dream-seed.
The United Nations is a reality-plant.
The aspiring and serving life of man's universal oneness will be the eternity-tree.

The following question and answer is taken from The Inner Vision: Love of God, The Outer Mission: Service of Humanity, a series of questions asked of Sri Chinmoy by Mr. David Rowe of the United States Mission:

Mr. David Rowe, Political Advisor, United States Mission: Cooperation of all nations is an ancient dream. Assuming we are building on the past, how can we assess the outlook now?

Sri Chinmoy: The ancient dream of cooperation is not a human dream which has very little to do with reality. The ancient dream, to be precise, is not a dream at all but a faultless and divine vision—an unhorizoned vision—which is slowly, steadily and unerringly shaping the individual and collective destiny in humanity's march towards the supreme goal of universal oneness and transcendental newness. The world is evolving and progressing and reaching a higher standard of life. It is not moving in a horizontal way, but in a spiral. Therefore, at times this progress is not immediately noticeable. At times it confuses and baffles our human mind. But on the strength of our inner oneness with the world situation and world evolution, we see unmistakably the world's slow and steady progress. . . .

The ancient dream, nay, the ancient vision, will always remain a new and progressive vision, for creation itself is an ever-transcending reality. We shall have to open our heart's door and our mind's windows in order to see from the body-room the light that illumines and fulfils the world around us. Then only we shall discover continual progress in humanity's march along Eternity's road to Infinity's Satisfaction-Goal.

Receptions for U.N. Officials and International Women's Day

The United Nations Meditation Group sponsored several banquets early in the year for United Nations delegates and staff members. Mrs. Aye Aye Myint-U, daughter of the late Secretary-General U Thant, and her husband, Dr. Tin Myint-U, were among the guests of honour at one of these dinners, held at Annam Brahma Restaurant in Queens on 8 February. A number of officials from the various departments and organisations of the U.N. and members of the Women's Guild also attended. Sri Chinmoy served the guests their food personally. The programme included a premier performance of several new songs by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to the United Nations, a short play and instrumental performances.

In continuation of the International Women's Day activities on 8 March, women delegates were guests of honour of the U.N. Meditation Group at a dinner with entertainment also held at Annam Brahma Restaurant.

BBC Interview

On 11 March 1977, BBC's United Nations correspondent Mr. Brian Saxton interviewed Sri Chinmoy about spirituality at the United Nations for a European radio broadcast. Mr. Saxton also requested a tape of songs Sri Chinmoy has composed for the United Nations and included "O United Nations" in the broadcast. The songs were sung by members of the United Nations Meditation Group. An excerpt from the interview follows.

Mr. Saxton: The United Nations is, of course, a very political place. Does politics ever enter into your work?

Sri Chinmoy: Politics, as such, does not enter into our work. But we feel that politics can be illumined and raised to a very, very high state of consciousness so that humanity can be transformed, illumined and fulfilled. We pray and meditate to purify our mind. Once our mind is purified and illumined, then this mind of ours—which creates so many problems for us, which constantly creates confusion, doubt, worries and anxieties—will become a perfect instrument for us to use to have a better world, or, we can say, to bring to the fore a new face of the world. We do not use politics as such, but we try to bring into politics the light and the bliss that we get from our prayer and meditation.

Mr. Saxton: You mentioned a few moments ago that certain delegates attend your meetings. Do you think diplomats gain anything special that is particularly useful to their own work?

Sri Chinmoy: I do hope that they get peace of mind. It seems to me that all human beings have everything save and except peace of mind. The delegates are dealing with the world problems, so what they need first and foremost, as far as I can see, is peace of mind. When they come and pray with us, and become one with us, they do feel peace of mind. And then, when they go back to their respective offices, they can solve the problems that they have been facing with new light, new inspiration, new aspiration and new illumination.

Seventh Anniversary of the United Nations Meditation Group

On 14 April 1977, the United Nations Meditation Group celebrated its seventh anniversary of service to the U.N. Community in the Chapel of the Church Centre for the United Nations. The programme included speakers, choral readings, a chamber group and the singing of twenty songs dedicated to the U.N. by Sri Chinmoy, who has been Director of the Group since its founding in 1970. A brief excerpt from the transcript of the ceremony follows.

Dr. Robert Muller: We are celebrating today the seventh anniversary of the United Nations Meditation Group and Sri Chinmoy's thirteenth year in the West. I have known you only for the past few months, but may I say to you briefly what I have learned from your Group and from your person.

I have learned first that you are giving to many of the United Nations staff a life dimension which goes well beyond their daily work, namely a spiritual dimension, an internal dimension. You are making them better people, deeper people, and by doing this you are giving them happiness.

Members of the U.N. Meditation Group I know are generally profoundly happy people and this is due to a large extent to your teachings.

Secondly, I have learned that, thanks to your efforts, several thousand people around the world better understand the United Nations. The U.N. is a little bud of hope in the long evolution of mankind, a bud that must be cared for, that must be loved and encouraged, that must be helped so that we may win once and for all the battle of peace against war, the battle of justice against injustice, the battle of kindness against violence. This is a prodigious task for the United Nations and it doesn't have many friends to perform it. But thanks to you, in many places of the world the true image of the United Nations is known, not solely the image of turmoil and conflict, but the luminous vision and dream of a good earth inhabited by good people. This is the deeper human story which goes on with the United



Nations, this time on a world scale. You have perceived it very profoundly and you have been able to convey this momentous fact to your followers in faraway countries.

Mr. Kwadwo Ofosu-Benefo (to Sri Chinmoy): We are grateful to you that when the clarion call sounded and you were invited to come to the United Nations and offer spiritual food to members of the United Nations community, you accepted the challenge. You did not shirk your responsibility, even though you knew that in these troubled days many people are skeptical about the power of religion to bring about peace, and the mere mention of spiritual development of people meets with derision in many quarters. The United Nations Meditation Group is now flowering.

Painting for World Peace Unveiled

An environment in green, blue and a myriad of other colours was unveiled the evening of 3 May 1977 by Ms. Martha Lackner, World Environment Day Coordinator, at the Jharna-Kala Gallery in Manhattan.

The 6' x 9' painting by Sri Chinmoy, Director of the United Nations Meditation Group, is entitled "United Nations: the Heart-Home of the World-Body" and is dedicated to U.N. efforts toward world peace. It is scheduled to go on world tour, beginning with showings in Geneva, England, France, New Zealand and Australia.

Sri Chinmoy's paintings, which include acrylics, oils, watercolours and pen-and-ink drawings, have been exhibited at the Museo del Arte in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and the School of Visual Arts in New York, which recognised his work with a special award. Gallery showings have also been held in New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Ottawa, Montreal, Zurich and Hamburg.

At the close of the evening, members of the United Nations Community expressed their support and praise for the United Nations and the work of the Meditation Group.

Excerpts from the comments follow.



Ms. Martha Lackner, World Environment Day Coordinator, unveils Sri Chinmoy's painting dedicated to the U.N. efforts toward World Peace. It is entitled: "The U.N.: the Heart-Home of the World-Body."

Mr. David Rowe, Political Advisor, U.S. Mission: There is an old saying about the U.N.—I'm sure you've heard it: "If it didn't exist, it could not be created." It's usually said by the U.N.'s detractors that this means the U.N. is so bad that it would be impossible to create such an institution. But on the other hand, I think it can be interpreted as meaning that it's so good, that there is so much of a base, plus this special dimension, this special force and energy that is there, that it couldn't possibly be created by mere human beings. I think we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Sri Chinmoy and the U.N. Meditation Group and to all of Sri Chinmoy's disciples for their contribution and sustaining influence in the United Nations.

Ms. Yvette Ripplinger, UNITAR: The U.N. is a kind of spiritual edifice, towering high in the sky, not only physically but also in ourselves. We have to keep our eyes focused on this lofty definition of the "body" and especially the "soul" of the United Nations. Sri Chinmoy must be thanked for focusing our attention on this particular way of looking at it.

Ms. Nishtha Baum, Sri Chinmoy NGO Representative: I feel extremely grateful to be among those selected to witness this painting's unveiling—a moment that, I feel, symbolised the removal of the ignorance-veils of centuries to reveal the soul's inmost consciousness.

Mr. Donald Keys, Planetary Citizens: I feel that there are two United Nations. There is the United Nations that makes the *Daily News* headlines and then there is the inner United Nations, which many people do not think about but many people feel. The United Nations is a microcosm of mankind. It's the first time and the first place that all of humanity has in a sense been together in one place.

Mr. Kwadwo Ofofu-Benefo: There are some people, such as the Guru, Sri Chinmoy, who are dedicated to serving the Organisation. Although he doesn't represent a government, we know that he represents those who are sincerely trying to bring about peace and maintain international security and order in our troubled world.

A Circus Presentation at UNIS

On 15 June members of the Meditation Group gave a performance of Madal Circus for the children of the United Nations International School.



A fantastic fire eater and skilled gymnasts, along with other performers from the Meditation Group, entertain UNIS children.



Bike Marathon

Many of the Meditation Group's aspiring athletes spent a rather invigorating Memorial Day weekend this year, cycling in the annual 24-hour Pepsi Cola bike marathon in Central Park. High mileage award in the Group went to Paul LaRusso of UNICEF, who circled the five-mile track 54 times for a total of 270 miles. Most of the women in the Group completed 100-150 miles, with Barbara DeLong of ESA making a strong showing with 210 miles; and Sri Chinmoy, Group Director, kept up a slow but steady pace all night long to finish with a highly respectable 175 miles. The Group practised twice daily in Flushing Meadow Park for about three weeks before the event.

A Salute to the Security and Safety Service

On 7 June 1977, the United Nations Meditation Group held a special function to honour the U.N. Security and Safety Service. Colonel H. A. Trimble, Chief of the Service, described the functions and organization of the Service and then answered questions from the audience. Also speaking were Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General, and Sri Chinmoy, Director of the Meditation Group. Excerpts follow.



Sri Chinmoy presents Colonel Trimble with a medallion for his dedicated service to the United Nations.

Dr. Robert Muller: I know of many of the U.N. sites. To me, they have the same meaning as they had for their architects: they are places where the destiny, the peace and the future of our children are being forged. They are the cradles of a more peaceful, just and happy world, a world in which man will find his maximum fulfilment and his limits. It is refreshing to think that on a globe where there is still so much violence, indecency and disfigurement, there are those few islands, the United Nations sites, where one can see cleanliness, decency, no graffiti, no disfiguration, an atmosphere of kindness. This we owe, to a very large degree, to our Security Forces.

Colonel H.A. Trimble: To be a good Security Officer, you have to be an intelligent, mature individual who is ready to exercise the maximum of tact and courtesy with a reasonable amount of good judgment, plus a little bit of training and experience. I cannot overstress the tact and courtesy.

There could be no better atmosphere to work in than the United Nations. I am sure that all my people appreciate this. They believe in the U.N., they are dedicated to the U.N., and I think all these various ingredients go to build up a high sense of morale.

I am a very proud man. Part of the reason for making this statement is that as I look back on my life, I will judge the years that I have spent as the Chief of the Security and Safety Service as a highlight of my career.

Sri Chinmoy: Dear Chief, supreme Chief, good friend of humanity's cause, you are protecting the body of the United Nations; therefore, the soul of the United Nations is extremely, extremely proud of you, for without the body, the soul-reality cannot manifest here on earth.

The United Nations is not only a building; it is something infinitely more important than a building—it is humanity's cry and humanity's smile. With your invaluable service you are becoming one with humanity's cry and humanity's smile.



Colonel Trimble, centre, and Sri Chinmoy, far left, with representatives from the Security and Safety Service.

United Nations Represented in Independence Day Observance

On 4 July 1977, Sri Chinmoy was invited as Director of the U.N. Meditation Group, to read from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and lead a short meditation in an Independence Day Service on the theme of human rights held in New York City's historic Trinity Church.

Other readings by inter-denominational clergy included excerpts from President Carter's Inaugural Address, a section from the United States Constitution and additional national and religious statements.

The Preamble and Articles 1, 2 and 18 from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights that were read by Sri Chinmoy follow.

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world . . .

Now, therefore,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

proclaims

THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of the Member States themselves and among the people of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status . . .

Article 18. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

A Concert by Sri Chinmoy on the Indian Esraj

A concert of spiritual music played on the Indian esraj was performed by Sri Chinmoy on 22 July in the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium. Sri Chinmoy is an internationally known composer and musician, who has recently performed at Carnegie Hall, Town Hall and Lincoln Center. He has recorded more than 12 albums of his own vocal and esraj compositions, which number over 2,700 to date.

The programme also included arrangements of Sri Chinmoy's compositions by vocal and instrumental groups.



Dag Hammarskjöld Honoured

On 29 July 1977, in honour of the birthday of the late Secretary-General, the U.N. Meditation Group observed a few minutes of silence in the small but symbolic United Nations Meditation Room designed by Dag Hammarskjöld. The Group then held a programme of tribute to the second Secretary-General, which included instrumental and vocal arrangements of a song by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to Dag Hammarskjöld, a choral reading of Hammarskjöld's writings, and tributes.

Excerpts from the programme follow.

Sri Chinmoy: Dag Hammarskjöld was a man of unparalleled duty. Duty demands capacity. He perfectly mastered the art of duty. Out of his heart's magnanimity, he shares with us its quintessence: "Somebody placed the shuttle in your hand: Somebody who had already arranged the threads."

A great man is, indeed, a great power. Human power cleverly avoids justification. Divine power does not avoid justification, for there is no need on its part to do so. It knows that justification is only another name for its selfsame reality. The Secretary-General's wisdom-light reveals to us: "Only he deserves power who every day justifies it."

Dag Hammarskjöld was a great man, a good heart, a soulful life, a possessor of perfect vision-light. Something more, he became a fulfilling bridge between humanity's excruciating pangs and divinity's illumining Compassion.

Mr. Donald Keys, *Planetary Citizens*: The basis for an international civil service was foreshadowed dimly in the League of Nations and was phrased in the Charter of the United Nations, but remained to be focused, anchored, implemented and made more than a vision. And this Dag Hammarskjöld not only did, but he also defended it with his integrity and his matchless sense of duty and, I might say also, with his life.

As is well known, Dag Hammarskjöld stood by those principles, and on the basis of his stand—although from time to time the actions of nations threatened the impartiality—the principle of a true international civil servant remains as one of the crown jewels of the United Nations.

"A youngster of sixteen asked me with concern why there is no reference to God in the United Nations Charter. In my reply I drew his attention to the Preamble of the Charter where the nations express their 'faith in the dignity and worth of the human person' and pledge themselves 'to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors.' I felt sure that he saw here an expression of what, in the faith which was his, was recognized as the will of God: that we should love our neighbors as ourselves."

—from *Markings* by Dag Hammarskjöld

* * *

Whoever leads in the heart is a real leader. This is not the leadership of a self-styled leader. This leadership is the recognition of one's inseparable oneness with the rest of humanity.

* * *

He who wants to convey the message of the soul is the real leader.

* * *

The goal of the United Nations is peace, world peace.

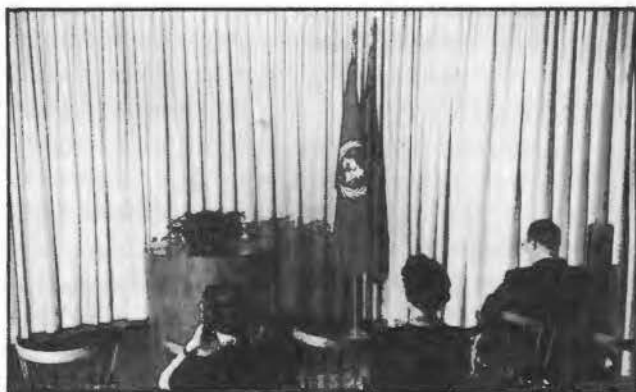
The secret of the United Nations is sacrifice.

The U.N. Meditation Room: Prayer and Meditation at the United Nations

At an informal gathering at the Wainwright House in Rye, New York, on 10 August 1977, speakers from the United Nations and the Wainwright House honoured Weyman C. Huckabee, the Laymen's Movement Executive Director from 1941 to 1969, for his part in the creation of the U.N. Meditation Room and in the decision of the U.N. to open and close its General Assembly Meetings by observing a moment of silence. The Programme, to which the members of the United Nations Meditation Group were invited as special guests, recognised the involvement of the Friends of the United Nations Meditation Room and the Laymen's Movement for a Christian World in the efforts to establish the Meditation Room at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

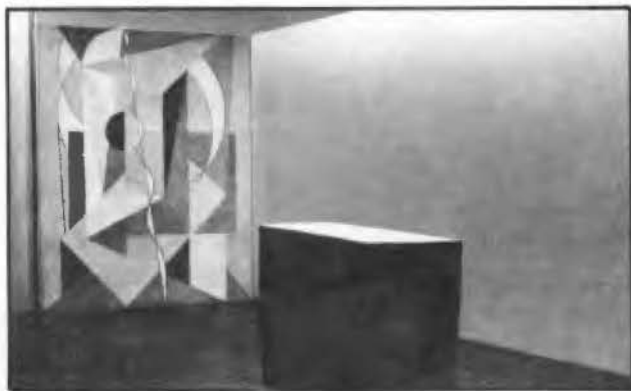
The programme was opened with silent meditation, followed by musical selections played by Sri Chinmoy on the Indian esraj. Remarks were then offered by Mr. John Ballard, Mr. Francis W. Carpenter and Dr. Alfred Sunderwirth, all of the Laymen's Movement, Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination of the United Nations, Mr. Robert McEvoy, City Manager of Rye, and by Mr. Huckabee.

Excerpts from their talks follow.



(Above) A view of the original U.N. Meditation Room at New York Headquarters in Lake Success. The furnishings of this room are now displayed in the Wainwright House, in Rye, New York.

(Below) The U.N. Meditation Room, which was remodeled under the direction of Dag Hammarskjöld, as it appears today. (Photos: United Nations)



Mr. John Ballard, President of the Laymen's Movement and Wainwright House: When I first became interested in the Laymen's Movement, I was attracted by the recognition and purpose of trying to connect one's personal life—inner life, soul life—to the practical affairs with which we work all day long. . . . I was attracted, too, by the international relationship of the Laymen's Movement, with its support through prayer and meditation of the United Nations. So this is indeed a wonderful occasion on which to honour an organisation that has kept the United Nations in its thoughts on a regular basis.

Mr. Francis W. Carpenter, Representative of the Laymen's Movement: The Meditation Room is a most imposing sight, as most of you know, because, in addition to the Meditation Room, you have the plaques there showing tribute to people



who have given their lives for peace. . . . Even though we might not die on the battlefield or anywhere else, all of us, in doing what we are doing, are laying down our lives for peace.

Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: There are many of us in the United Nations for whom the cooperation of all nations around common goals and values is a new form of religion, a supreme path or way. The United Nations is a place of convergence for the dreams and prayers of all peoples for a better world. I cannot help noticing that we see in the U.N. the same perennial human dream which has obsessed all great religions and philosophies, namely, the establishment of a peaceful, happy and brotherly human society on earth.



Dr. Alfred Sunderwirth, Executive Director of the Laymen's Movement and Wainwright House: There is one thing that brings all of us together here—hope for a better world. We realize that the world on the outside has to be shaped by the world on the inside of us. Its formation on the inside of us comes about through our meditation, our sharing and our praying together.



Mr. Weyman Huckabee: When I was given a private audience to talk with Pope Pius XII about the Meditation Room in the United Nations and about the day of prayer set aside for prayer and meditation for world peace, I asked why there was still so much violence in the world in spite of the efforts made to bring peace. He said, "That is a very difficult question." Then, after a pause he continued, "Because, even though we know the Truth, we do not abide by it."

Mr. Robert McEvoy, City Manager of Rye: For the City of Rye I'd like to extend to Mr. Huckabee my sincerest congratulations for your very outstanding work. . . . The International City Management Association has long recognized the value of prayer and meditation. Since 1914 we have practised prayer at our many meetings and in fact initiated all of our meetings with prayer.

Our role is to teach our local government officials something about the cosmos, to help us relax through prayer and meditation and to improve our feelings of well-being so that we may in fact improve the quality and the rewards of public service at the local government level.

* * *

The outer poverty can be transformed only when the inner poverty is removed.

Inner poverty is our lack of faith in our divine reality, our lack of faith in our capacity to realise the ultimate Truth.

Inner poverty is disharmony and restlessness. Inner plenitude is peace, harmony and love.

World Gratitude Day.

The United Nations Meditation Group celebrated World Gratitude Day twice this year—once on 12 September in a special programme in the United Nations Secretariat for delegates and staff; and again on 21 September 1977 in World Gratitude Day's New York Headquarters when the Group's Director, Sri Chinmoy, was honoured at official ceremonies. The plaque, presented to him by Mrs. Edna Lemley, president and founder of the organisation dedicated to promoting the cause of worldwide gratitude, cited Sri Chinmoy for having "enhanced the spirit of globalism with his compassion, his creativity and nobility of spirit." The first September 21 World Gratitude Day celebration was held 13 years ago.

This year, citations were presented to nine religious leaders and representatives of organisations, Among others recognised were the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, whose director, Dr. J. Ottley, came from Salt Lake City for the ceremony; Judith Hollister, founder of the interfaith Temple of Understanding; Dr. Russel Barber, producer of the NBC television programme "The First Estate"; and Rabbi Sally Prinsend, the first woman in American Judaism to attain the ranks of the clergy. Past awards have been given to UNICEF (as an organisation) and to former General Assembly President Angie Brooks Randolph.



Upon receiving the World Gratitude Day award from Mrs. Edna Fuerth Lemle, Sri Chinmoy said: I am extremely grateful to you and to the Board of Directors for bestowing upon me, upon my devoted heart, this signal honour. You have discovered in me a world-server. A world-server is he who is a God-lover. A God-lover and a world-server are one and the same. Just because God, out of His infinite Bounty, has granted me the opportunity and capacity to love Him, today I am in a position to be of service to humanity, His creation.


Gratitude
day
the 21st
of
Septembot

World Gratitude Day

is pleased to honor—

Sri Chinmoy

Who has enhanced the spirit of globalism with his compassion, creativity and nobility of spirit.

Whose being and achievements reflect the spirit of our Proclamation

Whereas humanity has come to recognize devotion and allegiance to immediate family, to clan, to city, to state, and to nation, and now must experience the concept of globalism, and—

Whereas words of praise and positive thoughts generate dynamic harmony, and

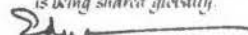
Whereas decisions made from a grateful heart are endowed with intrinsic wisdom and engender prosperity, and

Whereas gratitude, the opposite of "taking for granted," is a positive emotion which creates good will, is a basic emotion which is indigenous to all people, is a peace producing feeling.

And Whereas September 21st is a special day. It is an equinox: one of the two times of the year when the sun passes over the equator and—night and day are everywhere of equal length and everyone is equal under the sun.

Therefore let us proclaim World Gratitude Day, a holiday for all peoples, a day of meditation for all religions, a day of celebration for all humanity, united by knowledge of a simultaneously shared emotion, a day when triumph of the spirit can make a world community.

Gather with a few friends—
Be aware of being grateful
(To whom and for what is personal)
Know that the emotion of gratitude
is being shared globally.



Edna Fuerth Lemle
President

U Thant Island Dedicated

On 16 September 1977, the United Nations Meditation Group dedicated a small island in the East River, adjacent to U.N. Headquarters, to the memory of the late Secretary-General U Thant. State authorities gave permission for the Meditation Group to beautify the island and build a monument, with Governor Hugh Carey sending an official letter of soulful dedication to U Thant Island, citing U Thant's work for world peace.

The dedication ceremonies, held on what turned out to be a rainy but calm Friday afternoon, included the burying of a metal box or cornerstone, which contained a gold pen and tie clasp belonging to U Thant, as well as various significant artifacts and documents from the U.N., government officials, the Meditation Group and its Director, Sri Chinmoy, a personal friend of the late Secretary-General. Members of U Thant's family were present, with his daughter, Mrs. Aye Aye Myint-U, unveiling the plaque. Representing the U.N. Security and Safety Service was Officer Carlos Stozek, one of the officers who worked closely with U Thant. Officer Stozek broke ground for the cornerstone.

The short programme opened with a silent invocation by Sri Chinmoy.

Sri Chinmoy: Beloved brother U Thant, humanity's divine friend U Thant, we are here today to commemorate and perpetuate your invaluable life's immortal contributions to the length and breadth of the world.

This is an island smaller than the smallest. Indeed, you are another island, larger than the largest, for our gratitude-heart and oneness-soul.

As the finite reality embodies infinite Divinity, even so this smallest earth-aspiration island will embody you, the Heaven-Perfection island, devotedly, soulfully, gratefully and eternally.



Dr. and Mrs. Myint-U and their son, Thant, after the unveiling of the plaque.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

HUGH L. CAREY
GOVERNOR

September 16, 1977

Dear Mr. Chinmoy:

I commend you and the United Nations Meditation Group on your dedication today of U Thant Island, a symbol of world peace. It is right that this Island be named after the late Secretary General U Thant who labored so hard and so long to achieve world peace.

U Thant will be remembered by all who knew him both in his homeland of Burma and at the United Nations. He was a gentle and dedicated man of whom all mankind is proud. The United Nations was greatly strengthened by his actions.

I share your hope and dream that U Thant Island will remind us all of the never-ending and essential quest for peace around the World.

Sincerely,


Mr. Sri Chinmoy
Director
United Nations Meditation Group
Room 1061
The United Nations
New York, New York 10017



Dr. Robert Muller and Sri Chinmoy meditate together on the cornerstone for U Thant Island.

Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: Dear friends and authorities who have made this day possible, it is with great emotion that we are standing here on this little island which U Thant often contemplated from his office on top of the United Nations Building. He had a deep love for rivers. He insisted on living in Riverdale where, from the porch of his house, he could see the Hudson, the sunsets over the Palisades, and meditate. From his office he often looked at the East River and wondered about this little deserted island, which for many United Nations officials has been a source of fascination. He would be a very happy man today if he knew that this tiny spot of our planet had been selected to bear his name, to commemorate him and to remind us of him in our offices in the United Nations. Yes, U Thant Island will be for us a symbol of the high virtues he advocated as the only answers to the troubling problems of our world: truthfulness, integrity, kindness, tolerance, compassion, simplicity, humility, purity and above all, love for all our human brothers and

Letter from UNIS read out by Mrs. Sylvia Fuhrman.

UNITED NATIONS  **NATIONS UNIES**
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ÉCOLE INTERNATIONALE

United Nations Headquarters
Room 820
New York, N. Y. 10017
754-6941/6943

Mrs. Murray Fuhrman
Special Representative of the Secretary-General

In 1967, U Thant received the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding. The Award involved a substantial sum of money which the Secretary-General turned over to the United Nations International School. UNIS used it to establish a scholarship award in his name for a student whose parent is a UN staff member. Since this award is given each year, all those connected with UNIS know of it. Few know, however, of the honoraria for articles or speeches that benefitted UNIS. This generous awareness on the part of an extremely busy and by no means wealthy man, was a true indication of his unflinching support of and dedication to the idea and ideals of international education. He was indeed deeply involved with the School and, during his ten years as Secretary-General and after his retirement, showed it in every possible way. A request to use his good offices on its behalf was always certain of acceptance.

He believed firmly that teachers, in his own words, "have to play a very important and significant role ... in peace keeping and peace building." Himself an educator for twenty years, he came to the conclusion that "in order to fashion a new society, to mold a new generation in keeping with the times, three things were necessary — mental growth, spiritual growth, and development of a social sense — in other words, education for citizenship."

U Thant believed, as he said, that to support the School was "to forward the principles of international understanding enunciated in the UN Charter." His own support was unstinting.

sisters. As we stand here today on this island with his family and friends, let us all in our hearts and spirits pledge to him that we will work very hard to help fulfil his dream for a peaceful, just and happy human family on our beautiful planet.

Mr. Donald Keys, Registrar, Planetary Citizens: As has been said, U Thant was first and foremost an educator. Little did he realize to what extent that would be true. He was not only an educator of school children, university people, he became an educator of heads of state, of governmental representatives. He became an educator of nations in the ways of peace, compassion, tolerance, perseverance, harmonization. He became an educator, not only and perhaps not primarily, by what he did but by being the person that he was. This is attested to over and over again by those who knew him and even by those who did not know him. So it is a great privilege to join today in the establishment of this particular spot as a shrine to our most exalted educator.

Programme Marking the Opening of the 32nd Session of the General Assembly

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 Sri Chinmoy. The programme also included music and short recordings of all the Secretaries-General.

Speakers included: Mr. Robert Chittenden, Chairman of the Staff Committee; Mr. Ervin Laszlo, Special Fellow, UNITAR and Director of the Report of the Club of Rome, "The Goals for Mankind"; Mr. Ghandikota V. Subba Rao, Senior Officer, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and Mr. William Angel, Associate Officer, U.N. Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.



photo: United Nations

Mr. Ervin Laszlo, Special Fellow, UNITAR: We come across this concept of national government over three hundred years ago as being somehow the necessary and perhaps the ultimate form of administrating 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.



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.



Mr. Robert Chittenden, Chairman of the Staff Committee: 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: There has been the search for codes of conduct in the United Nations in the economic and social as well as in the political fields. 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 . . . and 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.

* * *

The United Nations is not a thing to appreciate, admire or adore. Rather, it is the way, the way of oneness, that leads us to the Supreme Oneness. It is like a river flowing toward the source, the Ultimate Source. The United Nations is the way that wants to lead the world to the destined Goal.



Mr. William Angel, Associate Officer, Planning and Evaluation, United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs: 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. . . .

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.

* * *

The United Nations is the seed.
World union is the fruit.
God-Vision embodies the seed.
God-Reality reveals the fruit.

* * *

The United Nations is the morning. World union is the day.

When the heart of the morning is flooded with inner light, divine light, the Light of God, then it is not only possible but almost certain that the entire day will be flooded with light.

United Nations Observance of the Pope's Birthday

The 80th birthday of Pope Paul VI was marked by a ceremony of the United Nations on 23 September. Sponsored by the United Nations Meditation Group, the ceremony included remarks by Msgr. Giovanni Cheli, Permanent Observer for the Holy See at the U.N., Father John Donohue of the Holy Family Church, and Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination; and meditation with Sri Chinmoy, who has met Pope Paul on several occasions.



Monsignor Giovanni Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations: Thank you very much for inviting me to participate in this celebration. I am confident that I speak in the name of the staff of our mission when I tell you how happy we are that you have decided to acknowledge the 80th birthday of our Holy Father in this way. We know very well of his great interest and his warm feeling for the United Nations, for the goals of the Charter, and for the people who dedicate their lives to work for peace.

Your intentions and your work in this beautiful Meditation Group under the leadership of this highly respected master of spirituality, Sri Chinmoy, are in harmony with those of the Pope. He will be, therefore, especially happy to receive your greetings on this occasion because he will appreciate the spiritual unity that you share. May I conclude with the Pope's final words to the Secretary-General which, I think, he would want me to say to you on his behalf: "We wish thus to reiterate to you our esteem and our encouragement, our desires and our hopes. And we pray that God may bless you and those who work with you."



Father John Donohue, Holy Family Church: The great world-religions . . . teach the truth of the brotherhood of all human beings under the Fatherhood of a loving and caring God. Pope Paul gave voice to this fundamental tenet held by all religious faiths when he said, in the same address, "Men are brothers, God is their Father, and their Father wills that they live in peace with one another as brothers should." May this truth soon be recognized and accepted by all who bear the responsibility of maintaining peace among the nations.

Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: During my many years with the United Nations, I had occasion to observe the important role of Pope Paul in world affairs and matters of peace. As you know, he was a dear friend of former Secretary-General U Thant, whom I often heard speak of him with great fondness and admiration. Pope Paul was one of the few people, a group of very special persons, with whom U Thant was in constant spiritual and humanistic communion. Later, I had the privilege of accompanying Secretary-General Waldheim to Rome when he visited His Holiness for the first time. I can remember vividly how much the issue of peace loomed large in the spirit and heart of His Holiness.

U.N. Reception at the Jharna-Kala Gallery

On 26 September 1977 the Meditation Group invited U.N. delegates and staff to a concert and dinner at the colourful Jharna-Kala Gallery, located in the heart of Grand Central Station, where paintings by Sri Chinmoy were on display. Before the concert, Sri Chinmoy presented Colonel Trimble, Chief of U.N. Security, with the newly published *A Salute to the United Nations Security and Safety Service*, a compilation by the Meditation Group of informative talks and personal interviews with members of the U.N. Security staff (profits to be donated to the Security Benevolent Fund).

Sri Chinmoy also painted a special painting for Deputy Under-Secretary-General Robert Muller and spoke with guests informally after the concert.

Following are a few comments about the gallery and the evening by some of the guests.



Sri Chinmoy presents *A Salute to the United Nations Security and Safety Service* to Chief of U.N. Security, Colonel Trimble.

Col. Trimble: Since the Meditation Group started on this project, I have been fortunate to talk to quite a number of members, and I am delighted with the quality of people that you have, how dedicated and devoted they are to the Meditation Group and to its ends. And I consider myself privileged to have worked with them.

Sri Chinmoy: I am grateful to you for your encouragement. We are trying to be of service to the United Nations. The world is full of problems and the United Nations is the only answer to all these problems. It is our only hope, and our hope will one day be fulfilled. We feel that the United Nations is the Dream of God, the Supreme, so we are trying to serve the United Nations with our souls' dedication.

Excerpt from a letter dated 28 September 1977:

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

I have learned a great new lesson of life during that evening, when I read the following in a pamphlet available at the exhibit:

"The art of Sri Chinmoy has its genesis in meditation and it expresses his conviction that the highest spiritual truths can and must be concretely and convincingly offered to the world at large through every possible medium."

What a great lesson, a deep truth this is, so different from the concept of art developed in the West, specialized and not always related to the soul.

The book, *A Salute to the United Nations Security and Safety Service*, is a great achievement. I am so glad that many cherished memories could thus be preserved and that happiness is given to the members of the Force who must be proud to show the book to their families and friends. Endless thanks are due to you and to the devoted young people of the Meditation Group for all their efforts for the United Nations. Let us hope that many more will join our ranks.

With my warmest feelings of gratitude,

Robert Muller



Sri Chinmoy paints for Deputy Under-Secretary-General Dr. Robert Muller at the Jharna-Kala Gallery, New York.

Mr. Roy Moyer: We have two very beautiful slides of yours, but being very greedy I thought perhaps I could entice you to maybe make something special for us, a series of greeting cards, something appropriate to celebrate the Festival of Lights, a series on light.

Sri Chinmoy: I cannot do anything on my own. I did not paint these and I cannot do it. It is my Inner Pilot that acts through me according to my receptivity. If I can receive His Light, I will do it.



Sri Chinmoy with Mr. Roy Moyer, Chief of Art and Design, UNICEF Greeting Cards.



Mr. David Rowe, Political Advisor to the U.S. Mission, with Sri Chinmoy.

Mr. David Rowe (commenting on a particular painting): My favourites are the mauve coloured paintings. In this one the lines and the movement are symbolic of the images that I associate with love: love is circular and this is the interlocking of circles which extends to brotherhood. The painting is the colour of rest and quiet and reflection.

Mayor Beame Honoured

On 28 September 1977, Mayor Beame was special guest at the Jharna-Kala Gallery, where he was honoured with a song, which Sri Chinmoy had composed about him, as well as a plaque praising him for his life of public service. Sri Chinmoy, who had met the Mayor on two previous occasions, also painted an original Jharna-Kala while the Mayor watched and presented it to him as a gift.



Sri Chinmoy greets Mayor Beame at the Jharna-Kala Gallery.

Mayor Beame: Thank you. May I say something? I'm very deeply moved by this presentation and I want to say that I could have used a lot of these moments of meditation during these last months and years. And I certainly didn't think,

the first day I met you, that I'd ever have the pleasure of meeting you again tonight. I want to thank you very much for your kindness and your warmth and your expressions. I appreciate it and I want to thank everybody here as well. (Applause)



Sri Chinmoy paints a special picture for Mayor Beame.

Muhammad Ali Meets with the Meditation Group

On the morning of his championship fight with Earnie Shavers on 29 September, Muhammad Ali met with Sri Chinmoy and members of the United Nations Meditation Group for an hour of prayer, meditation and discussion.

Sri Chinmoy garlanded the champion and presented him with a trophy, saying, "Along with this is my heart. My heart is inside this."

Later, some thirty U.N. Meditation Group singers sang a song which Sri Chinmoy had composed in the fighter's honour, and the group meditated together in silence for about twenty minutes. Afterwards, Ali told Sri Chinmoy, "I was so deeply absorbed, I couldn't do anything." As the group was leaving, he added, "This really got my spirits high. It might end in one round now. God bless you."

Following is a short excerpt from the conversation.

Sri Chinmoy: Yesterday it was our strong desire to honour you at the United Nations. Unfortunately, you could not be at the United Nations. We pray and meditate twice a week. On Tuesdays and Fridays we pray together with the delegates and staff. There I was going to offer you my deepest gratitude for what you are doing—not only for the black Muslims but also for mankind. You are changing the face and fate of mankind. Your very name encourages and inspires. As soon as people hear 'Muhammad Ali,' they are inspired. They get tremendous joy. They get such dynamism to be brave and face ignorance. Your very name does that. That's why I am so grateful to you, so proud of you.

Muhammad Ali: My goal is to be like you one day—to be peaceful and out of this sport, working for humanity and for God. I was telling Jeremiah that after we finish boxing I want to learn how to get out of this life and use my popularity and my

intelligence for humanity—to help people in whatever way I can. I don't know how, but I want to do something—bring people together, work for God and help people. I know there is something I am supposed to do, but I don't know really exactly what its purpose is; but it's something.

There are so many people who are great; but only God, Allah, is really great. Therefore, I want to get out of this brashness, this image. We've got to stop that "I'm the greatest" thing and forget it. I am just a humble servant and I have a lot to learn. I need people like yourself to teach me what to say and what to do and how to approach certain things. So I don't want to talk that "I am the greatest" attitude and preach it. Do you understand what I mean? I don't want that.

Sri Chinmoy: You don't have to say that you are the greatest, but your heart of oneness with all humanity makes you the greatest.



The next day at the U.N. Meditation Group meeting at U.N. Headquarters Sri Chinmoy spoke about the meeting with Muhammad Ali. Sri Chinmoy referred to the two photographs of Muhammad Ali which had appeared in that morning's New York Times. One photograph shows Ali and Sri Chinmoy meditating together the morning of the world championship fight with Earnie Shavers; the other photograph shows Ali in the ring with Shavers.

Sri Chinmoy: I wish to say a few words about the world-champion, Muhammad Ali. Yesterday was a most significant day both for the members of the United Nations Meditation Group and for the champion, Muhammad Ali. (Pointing to the two photographs) This is Muhammad Ali in his physical consciousness and this is Muhammad Ali in his soulful consciousness. Each individual has two aspects: the physical aspect and the spiritual aspect. This moment he expresses himself or reveals his capacities through physical means; the next moment he expresses his reality's divinity through spiritual means. In this picture we see Muhammad Ali in a devoted, soulful, cheerful and powerful consciousness. Right beside it is another picture which brings forward his other aspect: physical strength. We believe in evolution. From the stone life we go to the plant life, then to the animal life, then to the human life and finally to the divine life, where we are striving for perfection. From the physical and vital consciousness, slowly and steadily we have to evolve to the psychic consciousness, the supreme consciousness.

The physical, the vital, the mind and the heart are all members of the same family. They must be

amalgamated; they must be illumined and perfected.

What can achieve this perfection? It is our inner cry, our aspiration. And what carries the greatest responsibility for elevating the consciousness of human beings all over the world? What place carries the utmost responsibility for elevating, illumining, perfecting, and fulfilling the length and breadth of the world? The answer is the United Nations. The United Nations carries the heaviest burden of human problems and the United Nations is responsible for bringing light into these problems.

Who is giving us the capacities, the inexhaustible capacities, that are needed to bring these qualities forward and illumine our imperfections? It is the soul of the United Nations. The deeper reality in the United Nations is blessing us at every moment. If we think that we are glorifying the United Nations by working here, then we are making a mistake. It is the United Nations, the soul of the United Nations, that has blessed us by giving us the golden opportunity to be of service to it.

Millions of people will see what we are doing. The heart of each individual who sees this picture in *The New York Times* will definitely feel that the United Nations is the only answer for humanity's oneness and divinity's satisfaction in human life, which is aspiring to be totally transformed and illumined. So this meeting with Muhammad Ali is a supreme achievement for the United Nations which each member of the United Nations can embody and treasure, and this achievement is nothing short of a supreme gift from the soul of the United Nations.

Meditation for President Carter

On 4 October 1977, the day of President Carter's visit to the United Nations, the United Nations Meditation Group met in Conference Room 3 to join in spirit with the President's highest aspirations for world peace and mankind. The programme of prayer and meditation, also marking the President's birthday on 2 October, included readings from the President's writings as well as a song written in his honour.

Mr. Donald Keys, *Planetary Citizens*: Jimmy Carter, John Kennedy. Carter and Kennedy—even the names ring the same. Sometimes a champion of a people, a nation and of the future is nurtured before the public, known by the world. His advantages are familiarity, sophistication, information, friends in high places. Sometimes a champion of a people, a nation, of the future is

born in obscurity, nurtured in silence, sequestered entirely as destinies warrant, and bursts on a nation and a world. His advantage is surprise. He is unmarked by the opposition. He is unmet by resistance and such a one we have now with us. We had Jack Kennedy. We have Jimmy Carter—a champion who carries the seeds of a better future for humanity and for the world.

Miss Lillian Welcomes the Meditation Group

Mrs. Lillian Carter met with Sri Chinmoy and the members of the Meditation Group in Americus, Georgia, on 7 October 1977, charming them with tales of her experiences in India and vignettes about what it is like to be the President's mother. The Group, in turn, meditated with Miss Lillian and sang a song composed by Sri Chinmoy in her honour, which brought tears to her eyes. Later that evening, at a concert that the U.N. Meditation Group presented where Miss Lillian was guest of honour, Sri Chinmoy played the Indian esraj and members of the Group sang several Bengali and American songs, including India's National Anthem and "America the Beautiful."

Following is a brief part of their afternoon conversation.



Sri Chinmoy meditates with Miss Lillian.

Miss Lillian: I envy you your calmness. It took my best to sit still, much less meditate. I'm not much of a meditator. I did go to the meeting every Thursday night and I did meditate with them.

Sri Chinmoy: But you have meditated with me extremely well.

Miss Lillian: Do you want me to tell you the truth? I don't know what I was thinking about, but I had a thousand thoughts. I can't get everything out of my head like you can. When you meditate, you completely bare your mind, don't you?

Sri Chinmoy: At that time, we do not have a mind at all. When we meditate, we only live in the heart and we become the heart itself.

Miss Lillian: I have heard that and I think it is beautiful. But the only way I can meditate is to go somewhere by myself. I go to what I call my Pond House. I can go out and sit and look out over the pond, and then I can meditate.

Sri Chinmoy: We belong to the United Nations Meditation Group. This is for you, Mother, this is our offering. [Sri Chinmoy presents Miss Lillian with the United Nations Meditation Group banner.]

Miss Lillian: Oh, this is beautiful. Thank you. Oh, it is beautiful.



Miss Lillian admires the U.N. Meditation Group banner.



Meditation Group members chat with Miss Lillian.

U.N. Reception for International Marathon Runners

Thirty-five members of the U.N. Meditation Group, including eight women, ran with nearly 5,000 other runners in the New York City Marathon on 23 October 1977.

On the evening preceding the race, the U.N. Association of the United States and the New York Road Runners Club hosted a reception for the international marathon runners in the Delegates' Dining Room at the United Nations. Sri Chinmoy opened the programme by offering a prayer for the marathon: "O Lord Supreme, may each marathon runner run along Your Eternity's Road and receive from You Your Infinity's Love-Light and Your Immortality's Oneness-Delight."

The U.N. Meditation Group Singers performed "Marathon," a song which Sri Chinmoy had composed for the occasion, and which will also be performed at next year's 26-mile race.

Mr. Robert Ratner, President of UNA-USA, and Fred Lebow, President of NYRRC, addressed the gathering. Runners from seventeen countries received the U.N. Peace Medal from their respective Ambassadors or Representatives to the United Nations. Sri Chinmoy later offered a special acknowledgment to Miki Gorman of Japan, one of the top-ranking women distance runners in the world, who captured first place among the 300 women in the marathon on the following day.



Sri Chinmoy presents a trophy to world-class runner Miki Gorman of Japan.

* * *

If each individual in each nation can consciously and devotedly feel that he does not belong to a little family called "I and mine" but to a larger family called "We and ours," then the message of the United Nations, the message of love, of brotherhood, of peace, of soulful sharing, can easily be received, embraced and executed by the entire world.



The U.N. Meditation Group Singers sing Sri Chinmoy's "Marathon" song for Ambassadors and world-class runners.

* * *

The greatness of each nation lies in its deep love for other nations and in its self-giving to other nations.

* * *

The more we see the divine qualities in others, the sooner we will establish world peace.

United Nations Meditation Group Concerts

The Meditation Group gave several concerts during the month of October 1977 at the United Nations and in the New York area. On 11 October, the Group hosted a concert-reception for the Indians in the U.N. community, entertaining guests with music played on the Indian esraj by Sri Chinmoy, original and traditional Bengali songs sung by the Meditation Group choir and instrumental performances. After everyone stood for the singing of the Indian National Anthem, the Group served a feast of Indian delicacies, generously provided by Mr. and Mrs. Puran Sharma.

At the beginning of the programme, Sri Chinmoy addressed the audience.

Sri Chinmoy: Welcome my Indian sisters and brothers. We, the members of the United Nations Meditation Group, wish to offer you our souls' oneness-love. Here we pray and meditate. That means we are in the world of aspiration. Needless to say, our Bharat Mata always beckons the length and breadth of the world. She inspires the seekers; she elevates the consciousness of those

who sincerely thirst for a higher life, a life of illumination and perfection.

We are now invoking the soul of our dear Mother India to grant us even an iota of peace, light and bliss, which today we wish to share with the United Nations, the heart-home of the world-body. *Shanti. Shanti. Shanti.*



Dr. and Mrs. Myint-U receive prasada, a blessing-gift, from Sri Chinmoy.

On 15 October 1977 musicians from the Group were invited by Mrs. Aye Aye Myint-U, daughter of former Secretary-General U Thant, to perform at a Festival of Lights dinner in Riverdale, New York. A few days later, on 18 October, Dr. and Mrs. Myint-U, in turn, attended a concert by Sri Chinmoy and the Meditation Group at Carnegie Recital Hall.

* * *

* * *

A great nation is that nation which offers inspiration to other nations.

A greater nation is that nation which offers concern to other nations.

The greatest nation is that nation which offers heart's love, spontaneous love, to other nations.

With inspiration we begin our universal family.
With concern we strengthen our universal family.
With love we feed and fulfil our universal family.

The soul-love of the United Nations teaches us three most important things: patience, expansion and oneness.

Patience is not peace. But patience eventually shows us the way to peace, world peace.

Expansion is not an act of self-aggrandisement. But expansion can easily be a life-offering and love-building reality.

Oneness does not indicate a lack of opportunity for revealing and manifesting individual uniqueness. Oneness is like the essence and fragrance of a lotus. It does not prevent each petal of the lotus from revealing and manifesting its own uniqueness.

U.N. Day Celebration in New York: An International Fair

The U.N. Meditation Group cooperated with U.N. Agencies and NGO's to organise a U.N. Day Celebration on 23 October 1977 on the Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The U.N. Day Fair included performances by folk dance troupes from the Philippines, Turkey and India. There were also booths selling food and crafts from different nations.

Following are excerpts from several talks given that day by speakers from the U.N. community.



Mr. Martin Beyer of UNICEF: The support from our fellow citizens is very important, both for the International Year of the Child and for the day-to-day work of UNICEF. Now what can we as private citizens do for the children of the world through UNICEF? I would suggest that you go over to the booth here on the Plaza and start buying the UNICEF greeting cards for this year. This is not a charity of the conventional kind. It is to help people in developing countries to help themselves. It means that you help them get a water pump in Bangladesh, inoculations for tuberculosis in Bolivia. The money raised by your buying these cards is directly for the children. In buying these, you show that the greatest city in the world has an equally great heart. And by buying these cards, you show that you are concerned about the future of the world, our children's world, which is also our own

Mr. Jeff Kamen, U.N. Correspondent for WPIX-TV: The U.N. is just so many buildings to those

of us who live in the materialistic age. We tend to think of it as a place where international policy is debated and no results are produced.

We don't usually think of the U.N. as doing any life-saving. It is imperfect, like most of us, like any other institution. It is loaded with political exaggerations. But the good story about the U.N., the one written between the lines, is how it day and night benefits humanity. I want to thank you for being so kind and patient. Thank you.



Mr. David Dull, Representative of UNA-USA: There has been a very strong resident support of the United Nations in this country since 1945 and it continues today. Because of this support, the Carter Administration has decided to make a commitment to the United Nations in a way we haven't seen in several previous administrations. Carter has decided that the forum of the U.N. is a means by which the United States can take constructive measures towards world peace. We in UNA are very happy to be part of that process.



U.N. DAY FESTIVAL: A dazzling array of visitors attended U.N. Day at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, as aromas of exotic foods filled the air. Above, Turkish dancers; below, Indian dancer and baby sitter with charge.

Sri Chinmoy Honoured for U.N. Day Activities

The Director of the U.N. Meditation Group, Sri Chinmoy, has under his guidance about sixty centres for meditation around the world. Students from many of these centres organised local athletic events on U.N. Day, calling attention to the significant role of the United Nations in our world today and urging support for its ideals.

In appreciation of this "public service in promoting the nationwide observance of U.N. Day 1977," the UNA-USA presented Sri Chinmoy with its Distinguished Service Award.

While in Puerto Rico on U.N. Day, Sri Chinmoy was able to observe one of these relay runs. In San Juan he received an award from the Mayor of San Juan for his dedicated activities in support of the United Nations during a ceremony on 25 October 1977 attended by members of the Consular Body from several nations.



Sri Chinmoy receives a plaque and proclamation from the Honourable Dr. Hernan Padilla, Mayor of San Juan, for his U.N. Day related activities in Puerto Rico.

The pictures on this page highlight some of the U.N. Day athletic events around the world.



Sri Chinmoy's students in Puerto Rico pose under the U.N. Day banner, after completing their 32-kilometre U.N. Day relay marathon.



Australian athletes not only participated in a 320-kilometre (200-mile) relay run from Canberra to Sydney, but also held a 1600-kilometre bicycle marathon to honour the U.N.'s 32nd birthday.



Canadian U.N. Day marathons were held in Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City and Victoria.



In Europe, U.N. Day runs were organised in Paris, London, Uppsala, Augsburg and Zurich.



In the U.S.A., 32-mile relay runs, or similar activities, were completed in Chicago, Seattle, Eugene, Oregon, Santa Barbara, Miami, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Model United Nations

On 21 October 1977 the U.N. Meditation Group heard speakers on the subject of the Model United Nations and the involvement of youth with the United Nations. After the opening meditation by Sri Chinmoy, guest speakers were Mr. William D. Angel, Associate Officer, Planning and Evaluation, U.N. Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (ESA-CSDHA); and Ms. Therese Niedenberger, Secretary-General for this year's Model United Nations at Gannon College, Erie, Pennsylvania. Excerpts from their talks follow.

Mr. William Angel: The idea of the Model United Nations involves several different levels: first, the level of modeling for young people the ideals and aspirations of the world community embodied in what nearly one hundred and fifty Member States of the U.N. believe the future of the world organization and world community should be. And, on another level, it is a model of the needs and aspirations of young people—from a global perspective and especially focused on youth's reactions to the problems confronting the world.

Ms. Therese Niedenberger: The idea of the Model United Nations was first conceived with two purposes in mind. First of all, it was designed to bring high school students and college students closer together in extra-curricular activities. Secondly, and more importantly, it was designed to better acquaint high school students with international problems that are constantly arising. Our organization was the first designed as such.

On 11 and 12 November Meditation Group members Kevin Keefe and Bernard Curchack were guest speakers at the twenty-fifth Gannon College Model United Nations programme in Erie. Gannon College holds the distinction of being the first college to develop a mock General Assembly for high school students. This year approximately ninety schools attended with nearly 1,000 students participating.

Messrs. Keefe and Curchack conveyed the Secretary-General's best wishes to Professor Reinhard and all the participants as they presented a photo of Kurt Waldheim which he had personally inscribed to Dr. Reinhard for his many years' service as the moderator for the Gannon College Model U.N. On behalf of the U.N. Meditation Group, the two speakers also presented College President Dr. Scottino with copies of Sri Chinmoy's thirteen books about the United Nations for the library.

They also met with representatives of the news media to discuss how they might be more involved in supporting the U.N. and the up-coming International Year of the Child. Erie's Mayor Tullio, President of the 1976 USA Mayors Conference, made a presentation to Messrs. Keefe and Curchack as an indication of the City of Erie's friendship with the United Nations and its appreciation of the U.N. Meditation Group's efforts to bring forward the highest goals of the U.N. Charter.



At the plenary meeting the different delegations, composed of high school students from Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York, begin deliberations on resolutions presented by the various committees who had met earlier in the day (photo by F.P. Millis).



Guest speakers Mr. Bernard Curchack (left) and Mr. Kevin Keefe (right) and Gannon College Model U.N. Secretary-General Therese Niedenberger applaud after the presentation from U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim to Dr. Reinhard (photo by F.P. Millis).

UNICEF Bazaar for the International Year of the Child

On 31 October 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group held a Bazaar at U.N. New York Headquarters in honour of the International Year of the Child. Meditation Group Director, Sri Chinmoy, offered a silent meditation for the success of the I.Y.C., which has been declared for 1979. Dr. Aldaba-Lim, Assistant Secretary-General, who has been recently appointed Special Representative for the I.Y.C., then spoke and cut the ribbon to open the Bazaar. Members of the Meditation Group sang Sri Chinmoy's song dedicated to UNICEF, which has been requested by the General Assembly to act as the co-ordinating agency for the activities of the I.Y.C.

Dr. Lim's talk follows.

Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative for the International Year of the Child: Sri Chinmoy, my dear friends in the United Nations and members of the United Nations Meditation Group, good morning. I am not going to speak very long. I just want to say how greatly I appreciate this invitation to join you on this very important occasion to raise funds for children of the world, especially children of the developing world, for which UNICEF, as you all know perhaps better than I do, has worked for all these years.

I know of what I speak for I have seen UNICEF in action in the little villages in the Philippines and many other parts of Asia. For there the cents and the dollars which you contribute from these kinds of things that you have held throughout the years have gone to feeding children, not just ten, twenty or fifty, but hundreds of children, sometimes thousands of children, who probably would never have been able to receive food from their own families. Often their parents cannot afford to give them even a glass of milk for all their lives, their poverty is so great.

This occasion takes on greater significance for several reasons. First, you are doing it in honour of the International Year of the Child, a declaration of the United Nations which will make 1979 the Year of the Child. And it is hoped that you and I from now on will continue to join hands, not only today, but in the years to come, in the next few years and thereafter, to make a better world for children, not only in the poor countries but even in the rich countries. For the International Year of the Child is not only for the poor, but as well for the rich countries of the world, for all the children of the world, to make everyone



Dr. Lim cuts the ribbon to open the Bazaar (above) and graciously offers the decoration to Sri Chinmoy (below).



aware—rich parents and poor parents alike—of the special needs of children wherever they are, to maximize their development—psychological, emotional, cultural, moral and social development.

Therefore, on behalf of my colleagues in the UNICEF Secretariat here, as well as in the Secretariat of Geneva, I would like to say that the International Year of the Child is all gratitude to you for participating in today's fund-raising. We shall ever be grateful to you and we hope that this is not the last time that you will be concerned for children—that your concern is not only for this month, not only for this year, but in the years to come. Thank you very, very much.



Mr. Henry Labouisse, Executive Director of UNICEF, at the Bazaar.



Dr. Lim comments on a particular painting by Sri Chinmoy which was part of the one-man exhibit set up especially for the Bazaar: "There is a nice use of colour and line. I see an interlinking that binds people working for one cause—both for the poor child and for the rich child."



Silence is the world-teacher yet unappreciated.
Silence is the world-student yet unrecognised.

Our daily communion with God is the best way
for us to offer the world our love and concern.

New World Conference

On 2 November 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group sponsored a programme on spiritual and cultural solidarity in Latin America. Brief excerpts from the series of lectures given in Spanish by U.N. dignitaries, which were simultaneously translated into English, follow.



Mrs. Emilia Castro de Barish, Minister Plenipotentiary of Costa Rica: This topic of American solidarity reminds me of Simon Bolivar, whose thoughts and philosophy were embodied and established by the Panama Congress which he set up 200 years ago. When this anniversary was celebrated last year at the United Nations, it was underscored at that time that Bolivar's idea was that our peoples should be united as one, as a whole, in order to work together and overcome problems and attain Latin American solidarity and peace. This is why I would like to thank the organisers of this conference and wish them the greatest success in attaining their goals.



H. E. Dr. Miguel A. Alborno, Permanent Representative of Ecuador: Today, these old concepts of heroism and gentlemanliness, generosity, fraternity, perseverance in struggle and kindness in victory—which were set up by warriors and were made great by scientists, educators, statisticians and those who built republics and international organizations—now have a new dimension. Today we have the imperative of integrating our peoples. We have the need to have a common market, to have solidarity in international forum, to be aware of the Spanish spirit in order to build a peaceful world free of fear, free of needs, a world which will prevent a nuclear holocaust and lead to a new and more just international order among peoples and among individuals.



H.E. Dr. Alfonso Moreno-Martínez, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic: As was said in such a wise manner by my good friend the Ambassador of Ecuador, the Latin Americans are very closely bound by our Spanish origin, which is, I would say, our path towards universality. Thank God, when Spain made nations of us, it did not set up barriers between us or barriers between us and the rest of humanity. I would say, without being an expert, that the spirit in which Spain acted, in spite of the excesses of some of its men, was a spirit of trying to make us universal men.



Dr. Ramón Mancilla-Hernández, Director of Venezuelan G.M.A. Scholarships: We had to initiate a gigantic task, a work of Atlas. And we were sustained by our inner spiritual resources. There was no lack of critics who had no confidence in our strength, our perseverance or our faith. And today we can say with pride that we have distributed throughout many countries of the world more than 12,000 students. It is important to mention that more than 85 per cent of those young people come from the least favoured economic classes. We are fully confident that the final rate of return to the country will be a satisfactory one. We believe that our effort will be crowned with success and that we will be proud. We will be followed by the aura of victory in the path which we undertook at first as only a dream.

20th Anniversary of the United Nations Meditation Room

On 15 November 1977 the U.N. Meditation Group observed the 20th anniversary of the opening of the U.N. Meditation Room, located in the General Assembly Lobby. The programme opened with a short meditation in the "Room of Quiet" and continued in Conference Room 4 with speakers and the performance of six new songs written for the occasion by Sri Chinmoy. The texts of five of the songs were taken from writings of the four secretaries-General.

A brief excerpt from the statement of each guest speaker follows.



Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General; Sri Chinmoy, Meditation Group Director; and Monsignor G. Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, lead a brief moment of silence in the U.N. Meditation Room.



Monsignor G. Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See: This pearl of great price brings us to the interior joy, the hope and the encouragement to persevere in the difficult task of peace making. But silence does not come to us just because we ask for it. Silence is like a friend. It must be cultivated. We might say that the Meditation Room created twenty years ago by the beloved Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, is a great house of silence. It is a place where silence is encouraged, stimulated and developed. If we wish meditation to flourish within us, we need to help

it to grow. We can do that only by setting aside times in our day when we can pay attention to the quiet within us so that we renew our awareness of its beauty and its grandeur, when we communicate with God, and when we, of course, can fill our minds and our hearts with thoughts from good readings and conversation which will enhance our appreciation of quiet and silence.



H.E. Dr. Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines: The Meditation Room can be said to be a memorial to Secretary-General Hammarskjöld. The United Nations is a centre for harmonizing action, as the Charter continually reminds us. But the process of humanization is a difficult one. All too often passion and conflict rule the day. It is at such moments that we need the Meditation Room to look into ourselves and to encounter our God, so that we may cleanse our spirit and gain needed strength. This I have done many times.

Thousands have visited the Meditation Room and no doubt thousands of others will do so in the future. They will sit there in silent communion, seeking refuge from the turmoil and, more important, seeking guidance and light and refreshment of the spirit. The Meditation Room is, or should be the "other United Nations." Thank you.


Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination: Meditation, prayer, dream, hope, vision, monitoring, guidance, foreseeing and planning all go hand in hand in so many different ways at the United Nations. For me the tall building of the U.N. is an edifice of human hope and dream jutting into the universe and receiving from that universe increasingly clearer messages. Perhaps we have reached a time of cosmic evolution. Year round people from all creeds and cultures assemble here to design a better future for the world. And in my opinion they will succeed. Once again, but this time on a universal scale, mankind is seeking no less than its reunion with the "divine," its transcendence into ever higher forms of life. Hindus call our Earth "Brahma," or God, for they rightly see no difference between our Earth and the universe. This ancient, simple truth is slowly dawning again upon humanity. Its full flowering will be the real, great story of the United Nations.



Ms. Judith Hollister, Representative of the Wainwright House: As time goes by, people often forget the original pioneers behind, for instance, the Meditation Room. Weyman Huckabee and his group, called the Friends of the Meditation Room, had the concept of a holy, quiet, sacred area connected with the United Nations way back in the days of Lake Success. They struggled, and sometimes they were given a tiny corner, and sometimes they were not given anything at all.

It was later on, as you know, that Dag Hammarskjöld really took over and created the beautiful Meditation Room that we all know and love. But, as Weyman said to me, to the Committee this little story was just a miracle. I think that we don't always know the facts behind what we see. So I told him, with his permission, I would tell this lovely little story about that miracle. And today we rejoice in this miracle, and even today is a miraculous day. Thank you.

Statement received from H. E. Mr. Andrew Young, Permanent Representative of the United States:

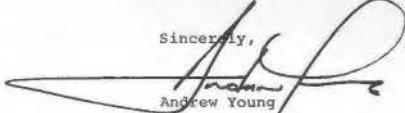


THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations, where the most tragic examples of human suffering become the concerns of all nations, there can be no greater or more meaningful sanctuary than the "Room of Quiet." For all of us who are at the United Nations to work out peaceful resolutions to the world's problems, the Meditation Room beckons us. Away from the formality and routine aspects of our diplomatic activity, there is a great need for this room where we can absorb ourselves in private meditation and prayer.

I pray that the tranquility of the "Room of Quiet" transcends throughout the world and provides the inspiration for peace and brotherhood.

Sincerely,



Andrew Young

Excerpt of a statement received from His Eminence, Cardinal Terence J. Cooke, Archbishop of New York, entitled "Reflection on Silence":

In my life, I feel a need for and value opportunities for prayerful silence. Conscious of a loving God who communicates in many ways, I listen in quiet for His voice. . . .

In silence, I realize that the values and convictions that can easily be broken by the hard experiences of life are of great importance—such convictions as: it is good to be selfless; to be sad with those who mourn; to hunger and thirst for justice; to be pure in heart; to be merciful; to be a peacemaker.

Statement received from Mr. Peter Stewart, President of the Center for World Thanksgiving at Thanks-Giving Square: Your celebration of the 20 years of prayer in the Meditation Room at the United Nations will be echoed by a celebration of gratitude at the Chapel of Thanksgiving for this landmark of the human spirit. We are thankful for the spirit of Dag Hammarskjöld and U Thant that has pioneered the oneness of the human spirit in a new and wonderful way. Your own mighty work is an inspiration to all of us.

International Thanksgiving 1977

On 21 November 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group sponsored the third celebration at United Nations Headquarters of International Thanksgiving with a mid-day programme of music, slides and guest speakers. In the evening the Group hosted a vegetarian Thanksgiving dinner to express its gratitude to all those who so kindly participated in its activities in 1977. Brief excerpts from the statements follow.



H. E. Mr. Zenon Rossides, Permanent Representative of Cyprus: We have to adapt ourselves to the means of our times. The greatest scientists today are those who speak of the need of spirituality in order to improve our conditions. Science with its technology cannot go further. As a matter of fact, it has gone too far and requires a corresponding advance in moral principles. Now, we come to spirituality. Man is made of body, intellect and spirit. Usually people don't think of this; they think only of the body and mind. Intellect is the function of the brain based on actual, concrete facts. Spirit is something far above that. It is the communion of the individual man with the universe. . . . Therefore, I attach great importance to these spiritual gatherings because the hope of mankind surviving is through the rise of spirituality. And we have, I am glad to say, great signs, great indications during recent events for the prevalence of the spirit in the world.



Sister Elizabeth Espersen of Thanks-Giving Square: I am humbled to be here, for this is a great place, a global center where the vision of man is dreamed into the future shape of his destiny. Statesmen and kings, presidents and patriarchs, ambassadors and makers of peace have peopled this place; it is hallowed by their memory and presence. Yet I dare to come here, for the place that I come from, though tiny, possesses great vision. It is a vision called "thanks-giving," and it lies at the heart of life. The United Nations, of course, shares this vision profoundly, calling it "peace."



H. E. Mr. Ignace Karuhije, Permanent Representative of Rwanda (translated from French by Yvette Ripplinger): Our problems are very numerous and the obstacle almost insurmountable. But we are full of hope, for fifteen years ago, we never thought that we would have come to this point.

But we are working under the protection of the Almighty and we believe in His direct role in our success, since failures are due to our human imperfections.

I shall conclude by offering thanks to the eternal God who has ceaselessly guided us through difficulties and pitfalls of all kinds. I ask Him in the name of my country, its leaders and its people to grant us His benedictions and to guide us to wisdom.



H. E. Lic. Julio Asensio-Wunderlich, Permanent Representative of Guatemala: Let me begin by reading a wonderful concept that I found on a United Nations Meditation Group brochure. For it says, "The outer message of the United Nations is Peace. The inner message of the United Nations is Love. The inmost message of the United Nations is Oneness." And I think this is very appropriate for my brief comments.

It was just over a year ago that my country was shaken, broken by a terrible earthquake that was one of the worst that had been felt in this continent. We had some 75,000 people die; we had some 20,000 persons that were wounded and many of them are permanently crippled. The world was informed of this terrible natural catastrophe on the very first day, which was the fourth of February of last year. And it was just a few hours later that we in Guatemala received the love of the people of the United Nations, of the world. This love was represented by all sorts of efforts to help our people overcome the tragic circumstances.

If the inner message of the United Nations is love, that message was expressed loudly in Guatemala in February last year. And if the inmost message of the United Nations is oneness, then oneness was also present when people of every part of the world, of all ages, little boys and little girls from schools throughout the world, sent letters, toys and assistance. I personally give more importance to the little tokens of love and oneness that we received than the massive help sent by governments and by international assistance, without which, of course, we would not have been able to stand on our feet.

Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: Thanks-Giving Square is a place where you can feel the fundamental urge of the human



being to be grateful for the gift of life, that unique, mysterious outcropping from darkness and the void, that flowering of "existence" under sunlight and the stars. Yes, out of a cell, of a seed, as from the center of a spiral or the impact of a sound, we are grown into a cosmos, a universe of our own, sentient, seeing, feeling, thinking, linked mysteriously with the rest of the universe, capable of loving and encompassing the entire world in our heart, to feel in ourselves the divine and to lift ourselves to the Godhead on our own volition. You can feel this in the Square. It is something very unique, and I am grateful that the United Nations has been associated with it.

Excerpt from a statement received from H.E. Mr. Tan Sri Zaiton Ibrahim, Permanent Representative of Malaysia: Unfortunately, under the pressure of modern life and modern techniques of agriculture, harvest festivals are slowly dying away. In Malaysia, for instance, while no doubt such occasions in the past were frequently held, nowadays they are virtually non-existent. However, much research has been done and many of the traditional songs, dances and other cultural activities common to such celebrations are being revived and performed on suitable occasions so that Malaysians can be aware and be proud of their rich cultural heritage.

* * *

The United Nations is a group of pilgrims on a journey. As the pilgrims walk along the path of light toward the same destination, they feel mutual appreciation. From appreciation they go one step ahead to love. From love comes oneness. Oneness is the perfection of man in God and the Satisfaction of God in man.

Kennedy: The Universal Heart

On 22 November 1977 the Meditation Group held a programme and concert in soulful remembrance of the late President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, marking fourteen years since the day of his assassination. The programme, part of which was televised live by WNBC-TV, included tributes by Ambassador Kennedy of Ireland and Ambassador Rossides of Cyprus, as well as several songs about President Kennedy written by Sri Chinmoy.

Brief excerpts from the speeches follow.



Sri Chinmoy: President Kennedy, prince of high idealism, freedom incarnate, lover of humanity, distributor of God's Light, dreamer of man's oneness-family in God's Existence-Reality, to you our gratitude-heart bows.



H. E. Mr. Zenon Rossides, Permanent Representative of Cyprus: He was loved by the people because of his spiritual element—not because of what he did, but because of what he was, what his mind was. People feel when there is a spiritual element present, and they are attracted by it. They are attracted and they have confidence because of it. The spirit in man is what gives value to the human being, a value that makes him different from other creatures on this planet. Kennedy was endowed with this spirituality.



H. E. Dr. Eamonn Kennedy, Permanent Representative of Ireland: No one is really gone from us as long as his hopes live on in all our hearts. No one has really left us as long as the ideals he lived and worked for are shared by ordinary, decent people in every land. The hopes John F. Kennedy kindled for the deprived and the down-trodden, not only here but abroad, march on.



Ms. Patricia Reilly, Representative of ACTION: To thousands of people, particularly overseas, it will always be Kennedy's Peace Corps. It has been called the living memorial to his memory, for through the Peace Corps he touched the lives of people in the developing world in a very personal way. They saw in the sponsor of the Peace Corps a man who empathised with their condition and did something tangible about it.



Mr. Donald Keys, Registrar of Planetary Citizens: No such great person as John Kennedy leaves this world in such a way without the occurrence of something which we do not yet fully understand. Somehow what he was and what he is becomes universalised and, in a rarified essence, qualitatively becomes the property of us all. We are grateful for John Kennedy's time among us. We are grateful that John Kennedy came. We are grateful for the heritage of John Fitzgerald Kennedy which lives among us.



Mr. Jeff Kamen of WPIX-TV: I am here because I owe a great debt to John Fitzgerald Kennedy, like countless young Americans do. It really wasn't until his inaugural address that it even occurred to me, as a person, that I owed something to someone other than myself. Somehow, while I was sitting there with those earphones on my head, taking in the President's speech to excerpt it for transmission to the outside radio stations for which I worked, something triggered inside me—something good, something decent, something profound. Those are important times. With the Grace of God we all have those moments. John Kennedy gave me one, my first one.

Statement received from Mrs. Lillian Carter: I'm really happy about that [the 22 November 1977 commemorative programme]. I think it's the greatest thing you can do—to pay tribute to the greatest President we've had so far—up to Jimmy. I really think it's a wonderful thing to do. You couldn't have picked a better man to pay tribute to than Kennedy.

Statement received from Senator Edward M. Kennedy: I appreciate very much your kind invitation to attend the special tribute to President Kennedy on November 22nd. Although I would like to join you this evening, previous commitments in Boston will make it impossible for me to accept. My family is deeply touched by your remembrance of President Kennedy.

With best wishes and my thanks for the book of poetry by Sri Chinmoy.

Statement received from His Eminence, Cardinal Terence J. Cooke, Archbishop of New York: All Americans recall John F. Kennedy as a man of peace and justice. His concern for minority Americans should prompt us to renew our own zeal for those of God's family who are less fortunate.

The Catholics of New York remember President Kennedy in their thoughts and pray that he may enjoy the eternal Peace which eludes us all on earth.

Statement received from Ms. Betty Williams of Ireland (who was awarded the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize with Ms. Mairead Corrigan): Sorry I can't be with you. It is not because I don't want to, but the pressure of work does not allow it. To all those who work for humanity I send my regards and a simple message: Love and Peace.

* * *

The United Nations has a mind, a heart and a soul.

Its mind tries to offer flowing Peace.

Its heart tries to offer glowing Love.

Its soul tries to offer fulfilling Oneness.

Martin Luther King: Humanity's Aspiration-Hero

On 29 November 1977, Mrs. Coretta Scott King joined diplomats and staff in a meditation and tribute at U.N. Headquarters honouring her husband, the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Meditation Group Singers sang three songs composed by Group Director Sri Chinmoy—one song in Dr. King's honour and two using Dr. King's words. Part of the programme is scheduled to be televised over WPIX-TV on Dr. King's birthday, 15 January 1978.

Following are brief excerpts from each of the speeches.



Sri Chinmoy presents a bouquet to Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

Sri Chinmoy, Director of the U.N. Meditation Group: Martin Luther King, beloved King of the heart-world, unhorizoned vision of the mind-world, hero-warrior of the vital-world, life-sacrificer of the body-world, to you my aspiration-dedication-life bows.

The Saviour-Son gave humanity the lesson of compassion and forgiveness. India's Mahatma Gandhi, with his message of non-violence, proved to be an excellent student. In America the Absolute Supreme chose you to be His unparalleled student, to love divinely the soul of His creation and to serve unreservedly the body of His creation.

We, the members of the United Nations Meditation Group, bow to you lovingly, devotedly and soulfully.



Mr. Paul O'Dwyer, President of the City Council of New York City: Friends, Mrs. Coretta King, I am grateful for the opportunity of joining with

so many people in this meditation ceremony and to be at a place where Sri Chinmoy is. It is altogether appropriate that he conduct the services here that commemorate the life and times of Martin Luther King because he is an apostle of peace and an apostle of non-violence. . . . It is quite easy when one suffers from tyranny and oppression for over centuries to resort to violence. It is not easy to attempt to lead such people into an atmosphere of non-violence to bring about the end of the problems which have caused so much difficulty in the world.



Ambassador Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania, Chairman, Special Committee of 24 on Decolonization: With all the bitter experiences, humiliation and degradation, it is to the greatest credit of Dr. King that he was not an embittered man seeking revenge and reprisal. His was a life truly dedicated to human equality, understanding and fraternity. In a sense, therefore, in him was symbolized some of the lofty goals of the United Nations.

Ambassador Leslie O. Harriman of Nigeria, Chairman, Special Committee against Apartheid: Yesterday, to be black meant to be oppressed, humiliated and despised. Today, to be black has



come to mean the burden of leadership, a vanguard role, in the struggle to free the whole of humanity of prejudice and iniquity, and to break down the barriers that segment it.



Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: One could quote endlessly thoughts and words of Martin Luther King which make one's heart vibrate, which inspire, which elevate, which make us feel better, greater and proud to be a human. Everything he did and said bore the stamp of that same great human dream which is also being sought here under this roof. This is why he was described as a first citizen of the world, a man of all ages and of all continents.



Mr. Donald Keys of Planetary Citizens: Martin Luther King, Jr. sowed the seeds of a mighty transformation in human relations. In the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change which you,

Coretta Scott King, founded, you are protecting, nurturing and multiplying those seeds. In world affairs, Andrew Young, chief disciple of Martin Luther King, is sowing the same seeds of harmlessness, non-violence and creative love. Thus the task begun goes on, and this is the greatest possible tribute to a great man and a divinely inspired team.



H.E. Mr. Allard Lowenstein, Alternate Representative of the United States: Each of us has to, as we meet together, find the applicability of what we know to be essential now, as the priority of our agenda, as human beings, as nations, as representatives. . . . Out of all of the hatreds and festering injustices that have pockmarked the whole of the human experience, this spirituality and this meditation, this quality has to now come through triumphantly, lest the planet itself not survive.



Mr. Jeff Kamen of WPIX-TV: Twelve years ago I was assigned to radio reports on Dr. King, virtually everywhere he went. And that brought me face to face with him, his philosophy of creative non-violence and the tremendous changes he was helping to bring about in the United States. Dr. King's charisma, I learned, was drawn not from the love of power, but rather from the power of love. He never forgot for a moment exactly who he was, a humble servant of God.



Mrs. Coretta Scott King: I want to first express my deep gratitude to the United Nations Meditation Group and to all of you in the United Nations and from the City of New York, who have gathered here in this special tribute to the life and contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr. Your words have been, indeed, an inspiration to me. And to have heard what has been said by representatives of nations around the world, who have understood Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message and his great life commitment, certainly inspires me personally to continue in the struggle which we are all a part of here, I feel, at the United Nations, to liberate those who are oppressed and to bring about a better quality of life for all people in this world and certainly in our nation.

Excerpt from a message extended to Mrs. Coretta Scott King by H.E. Ms. Shirley Gbujama, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations: As a student in the United States in the early 60's, I was deeply moved by the practical demonstration of love and concern for humanity of Martin Luther King, Jr. How can we fail to realise that all he did in life, and is doing in death, has been made possible through the tremendous spiritual dimension of his life? We thank almighty God for both of your lives.



The United Nations Meditation Group singers perform original songs by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., some of which were composed to the civil rights leader's own words.

* * *

The world is blind; it needs God-Vision.
And the United Nations has God-Vision
in abundant measure.

The world is weak; its needs soul-power.
And the United Nations has soul-power
in abundant measure.

The world is suffering; it needs heart-consolation.
And the United Nations has heart-consolation
in abundant measure.

* * *

The United Nations tells us where truth is.
World union tells us what truth is.
Where is truth?
Truth is in self-giving.
What is truth?
Truth is man's transformation of his
earth-bound nature.

* * *

Human Rights Day Programme

On 9 December 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group sponsored an observance at U.N. Headquarters of Human Rights Day, featuring the dedication of the song "O Human Rights," written by Sri Chinmoy. Following are brief excerpts from each of the speakers.

Sri Chinmoy, Director of the United Nations Meditation Group: Human Rights Day, what is it? Is it a day of hope? If so, what is hope? Hope is tomorrow's earth-illuminating reality founded upon humanity's purity-heart.

Human Rights Day, what is it? Is it a day of promise? If so, what is promise? Promise is constant self-giving.

Human Rights Day, what is it? Is it a day of achievement? If so, what is achievement? Achievement is man's complete perfection in the inner world and man's total satisfaction in the outer world.



Statement from Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, presented by Mr. Virendra Dayal, Regional Representative for the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees: I remember back in the early sixties when I was on mission in what was then still called the Congo. At that time a group of refugees from Rwanda had arrived in the province of North Kivu in the most isolated and inaccessible area covered with virgin forest. We travelled hundreds of kilometres over dirt track in our Land Rovers with their United Nations symbols. When we finally arrived, what struck me was not only their extreme need and their tragedy, but their reaction to us. They could not believe that someone had come all that way, had found them, that an organisation called the United Nations which was so far away was there to help them. Fortunately, we were able to help, just as we have been able to help millions in all parts of the world who through no fault of their own have been forced to flee their homes.



Mr. B. Ramcharan, Special Assistant to the Director, Division of Human Rights, United Nations, New York: I think that we have to seriously examine, at the present juncture, whether or not it is more important to follow what I choose to call the quiet approach in the question of human rights. I am of the considered view that we make best progress in the area of human rights when we act in a quiet manner and when we can talk to each other rather than confronting each other politically. I think that the United Nations might also think more and more these days about whether the traditional forms and methods of diplomacy ought to be applied to human rights here. By acting diplomatically, and by that very fact alone, very often we are denying the human element which we should be emphasizing.



Congressman Charles W. Whelan, Jr. United States delegate to the 32nd General Assembly: The efforts of both the executive and legislative branches of the United States government in the field of human rights have the overwhelming support of the American people.

We in the United States, however, feel that our bilateral initiatives undoubtedly would be more effective if international bodies were to conduct complementary activities. Thus, we hope the glo-

bal institutions such as the United Nations will expand their undertakings in the area of human rights. The efforts of the United Nations Meditation Group and similar organizations must be continued and indeed accelerated if this objective is to be realized. You are to be congratulated on the fine work you already have done in generating awareness for human rights. But our concern must never flag for those who have been arbitrarily imprisoned, tortured or discriminated against in any country of the world.



Mr. Brady Tyson, Advisor, United States Mission to the United Nations: Before such a cosmopolitan and international group, I am sure you will forgive me if I address you in the Meditation Group not only in the accents of an American Texan, but also in the language of a Methodist preacher, because, like my boss, Andrew Young, I am first and foremost a preacher.

Father, after we have been assured once again, by Thy Spirit bearing witness with our spirit, that we are sons and daughters of Thine, we know that Thy Will once again will send us out into this world, that we might there promote and protect the dignity of all persons, that we might never be insensitive, that we might always be open to the hurts of others—even though those hurts become ours also and we must once again cry unto Thee for help and for strength. It is Thy Grace that has brought us safe thus far; it is Thy Grace that will sustain us in the days and weeks and years to come; it is Thy Grace that will give us the tranquility and the peace and the strength to overcome the evil in this world with the power of Thy Love.

Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: We must establish reverence for life as the cornerstone of all future civilization: reverence for life not only by individuals, but also institutions, foremost among them nations. Insti-

tutions were created originally for the good of the people. This is their main merit and the justification of their existence. And yet nations are developing and stockpiling incredible arsenals of murderous weapons meant for millions and millions of people, possibly for all human beings. The same nations come to this house and speak about human rights. Well, then they must be reminded of the first and most sacred of all human rights: the right to life and the right not to kill. Perhaps if we approach the whole question of human rights and disarmament from the fundamental principle of reverence for life, we might achieve some progress. As a humanist and as a member of the human race who has seen so many killings and violations of basic human rights during his life, I just cannot conceive and accept the idea of a peaceful and orderly planet of armed nations. As we approach the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, I would therefore hope that nations will be reminded most forcefully of this foremost, fundamental, sacred and inalienable right and obligation of all human beings on this planet: "Thou shall not kill, not even in the name of a nation."



Mr. Winston Frost, Attorney-at-Law, Chairman of the Board, Suffolk Industrial Development Agency: "World peace through world trade" is a slogan for our 300-acre industrial park, located adjacent to the Suffolk County Airport, on the eastern end of Long Island, in an area endowed with many natural resources and with an enlightened work force. It may seem far-fetched to relate an industrial park to human rights. However, there is in fact a relation. One of the human rights seldom mentioned is the right to work, and while it is all well and good to talk about guaranteeing human rights in the undeveloped parts of the world, we must not overlook conditions as they exist in our own backyard.

The Holy See Mission Honours the Meditation Group

The evening of 9 December 1977 Monsignor Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, and members of the Mission honoured members of the U.N. Meditation Group at a reception, appreciating the Group's printing of the Holy See Mission's booklet on World Peace Day.

Excerpts from a statement which was read out by Monsignor Cheli and remarks made by Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination, follow.

Monsignor G. Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See: My dear friends, it is a pleasure for the Holy See Mission to have you here and to get to know each of you who has worked so generously with us in the preparation of the World Peace Day Booklet.

You represent in the U.N. Secretariat a movement that seeks to help the people of the U.N., who are so busy and so preoccupied, to find themselves through the exercise of meditation, prayer and contemplation. In silence and reflection, people find themselves again. Not only themselves, but they find their origin, God. They identify their task in this world, which is to love and help their neighbour. Finally, they locate their ultimate goal, which is to return to the Creator. In reflection, people come to see clearly the true scale of value of the created things around them and they learn to give to each one of them the right priority. The secret for happiness, for interior peace and brotherly co-existence with others: it's all here! For this reason, we here at the Holy See Mission feel ourselves very close to you, and we feel ourselves supported and encouraged in our efforts to inject moral and spiritual values into the United Nations. We wish that this communion of spirit and of aims would continue forever.

We wish to thank all who collaborated with us. You will be happy to know that your efforts have touched people all over the world. We have sent a copy to the Holy Father in Rome, to members of the Curia, to all the Permanent Missions at the United Nations; UNICEF has asked us for six extra copies. So, you know that your work has gone to all corners of the globe. Everywhere, people comment on the beauty of the reproduction. So we congratulate everyone who contributed to it.



Monsignor Cheli serving the guests.

Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: Year after year, the scope of the UN's work increases, as does its perception of the totality. This is one of the most prestigious and amazing stories the earth has ever seen. Alas, it is understood by only a very few of the four billion inhabitants. . . . The UN is the school where all learn from each other, listen to each other, try to find solutions and define what is good and bad for the whole human family. It is the place of a thousand bridges. It is the cradle of future world destiny, the scanning light of our planet, the warning tower from which one global signal after the other is emitted to humans over the globe. It is the birthplace of unique world efforts which help humanity to better know itself and guide its behaviour in our planetary home.

The religions and the prophets and the poets and artists did not need a United Nations, a world organization, conferences or experts to help them discover the truth. They saw it straight with the heart, with an internal vision, with an instinct that went right to the point without getting lost in the convolutions of the mind. They all gave us generally correct codes of conduct, codes of inter-

nal serenity, codes of happiness, codes for the highest fulfilment of the miracle of life. . . This will explain to you why I am listening so attentively with my mind, heart and soul to what great religions and spiritual groups have to say. They have a long experience of human life and often their perceptions are still the quickest and most accurate. This is why I am grateful to you for your efforts to give the work of the United Nations a spiritual interpretation and dimension.

* * *

From the spiritual point of view, the soul-love of the United Nations will always remain resourceful in all problematical situations, untiring in the discharge of its national and international duties, sagacious in its willingness to add to the peace, love and joy of searching and ascending humanity.

Benefits for UNICEF

On 11 December 1977 Sri Chinmoy awarded the UNICEF Cup to world-class marathon runner Dr. Norb Sander, who finished first out of 300 competitors in the Ten Mile Benefit Run for UNICEF held in New Canaan, Connecticut, on UNICEF's 31st Anniversary.

Dr. Sander, who won the New York City Marathon two years ago, finished the race in 54 minutes and 30 seconds. The run was sponsored by the Sri Chinmoy Centre in honour of the up-coming International Year of the Child.



Dr. Sander, holding the UNICEF Cup, with Sri Chinmoy (left), staff members of UNICEF and children who participated in the run.

On receiving the trophy, Dr. Sander said warmly: In over twenty years of running, I think this has been one of the most inspiring running experiences that I've ever had.

Sri Chinmoy presented the winner with a watch, replying: This is a watch, as a very humble, symbolic token of my deepest appreciation for your most extraordinary running achievement, Doctor. Being a seeker, I wish to tell you that I value most cheerfulness and devotion. I had the good fortune of watching our best runner and I saw him cheerful throughout the run, and I also felt his devotedness towards today's cause, today's run. Therefore, from the inmost recesses of my heart I wish to offer this. It is a time piece, which symbolically tells that your time has pleased us, perhaps far beyond your own imagination.

Several U.N. Meditation Group members who performed in the Madal Circus production for UNIS children in the spring participated in a benefit for UNICEF at Lincoln Center the evening of 11 December 1977. Mrs. Sylvia Fuhrman, Special Representative of the Secretary-General at UNIS, who is in charge of entertainment for the UNICEF Benefit Committee, invited Ashrita the Magician, Abakash the Fire Eater, Ribhu the Clown and Madal Circus jugglers to perform in conjunction with the gala benefit performance of "The Nutcracker" at the New York State Theatre. The proceeds of the evening were donated to the Emergency Relief Fund in India.

Oneness-Earth

The evening of 14 December 1977 the U.N. Meditation Group celebrated the universal brotherhood and unity which are evoked in this season of holidays around the world with a programme entitled "Oneness-Earth." The programme, which was filmed by CBS-TV for broadcasting on Christmas Day, included statements by Ambassadors and U.N. Officials and the performance of a song written by Sri Chinmoy especially for the occasion. On display was the painting entitled "United Nations: the Heart-Home of the World-Body," by Sri Chinmoy. The work is dedicated to United Nations efforts for peace and had been recently exhibited around the world as an ambassador of good will and world-oneness.

Following are brief excerpts from each of the speeches.

Mr. Jeff Kamen, U.N. Correspondent, WPIX-TV News: Ladies and gentlemen, good evening and welcome. The United Nations Meditation Group is honoured by the presence of diplomats whose lives are dedicated to the service of mankind. Despite differences of culture, language and faith, they are in fact united in the vision of the inseparability of the human family, of the need to share our fragile planet in love and peace.

This holiday season gathering at the headquarters of the world organisation is tangible proof that there are people of conscience and compassion who clearly understand that whoever leads in the heart is a true leader.



Mr. Thami Mhlambiso, Representative of the African National Congress: Friends, I am happy to join with you this evening when the holiday season is approaching, the festive season when friends and loved ones will be joined. . . . Let us resolve to bring an end to apartheid and to fight the enemies of freedom and justice. Let us remember also all our brothers and sisters who are homeless today, for it must be our task and duty to see that they also have a place in the sun, so that oneness on earth will flourish.

H. E. Dr. Jorge Illueca, Permanent Representative of Panama: On this occasion we do well to meditate on the main purpose of the United Nations, which is to be a centre for harmonising



the actions of nations in the peaceful attainment of international cooperation and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. . . . In their quest for peace, brotherhood and harmony, the peoples of the world share common beliefs, hopes and dreams, and they should come closer one to the other at a time when this "Oneness-Earth" is plunging toward the twenty-first century.



Dr. John Grun, Director of the International Year of the Child Secretariat: If there is one issue on which the world is in agreement, it is surely the child. Men and women everywhere agree with the Declaration of the Rights of the Child when it says that the world owes the child the best it has to give. That world, of course, is us, all of us. . . .

Just as we can best serve our neighbour by loving him as ourselves, so we can best serve ourselves and the world by thinking of and loving others. Loving a child, truly, with an open heart and an open intellect is as beneficial to us as it is to the child.

There is no future for us—morally, emotionally, physically—except in the child, in the world's children, *our* children.

That is the spirit which the International Year of the Child seeks to kindle, a spirit from which down-to-earth practical and realistic action for the benefit of children cannot fail but flow in abundance.



H. E. Mr. Allard Lowenstein, Alternate Representative of the United States: I hope that in this programme commemorating the holidays and the international sense of renewal, there will also come to people the realisation that much more is necessary than the repetition of the Declaration of Human Rights or the Charter or past expressions of hope or brotherhood. . . . I think that if people simply remember, in this season, how much they have to learn from one another, how much they have to give to one another, and how much they lose by despoiling one another, perhaps the spirit represented by the President's new leadership in human rights and by Andy Young's remarkable efforts around the world to find common denominators for human beings to work together will grow and flourish.



Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: Never before has there been such an opportunity for the fulfilment, for the flowering of human life into an unbelievable consciousness, if we work together at it, not only with our minds, with our hands and intelligence, but also with our hearts and with our souls. We must learn to understand again our place in the universe. We must learn to believe again in the magic of creation, in the miracle which planet earth is and

which each human life is. This is the great story which is beginning to emerge in the United Nations. I only wish that the public, instead of seeing merely failures and inefficiencies, would try to look at the magnificent human story, the only possible human story, that is beginning to be written in this house. This is my wish on this Christmas.



Monsignor G. Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See: The beautiful traditions of Christmas and occasions like this, when we can get together to share our thoughts and feelings at this season, are an inspiration to us to renew our love for our Creator and all of creation. We know that if all would have love for each other and for the universe which has been given to us, then all the problems of the world would be resolved. For, if we probe deeply to the very root of all the tremendous problems which we at the United Nations attempt to alleviate—racism, disarmament, hunger, underdevelopment, economic injustice, ecological imbalances, etc.—we would find that there at the beginning of the problem is a lack of love. We are dismayed to find that egotism, selfishness, pride and ill-will are operative in place of love and its manifestations in generosity, reconciliation, humility and hope.



Sri Chinmoy, Director of the U.N. Meditation Group: The desire-man demands division-earth. The aspiration-man yearns for Oneness-Earth. Oneness-Earth means God-Satisfaction in its universal Dream-Reality. Dream is the oneness of the earth-family; Reality is the perfection ever-transcending of the earth-family.

Finland: Champion of Independence

On 15 December 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group sponsored a programme highlighting the musical tradition of Finland, in recognition of Finland's sixtieth year of independence and in celebration of the twenty-second anniversary of Finland's admittance to the United Nations. The programme included a slide show, performances of Finnish folk music, works by Jean Sibelius and the National Anthem of Finland.

His Excellency Mr. Ilkka Olavi Pastinen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations, addressed the gathering, and special guest artist, Ms. Laura Penttinen entertained the audience by playing the kantele.

The programme was warmly received, especially by the Finns at the United Nations, including Assistant Secretary-General Helvi Sipila, who praised the warmth and charm of the function.

Excerpts from the programme follow.

H. E. Mr. Ilkka Olavi Pastinen, Permanent Representative of Finland: For Finns and for me personally, independence is something that is not an abstract concept. It is not even an abstract national concept, but it is a deeply felt national commitment which is anchored in everyday reality and it is a deeply felt personal commitment which is a living reality. . . . Now the main theme today is music in Finland, or how we perceive the Finnish music. Finnish music and particularly the music of Sibelius is closely interwoven with our aspirations for independence. It is not only a symbol of independence; it is synonymous with it. . . .

Now I find no better way of describing the particular message that this music conveys to us than by quoting a very beautiful thought which is found in one of the United Nations Meditation Group bulletins: "The outer message of the United Nations is Peace. The inner message of the United Nations is Love. The inmost message of the United Nations is Oneness. Peace we feel. Love we become. Oneness we manifest." These are very much

thoughts that I believe inspire the Finnish people. And as we celebrate their independence, we find music perhaps as an instrument to convey those feelings, as a messenger of those feelings.



Finnish guests enjoy homemade native sweets.

Mrs. Linda Serlin of UNICEF commented on the music of Sibelius: During his lifetime, Sibelius commanded more universal respect in the music-loving world in general than perhaps any other person in musical history. Sibelius's music, particularly his early work, tells of his home, Finland—the Finnish land and its people—its strength and its love of freedom. We love Sibelius's music. In celebrating the respect for the individual that is native to Finland, Sibelius was declaring, "We love our way; it is best for us. You too have your way, and your way must be right for you. As long as the way is made of strength and beauty and respect for human beings, as long as it permits each man to be the man he wants to be, then it must be right, no matter what the pattern of it may be."

photo: United Nations

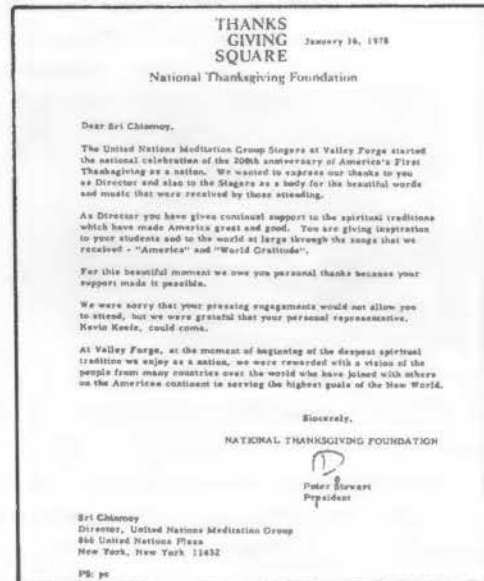


H.E. Mr. Ilkka Olavi Pastinen
Permanent Representative of Finland

Meditation Group Singers Perform at Valley Forge

On 18 December the United Nations Meditation Group Singers were invited to open an historic commemoration of the 200th anniversary of America's first Thanksgiving Day, which was observed by George Washington and his soldiers at Valley Forge on 18 December 1777. The singers performed Sri Chinmoy's songs "World Gratitude" and "O My America" for the programme, in which members of the armed forces, the clergy and the international community participated.

A letter of appreciation received by the Meditation Group is reproduced here.



Christmas Carol Sing

U.N. delegates and staff joined Mrs. Coretta King in singing Christmas carols in the U.N. Secretariat lobby on 19 December 1977, during a carol sing hosted by the Meditation Group. Adding to the holiday spirit were large colourful paintings by Sri Chinmoy, which were on display.

Mrs. King charmed the several hundred who gathered by opening the programme with a solo performance of the spiritual "King of Kings" and then asked the audience to join her in singing this and many other favourite carols.



Before singing the spiritual "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," Mrs. King said: I often compare the message in this Christmas spiritual to the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. It was one of his favorite songs, and very often at this time of year he would ask me to sing it at one of our regular meetings at Ebenezer Baptist Church as a meditation solo.



Mrs. King comments on Sri Chinmoy's paintings: I like his work. I'd love to have one of them, as a matter of fact, because there's a lot of feeling in them. . . . He's just a creative person—to create—I guess that's what he's all about.

Meditation Park Planned

Newsday / 20 CENTS
FRIDAY,
DEC. 2, 1977
THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER • NASSAU EDITION

Meditation Garden Planned for Trade Park

By Fred Tuccillo

Southampton—The developers of a planned \$100-million world trade park in Westhampton announced yesterday that the complex is to include a 1,000-seat amphitheatre, conference center and "mediation garden" to be built in cooperation with the United Nations Meditation Group.

A spokesman for Suffolk Industrial Overseas World Trade Park Inc. said that the facility, tentatively named "Oneness World," was proposed by the meditation group. The 8-year-old, nonsectarian organization has 100 United Nations staffers and delegates as members but has no official connection with the UN. The group's spiritual leader is Sri Chinmoy, a 46-year-old native of India, who now lives in the metropolitan area.

The developers were authorized by the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency Oct. 12 to sell \$100 million in tax-free bonds to finance construction of the park adjacent to the county airport at Westhampton. County officials plan to seek federal desig-

nation of the site as a foreign trade zone. That would enable foreign goods to be shipped in for final assembly without customs clearance or import duties and to be shipped out for distribution overseas or within the United States.

Bernard Curchack, a spokesman for the UN Meditation Group, said yesterday that his organization had contacted Myron B. Levy, the world trade park's vice president and general manager, after reading about the planned complex and its theme, "Working for World Peace Through World Trade."

Andrew Boracci, a spokesman for the developers, said that the meditation facility will "show how the world trade park is reflective of that theme and not just a spread of warehouses." While the developers have agreed to set aside up to five acres of about 300 on the site for the meditation group, a decision on whether the land would be donated or purchased will depend on private funding for the facility, Boracci said.

"We wanted a meditation park where people could

come out, have lunch, spend some quiet time and which people who would work in the trade park could use as well," Curchack said. No design or cost estimates have been prepared yet. But he said that planners envision an auditorium "prestigious enough to house concerts and other performances, a commercial library which businesses could use," language translation rooms, and a "meditation garden" surrounding a fish pond, he said.

Curchack and Boracci said that the name "Oneness World" was suggested by Sri Chinmoy. Chinmoy, whose published works include "Yoga and the Spiritual Life," has an estimated 900 followers nationwide for a philosophy which "combines western dynamism and eastern spirituality," Curchack said.

"It's a philosophy of working in the world," Curchack said. "We don't go around seeking converts or anything like that. We try to inspire humanity, to show what it can do, not only in the arts, but by getting in touch with that higher part of yourself through meditation."

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE
FROM THE UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

- Meditation at the United Nations
A monthly bulletin covering the activities of the Meditation Group
- U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry
Illuminating comments on the life of U Thant by Sri Chinmoy as well as statements about U Thant by United Nations officials and other international figures

Collections of talks given at the United Nations by Sri Chinmoy:

- The Garland of Nation-Souls
- The Tears of Nation-Hearts
- Union-Vision
- Reality-Dreams

Questions answered at the United Nations by Sri Chinmoy:

- Flame-Waves, Parts 1-8
General questions asked at the U.N.
- Two God-Servers and Man-Lovers, Parts 1-2
Questions asked by Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination
- The Inner Vision: Love of God, The Outer Mission: Service of Humanity
Questions asked by Mr. David Rowe, Political Advisor, United States Mission to the United Nations.

- A Salute to the United Nations Security and Safety Service
A compilation by the Meditation Group of informative talks and personal interviews with Security staff at the United Nations

The Meditation Group has published a number of pamphlets written by Dr. Robert Muller, relating his experiences at the United Nations and his philosophy of positive living:

The Example of a Great Ethical Statesman:
U Thant
My Proclamation of Faith in the UN
Father de Breuver and Teilhard
Thank You, Dr. Coué
The Need for Global Education
A Copernican View of World Cooperation
Of Good Teachers
A Biological View of World Cooperation
The Secretary-General of the UN
Prayer and Meditation at the United Nations
Reflections on Pope Paul's Doctrine of Peace

The Meditation Group has published, in pamphlet form, the complete transcripts of a number of the programmes described in this booklet:

Muhammad Ali and Sri Chinmoy Meditate
Compassion-Ocean Mother Lillian
Compassion-Father, Champion-Brother, Perfection-Friend (*birthday of Pope Paul VI*)
20th Anniversary of the U.N. Meditation Room
International Thanksgiving 1977
Kennedy: The Universal Heart
Martin Luther King: Humanity's Aspiration-Hero
Human Rights Day Programme
Oneness-Earth

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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.

-United Nations Meditation Group

The United Nations Meditation Group is an association of U.N. delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents.

Schedule of Meetings

Tuesdays: 1-2 p.m.
U.N. Secretariat, New York
Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium

Wednesdays: 5:30-6:30 p.m.
U.N. Secretariat, New York

Fridays: 12 noon to 1 p.m.
U.N. Secretariat, New York
Room 550

Tuesdays: 12:30-1:30 p.m.
U.N. Secretariat, Geneva

For information

please call (212) 754-7828

or write

United Nations Meditation Group
GPO 20-room 1925, United Nations, N.Y. 10017

THE UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

The United Nations Meditation Group is an association of U.N. delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents, who believe that inner reflection and meditation can bring us in touch with the founding spirit of the United Nations and inspire renewed dedication to its ideals.

The main focus of our activities, both in New York and in Geneva, is our thrice-weekly meditations, which provide an opportunity for quiet, spiritual renewal in an atmosphere reflective of the highest purposes of the world organisation. In addition, through an ongoing series of conferences and symposia, we provide forums where ambassadors, Secretariat officials and staff, religious leaders and other world-minded individuals can share and reinforce their spiritual vision for the United Nations.

The United Nations Meditation Group was founded in 1970, when interested staff members invited the distinguished spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy to conduct non-denominational meditation at New York Headquarters. Since then, the Group's membership has grown considerably and its expanded activities have been warmly received by the U.N. community.

Cover photo: United Nations

FMG/SR

bf dispatch: RA

bf: AR/MKE/MC

cc: Mr. Lewandowski

cc: SA

10. März 1978

Dear Ms. Gershon,

On behalf of the Secretary-General I would like to acknowledge with thanks your letter of 7 March. Your thoughtfulness in presenting the report covering the activities of the Meditation Group during 1977 was appreciated.

The request which you formulated in your letter has been taken up with the Recreation Council. I wish to assure you that the matter is receiving appropriate attention.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ferdinand Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel
Special Assistant
to the Secretary-General

Ms. Gail Gershon
United Nations Meditation Group

Room 1925

UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

GPO 20-Room 1925 United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017

7 March 1978

FMG
RA
7/3

UNITED NATIONS: Dear Secretary-General,



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

The members of the United Nations Meditation Group have the honour of presenting to you the enclosed publication covering our various activities during 1977, which we humbly dedicate to you for your extraordinary and untiring service to the United Nations and the whole world. Your own example of dynamic activism and far-seeing diplomacy has always inspired us in our own attempts to serve the United Nations in whatever small way we can.

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.

—U.N.M.G.

At this time I appeal to you on behalf of our membership--100 or so Secretariat staff and members of delegations--and also on behalf of the many hundreds more who have been participating in our meditations and activities. Since the Group's founding in 1970, the name of the United Nations Meditation Group has become associated with programmes of a very positive nature where ambassadors, Secretariat officials and staff, and other world-minded individuals can share and reinforce their inspirational vision of the United Nations.

Now we appeal to you to allow us to continue our efforts to serve the United Nations family. All we ask is to be able to continue using the name we have built up gradually over the last eight years and to continue meeting in rooms here. Right now the Recreation Council is asking all clubs to use the same phrase in their names; however, the Legal Department has approved our using an alternative clause that appears on the bottom of this letterhead, clearly identifying our Group as an association and not implying official standing. We feel each situation should be considered individually, and we hope you will be able to help us. Again, as we do not ask for financial or other support from the Recreation Council, perhaps there is a way for us to continue our dedicated service which would not involve the Council.

As you see from this "Devoted Report to the Secretary-General," many ambassadors, other members of the diplomatic community and U.N. officials and staff have appreciated and joined in our programmes to create an atmosphere reflective of the highest purposes of the world organisation. We do hope to be able to continue our work here, with your help and guidance.

Sincerely,

Gail Gershon
Gail Gershon
Secretary
(ext. 5628)

enclosed: letters from the
Legal Department

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Mr. Kevin Keefe
A: UN Meditation Group

DATE: 22 February 1978

REFERENCE: _____

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM: Blaine Sloan, Director of the
DE: General Legal Division, in charge of
the Office of Legal Affairs

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Blaine Sloan", is written over the typed name of the sender.

SUBJECT: Request for approval of letterhead
OBJET: Request for approval of letterhead

With reference to your memorandum of 16 February 1978, I am pleased to inform you that we see no objection to your adding on the printed face of your correspondence and on your publications the phrase "The United Nations Meditation Group is an association of UN delegates, staff, ngo representatives and accredited press correspondents" as it accurately describes the membership of your group and does not imply official United Nations endorsement of your group or its publications.

I appreciate your having consulted us on this matter.

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Mr. Kevin Keefe
A: UN Meditation Group

DATE: 6 March 1978

REFERENCE: _____

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM: Blaine Sloan, Director of the General Legal Division
DE: in charge of the Office of Legal Affairs

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Blaine Sloan", is written over the typed name and title.

SUBJECT: Request for approval of name
OBJET: Request for approval of name

In reply to your memorandum of 28 February 1978 I am pleased to inform you that we see no legal objection to your group continuing to use the name "United Nations Meditation Group" together with the descriptive phrase referred to in my memorandum to you of 22 February 1978.

I understand that you will be in consultation with the United Nations Recreation Council on this matter.

Peace Corps VISTA

20-2
2cc Mr. Devonstorm
CC Mr. Buffum sent 2/27/78
Jee
AM FMG
MA
2/12
RECEIVED - ROOMS DIVISION
23 FEB 1978
ACTION TO
MR. K. WALDHEIM
26 FEDERAL PLAZA • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

February 21, 1978
4/4/78
Pu 21:00 100 NY

H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary General of the United Nations
Room 3800
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Waldheim:

On behalf of the Peace Corps, I would like to invite your kind participation in a program and reception to take place at the United Nations on the evening of March 15. The program, co-sponsored by the United Nations Meditation Group and Peace Corps, will commemorate the seventeenth anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps by John F. Kennedy. This organization, like the United Nations, endeavors, through technical assistance and goodwill, to demonstrate concern for the developing nations of the world.

Speakers at the program will include representatives of the countries in which Peace Corps Volunteers serve, Mr. Sam Brown, Director of ACTION, and representatives from the United States Mission to the United Nations. We would be deeply honored if you could attend and offer some brief remarks to open the ceremonies.

The program will take place in Conference Room four, from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. and will be followed by a reception at the United States Mission to the United Nations.

Mr. Kevin Keefe and Mr. Kenneth Peck of the United Nations Meditation Group are working very closely with us on this program. The reply of your office or any questions can be directed to them at (212) 754-7828.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia Reilly

Patricia Reilly
Peace Corps
New York

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE	CONTROL NO.
MUST BE RETURNED TO RECORDS DIVISION	NY

file pending

14.3.

Mr. Kenneth Peck
Programme Co-ordinator
UN Meditation Group
Guennadi Gudovenko, Director
Interpretation and Meetings Division
Department of Conference Services

7 March 1978

Godofredo Figueroa, Chief
Planning and Meetings Servicing Section
Department of Conference Services

Request for Conference Room 4

1. I refer to your memorandum dated 6 March 1978 on the above subject and wish to bring to your attention the letter addressed to the Secretary-General by Miss Patricia Reilly of the Peace Corps dated 21 February 1978, copy attached.
.....

2. The Planning and Meetings Servicing Section is very surprised and concerned by Miss Reilly's reference to the use of Conference Room 4 in her letter dated 21 February when it was only yesterday that I received your memorandum dated 6 March 1978 requesting the use of this conference room.

3. I fail to understand why Miss Reilly addressed the letter to the Secretary-General giving such explicit information with regard to the use of Conference Room 4 since she has no connexion with the United Nations.

4. In your memorandum requesting Conference Room 4, no mention is made of assuming the responsibility for the cost involved in the use of Room 4 after working hours. Before approving the use of Conference Room 4, as requested, I would therefore appreciate receiving a written confirmation that the United Nations Meditation Group will assume responsibility for the costs involved.

- cc: Mr. B. Lewandowski, Chairman, Recreation Council
- Mr. G. Gudovenko, Director, Interpretation and Meetings Division
- Mr. H. Jaraš, 1st Vice-Chairman, Recreation Council
- Mr. K. Keefe, President, Meditation Group
- ✓ Mr. F. Mayrhofer-Grunbuhel, Special Assistant to the Secretary-General

UNITED NATIONS
VISTA

26 FEDERAL PLAZA • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

FMG
AM
2/12

OFFICIAL RECORDS CONTROL	
23 FEB 1978	
ACTION TO:	
Mr. R. RUMED	
ON:	
TO:	

February 21, 1978

H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary General of the United Nations
Room 3800
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

Pu 211 59 VSR NY

Dear Mr. Waldheim:

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Mr. Kevin Keefe and Mr. Kenneth Peck of the United Nations Meditation Group are working very closely with us on this program. The reply of your office or any questions can be directed to them at (212) 754-7828.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Patricia Reilly

Patricia Reilly
Peace Corps
New York

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE	CONTROL NO.
MUST BE RETURNED TO RECEIVED OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL	2/680



TO: Mr. G. Figueroa, Chief
A: Planning and Meetings Service

DATE: 6 March 1978

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

REFERENCE:

FROM: Kenneth Peck *K. Peck*
DE: Programme Coordinator
UN Meditation Group

SUBJECT:
OBJET:

Request for Conference Room 4

BF 6. III. 78
MRS Thammud

The UN Meditation Group wishes to request the use of Conference Room 4 on Wednesday, 15 March from 6:15-8:30 pm. We understand that our use of the room cannot begin until the official meeting in the room adjourns. We are planning a special programme that will involve the participation of several ambassadors in a salute to the UN Volunteers and the Peace Corps.

We would like to request the following services:
portable lectern with microphone.

Thank you for your kind attention.

RRJ/wbc

SpiChinnoy RA/PH/IL
56

Remarks for news

11 September 1975

Dear Mr. Keefe,

The Secretary-General has asked me to tell you that
he is most interested to learn of your proposed meeting
..... tomorrow, and I have much pleasure in sending you a
message from him to be read out on this occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Georg Hennig
Deputy Executive Assistant

Mr. Kevin Keefe
International Co-operation for Peace Committee
Room A-6325
United Nations

Message by the Secretary-General to the International
Co-operation for Peace Meeting, 12 September 1975

At the beginning of the 30th session of the General Assembly, we are given the opportunity to look back upon the achievements of the world Organization over the past thirty years. In spite of many difficulties and some disappointments, we have created a unique human institution, which is now approaching full universality of membership, and which has proved capable of change as well as of expansion. Today, it is more relevant than it has ever been to the challenges and opportunities of the world.

But this occasion also provides us with the opportunity of looking forward. We know that mankind faces many grave and complex problems. The issues of peace and war, of plenty and of poverty, of justice and injustice, still confront us and must be resolved.

The potentiality of the United Nations is immense. What is required is a renewal of our common faith and determination that the advances of the past thirty years will be maintained and that we will, together, meet the challenges of our times. In this vital work, I ask for your support, encouragement, and assistance.

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Mr. Hennig:

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Mr. Keefe of the UN Meditation Group was referred to me this morning. He requested a message or a representative of the SG to attend a meeting that the Group is holding tomorrow. If you feel it would be appropriate, this is a message prepared by Mr. James.

T. Rothermel
11 Sept. 1975