

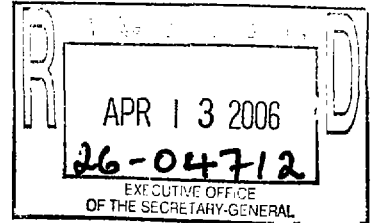
SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

85-45 149-Sri Chinmoy Street, Jamaica, New York 11435, U.S.A.

April 8th, 2006



H.E. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 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.

Most Highly Esteemed Secretary-General Kofi Annan,

Please accept my most loving and most prayerful congratulations on your 68th Birthday. I and, indeed, all who treasure peace on this planet Earth are eternally grateful to you. You travel from one corner of the globe to the other with one message: we must live together in peace as God's children. Our oneness-hearts can and shall create peace in and through the United Nations.

My most highly esteemed Secretary-General, I know and feel the immense suffering that you personally endure for the sake of humanity's progress. I wish to say that your detractors are the dark and doleful past and you are the sun-lit and soulful future.

Beloved Secretary-General, I do hope and pray I shall be able to present you with the U Thant Peace Award some time this year during a brief and private ceremony. I have been blessed with the opportunity to present this humble award on behalf of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations to other great luminaries, such as President Nelson Mandela, President Mikhail Gorbachev, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Secretaries-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Kurt Waldheim.

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Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations is an association of United Nations delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents holding twice-weekly peace meditations and other programmes at United Nations Headquarters.

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**If I may say, you unreservedly deserve this award, which perpetuates the vision and ideals of U Thant—who, as you know, was a very dear friend of mine. I pray that our humble award may also offer you inner strength and courage to continue in your tireless sprint for humanity's fastest enduring progress.
Once again, Happiest Birthday!**

Most sincerely and most lovingly yours,

Sri Chinmoy
Sri Chinmoy

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SRI CHINMOY

CENTRES INTERNATIONAL

PROGRAMMES

THE ONENESS-HEART-TEARS
AND SMILES—
HUMANITARIAN AID

SRI CHINMOY
ONENESS-HOME
PEACE RUN

SRI CHINMOY
INTERNATIONAL
PEACE-BLOSSOMS

SRI CHINMOY
PEACE CONCERTS

SRI CHINMOY
MARATHON TEAM

April 19th, 2006

Mr. Kevin Kennedy
Scheduling Secretary
Room S-3840C
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017

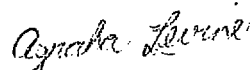
Dear Mr. Kennedy,

Thank you once again for all your kindness and also for your working so hard to arrange for Sri Chinmoy to have a small and brief meeting with the Secretary-General to present him the U Thant Peace Award. As we spoke today, I am enclosing a brochure for you showing the award presentation to Mother Teresa, President Gorbachev, President Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. The wonderful and heartfelt comments from each of these luminaries after receiving the award is extremely moving. I am sure it will also make the Secretary-General very happy.

Please feel free to call me any time. In turn, I would like to send you important new updates on Sri Chinmoy's activities. If I may say, with all my heart, Sri Chinmoy has given me and millions of people all over the world a very deep and abiding love for the United Nations. I am also enclosing for you short excerpts of his many writings on the most inspiring role and mission of the UN.

With deepest appreciation,

Yours sincerely,



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**"EACH INDIVIDUAL COMES INTO THE WORLD TO DO SOMETHING GREAT AND
GOOD FOR MANKIND." ~ SRI CHINMOY**

INTRODUCTION



The U Thant Peace Award is presented to most distinguished individuals and organisations for their exceptional service towards world peace and for the betterment of humanity. The award, which is presented by Sri Chinmoy on behalf of The Peace Meditation at the United Nations, is named for the late Secretary-General of the United Nations. Since 1970, at the invitation of U Thant who was a close personal friend, Sri Chinmoy has offered the twice-weekly Peace Meditation at the United Nations.

The award perpetuates the memory of U Thant and his exemplary devotion to peace in both his personal and his political life. Recipients reflect U Thant's lofty spiritual ideals which are put into practice daily in their tireless service for world peace.

Contained within are excerpts from the presentation of the U Thant Peace Award to five great peace-lovers and peace-servers, all of whom have also received the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize. Selections from U Thant's deeply encouraging meetings and correspondence with Sri Chinmoy are also enclosed.

U THANT

*Third Secretary-General of the
United Nations (1961-1971)*



Following are excerpts from some of the most significant meetings and correspondence between Secretary-General U Thant and Sri Chinmoy.

Sri Chinmoy offered a bouquet of flowers to U Thant during their meeting on 29 February 1972, when the Secretary-General said, “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. Please feel my sincere respect and sincere concern for what you are doing for mankind.”

In a letter to Sri Chinmoy dated April 10th, 1972, U Thant commented, “You have indeed instilled in the minds of hundreds of people here the moral and spiritual values which both of us cherish very dearly. I shall always cherish the memorable occasion of our meeting at the United Nations.”

The following year, on May 25th, 1973, U Thant was guest of honour at the premiere of Sri Chinmoy’s play about the life of the Lord Buddha. Below are excerpts from U Thant’s remarks: “Revered and highly esteemed Sri Chinmoy, and brothers and sisters, it is a great privilege to be able to participate in this spiritually rewarding experience. And for this I am most grateful to our esteemed teacher, Sri Chinmoy, for this innovative undertaking. I also feel particularly moved and touched by his very gracious blessing bestowed on me. *continued*

“Sri Chinmoy very kindly sent me a copy of the play *Siddhartha Becomes the Buddha*. I have read it with great interest and with great admiration and profit. Of course, it is extremely difficult to depict the important episodes of the life of the Buddha in the course of a few minutes or an hour or so. But I found that Sri Chinmoy has done a most remarkable job in presenting the play in simple language, understandable even to the uninitiated. His stress on the basic characteristics of Buddhism—on compassion, love, renunciation, peace—should stimulate the thoughts of leaders of men and leaders of thought everywhere. As you all are aware, I was brought up as a Buddhist by tradition, by faith and by practice; and I find myself in complete agreement with Sri Chinmoy in his enunciation of the ethical and moral aspects of Buddhism, which in my view should be the basis for each of us in our search for inner light, in our search for truth. *continued*



Secretary-General U Thant listens attentively as Sri Chinmoy sings a song about the Buddha, “*Buddham Saranam Gacchami*,” which he set to music for the occasion and performed, accompanying himself on the harmonium, before the premiere of *Siddhartha Becomes the Buddha* on May 25th, 1973.



Sri Chinmoy garlands U Thant (left and centre). U Thant offers his soul-stirring reply following Sri Chinmoy's speech of welcome (right).

“Sri Chinmoy in his play also has drawn a very vivid picture of the identity between God and Truth, soul and inner Light, which I very much hope will create an abiding interest in these two great religions—Hinduism and Buddhism—which in many ways constitute the key to all great religions. I feel very strongly, as some of my friends know, that only by the practical application of the teachings of great religious leaders, particularly the development of the moral and the spiritual aspects of life as Sri Chinmoy has stressed in the play—love, compassion, tolerance, and the philosophy of live-and-let-live, modesty and even humility—that only with this approach, only with this method, will we all be able to fashion the kind of society we want, a truly moral society, a decent society, a livable society, which is the goal of all great religions.

“I want to thank particularly those friends who are participating in this play. I wish all of you peace of mind and eternal joy, and particularly the inner joy. Thank you very much, Sri Chinmoy.”

MOTHER TERESA



*Missionaries of Charity House
adjoining the Church of San Gregorio
Rome, Italy, October 1st, 1994*

Sri Chinmoy: "You are the Mother of Compassion. You are the Sister of Affection. You have conquered the hearts of all the poor and needy people you have served. You have not only conquered them, but you have conquered India. Not only India, but the entire world. The entire world has boundless gratitude to you. You have elevated the consciousness of the entire world."

Award Declaration

"This U Thant Peace Award presentation by members of Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations is to Mother Teresa, Compassion-Heart and Service-Life of India, whose loving tears and blessingful touch have assuaged the agonies of countless human lives and whose devotedly, radiantly and unreservedly self-giving example has kindled the flame of self-dedication of world-serving brothers and sisters everywhere.

"Presented to Mother Teresa: Nobel Peace Laureate of sacred humility, prayerful server of Divinity, and soulful lover of humanity."





Mother Teresa

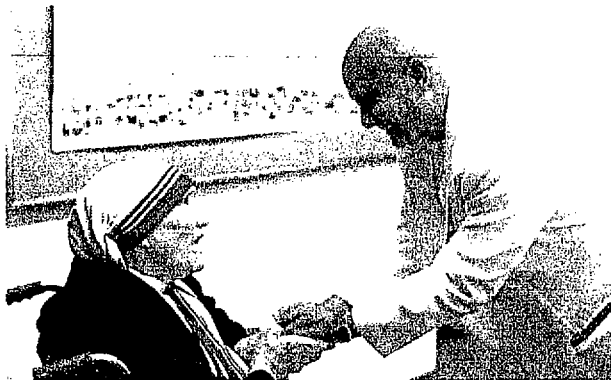
“Thank you, Sri Chinmoy. Thank you. I have heard so much about your work all over the world. I am so pleased with what you are doing for so many people in so many countries. May God bless you, Sri Chinmoy, and all your wonderful work for peace. May we continue to work together and to share together, all for the glory of God and for the good of man.”

October 1st, 1994

“Thank you for all you are to God, for the beautiful work you have done for the glory of God and the good of souls. I keep you in my prayer and I count on your continual support through your prayers and sacrifices that we may do God’s work with great love for His greater glory.”

From Mother Teresa’s final letter to Sri Chinmoy, New York,

June 27th, 1997



PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV



*New York, New York
October 16th, 1994*

Sri Chinmoy: “Beloved President Gorbachev, you have brought to the fore the inner freedom of humanity. You have liberated much of the world from bondage-division-night. Therefore, both the ascending cries of humanity and the descending smiles of divinity you embody. God has chosen you to be His choicest instrument to sumptuously feed the inner world and safely lead the outer world.”

Award Declaration

“Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations gratefully presents the U Thant Peace Award to President Mikhail Sergeyeovich Gorbachev whose *perestroika-vision-light* ended the cold war and sowed the peace-seeds inside the heart-garden of the world-home for the transformation of the human mind and the perfection of human life.”

President Gorbachev

“I am very deeply moved by this meeting with you, esteemed Sri Chinmoy, and at this time receiving this very meaningful award named after a person whom I remember very well and whom I recognise as a man who made a great contribution to mutual understanding and peace in the world—indeed, a man with a great philosophical vision, who undertook a great responsibility of building international relations in a very difficult world as it was at that time.

continued

“Receiving this U Thant Peace Award I regard as a kind of relay from U Thant, a relay in serving people. Even though people pray to different gods and have different religions, all of them are human beings and all of them are God’s creation, God’s creatures; and they must strive to understand each other to work together with each other. That is the only way to save all our souls, to live in harmony with nature and in harmony with the skies. This is a very important honour that will figure prominently in my life.

“Sri Chinmoy, you have a wonderful soul and you can express it in your thoughts, in your words and in your art.”

October 16th, 1994

“Dear Friend! Throughout all these years your noble peace mission has met with response in the most distant corners of our planet. Today, when blood is being shed once again in the world, your humanitarian activities take on a particular value for all people of goodwill. I wish you and all your students more successes in your work to the benefit of peace and all the best.”

April 2nd, 2003



PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA



*National Headquarters of the African National Congress
Johannesburg, South Africa
January 29th, 1996*

Sri Chinmoy: "Highly esteemed and beloved President Mandela, it is the greatest honour for me and my students to offer you our most profound and soulful appreciation in the form of our U Thant Peace Award.

"Dear President Mandela, yours is the life of a supremely chosen instrument, embodying both the excruciating bondage-pangs and the soaring freedom-dreams of your nation. The sweet hopes of your innocent childhood you unhesitatingly surrendered to Destiny's challenging call. The loftiest goal of universal liberation you wholeheartedly embraced. Impossibility, defeat and bitterness are words never to be found in your oneness-heart-dictionary. Unfathomable courage, unparalleled determination and indomitable strength radiate on every page.

"Your life of unconditional sacrifice and your beloved country's miracle-transformation are inseparable. Sleeplessly your life-boat is plying between Africa's bleeding heart-shore and Africa's smiling soul-shore. Your triumphant peace-loving and oneness-building spirit the entire aspiring world shall forever love, cherish and adore."

Award Declaration

"The U Thant Peace Award is presented to President Nelson Mandela: South Africa's visionary oneness-leader, epitome of humanity's nobility-aspiration-height, radiant patience-embodiment, illumining forgiveness-ocean, glowing humility-servant of your suffering and striving people, towering majesty-king of their blossoming unity-victory-destiny. With our deepest appreciation, admiration and gratitude, Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations."



President Mandela

“This is a wonderful honour. I do not have the words to express it. This award from you is one that I am going to respect a great deal and which encourages me in the difficult work that we are doing. It is not easy to preach the message of peace and reconciliation in a country which for more than three centuries has been divided by racial conflict and tensions, and where many people have lost their lives because of torture and persecution. It is not very easy, but we are trying.

“This award makes it possible for us to be able to do this work. To be appreciated by an organisation like yours is a real shot in the arm, and I am very grateful to you.”

January 29th, 1996

“My Brother, I applaud your lifetime of service to humanity in the great cause of world peace. You have been travelling throughout the world for more than 40 years to offer a message of peace and hope to our young people. Your worldwide Peace Run, lifesaving humanitarian service and Peace Concert series are a few of the many, many ways in which you counter the terrible cycle of hatred and cynicism with love and hope...May you continue for many more years, my youthful Brother, in bringing new encouragement for world peace and goodness to our brothers and sisters all over the world.”

August 23rd, 2005



ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU



*Residence of the Archbishop of Cape Town
Cape Town, South Africa
December 20th, 1995*

Sri Chinmoy: “Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Father Tutu, your life of unswerving faith represents the enduring love of the Divine for your cherished country—a land richly blessed by the Creator yet, for so long, torn by the strife of separation. Throughout long decades of struggle, yours was the eloquent voice of unity, of reconciliation, of tolerance, of patience, of forgiveness and of conviction. At the same time, it was a compelling call to action. Finally, your voice proclaimed the destined victory of justice, peace and oneness.

“Father Tutu, according to me, you are a soul-diamond, a heart-diamond. We know that diamonds are formed by intense pressure. During the years of your ministry, you experienced and expressed all the excruciating sufferings of the black people of South Africa. At the same time, as a chosen instrument of God, you courageously, devotedly and tirelessly fought against the appalling ignorance of apartheid, while praying for the transformation of its perpetrators. Placed by the Hand of God between the unstoppable freedom-surge of the oppressed and the fearful aggression-retaliation of the oppressor, you emerged as the brilliant diamond of unity, reflecting the Oneness-Light of the Creator. In you, all the rainbow-colours of God’s children find their true home.

continued





“Father Tutu, you perfectly embody both contemplation and action, and thus you serve as a radiant example for God-lovers and peace-seekers everywhere in today’s world. In your compelling words: ‘The most important, the most cardinal fact about our life is the spiritual—that encounter with God in prayer, in worship, in meditation.’

“Father Tutu, your illumined wisdom proclaims that separation is the greatest suffering and the root of conflict, whereas oneness is the greatest joy and the wellspring of peace. Your heart of faith, your life of humility toward God and man—which is nothing but oneness itself, your towering intellect surrendered to the service of God, and your eloquent voice of all-embracing love make you a shining harbinger of tomorrow’s peace-flooded oneness-world. Today, therefore, we wish to present to you our U Thant Peace Award.”

Award Declaration

“The U Thant Peace Award is presented to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, devoted messenger of the divine unity of the Creator’s rainbow-children, eloquent voice of humanity’s suffering and Divinity’s Compassion... With our deepest appreciation, admiration and gratitude, Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations.”



Archbishop Tutu

“Thank you very, very much. On behalf of all of us, we are enormously grateful that you have taken the time to come here to spread this message of love and harmony and peace. Thank you for honouring me and honouring us here.

“You have come with wonderful timing, because I have just recently been appointed to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which we all hope is going to assist our country in the process of healing all the trauma that has been caused by apartheid’s injustice in the past. We hope that you and your students will uphold us in your prayers as we set out on this momentous journey in our country. Thank you very much for all your work.”

December 20th, 1995

“Looking on all the spiritual work that you do for peace here in the United Nations and in other parts of the world, God smiles saying, ‘Thank you! You are vindicating me!’ You are part of the spiritual force of Love that emanates from God and which will transform the evil of this world into its counterpart. Thank you for persisting and going on, going on. The world continues its existence only because of people like yourselves who help to hold it in being...Thank you so very much for all you mean for God’s world and God’s children. God bless you richly.”

March 16th, 2004

THE DALAI LAMA



*Fishkill, New York
May 28th, 1997*

Sri Chinmoy: "You are the most beloved child of the Lord Buddha. From the Buddha we received the message of peace. We are extremely grateful to you for accepting this humble U Thant Peace Award which you so richly deserve."

Award Declaration

"We are most grateful and honoured to be able to offer the U Thant Peace Award to His Holiness The Dalai Lama. You so richly deserve this award for many, many reasons..."

The Dalai Lama

"Thank you very much. This is very, very good. Thank you!"

May 28nd, 1997

"I am confident that your Peace-Blossoms dedication will help in making the people and their leaders more aware about the importance of peace...Peace comes from a genuine sense of brotherhood and sisterhood that is based on love and kindness."

November 2nd, 1992



SRI CHINMOY CENTRES INTERNATIONAL

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AND SMILES—
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Amongst the previous recipients of the U Thant Peace Award are:

- President Nelson Mandela
- President Mikhail Gorbachev
- Pope John Paul II
- Mother Teresa
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu



President Nelson Mandela and First Lady Mama Graça with Sri Chinmoy during their meeting in New York on September 20th, 1998 (left). Sri Chinmoy presents the U Thant Peace Award to Pope John Paul II on May 17th, 1998 at the Vatican (right).

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