

Meditation at the United Nations



MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE
UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP



Our Hope For Mankind

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MEDITATION
AT THE
UNITED NATIONS

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Since January, 1973, the United Nations Meditation Group has published the monthly bulletin, *Meditation at the United Nations*. This publication offers a basic introduction to meditation techniques and spirituality through questions and answers and lectures, and also reviews the group's activities. Profits from the sale of this bulletin are donated to UNICEF.

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UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP



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-f fulfilling Divinity.

—Sri Chinmoy

EDITOR'S NOTE

The United Nations Meditation Group consists of U.N. staff members, representatives, delegates and NGO's who believe that a spiritual approach to world peace is inherent in the basic U.N. ideals and can go hand in hand with political striving for U.N. goals. The Meditation Group was inaugurated on April 14, 1970. At that time it invited the well-known mystic and philosopher Sri Chinmoy to lead its meetings in the Peace Room of the Church Center for the United Nations. As its membership increased and the scope of its activities expanded, the Meditation Group began holding meetings Tuesdays and Fridays at 12 noon in the Secretariat.

Staff members of the Secretariat, delegates and representatives from Missions, Specialized Agencies and non-governmental organisations accredited to the U.N. are most welcome to join in these meetings, as well as in our other activities.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from previous issue)

On 12 November 1976, Sri Chinmoy requested the members of the United Nations Meditation Group to ask him a question from any field of endeavour. These soulful questions and answers, appearing first as a series in the United Nations Meditation Group Bulletin, are to be published in book form during the early part of 1977 as a New Year's offering to the soul and the body of the United Nations.

Joao Teixeira Da Motta: Can you describe the stage of evolution of the United Nations' soul?

Sri Chinmoy: There are three ways to look at the evolution of the soul of the United Nations. One is the human way, another is the divine way and the third is God's way.

The human way is the way that our physical mind understands the evolution of the soul of the United Nations. Right now, when we assess something, when we try to determine something, we use our physical mind, our earthbound mind. But the human mind, the earthbound mind, cannot see the soul of the United Nations. If the physical mind tries to see the evolution of the soul of the United Nations, then it sees it as a seed that is quite

uncertain of future growth. It feels that the seed may not germinate at all; there will be no plant, not to speak of a tree. This is how our physical mind regards the evolution of the soul of the United Nations.

Then there is the divine way. The divine way is the way of the heart, which identifies itself with the soul of the United Nations according to its loving capacity. On the strength of its identification with the soul of the United Nations, the heart sees and feels clearly the actual growth, evolution, progress and success of the soul of the United Nations. When the heart observes or feels the evolution of the soul of the United Nations, it sees a tree, a powerful tree. This tree is the soul-tree of peace, harmony, light and delight. And it sees that there are countless human beings, consciously or unconsciously, seated at the foot of this tree. These human beings who are seated at the foot of this tree have an iota of aspiration in the inmost recesses of their hearts. If they consciously try to become one with the soul of the United Nations on the strength of their most sincere prayer and most sincere meditation, then the soul of the United Nations cheerfully, unreservedly and unconditionally shares with them its wealth, which is universal love, universal light and universal delight.

From God's point of view, from the highest, absolute point of view, the United Nations embodies the seed that the mind observes; it embodies

the tree that the heart feels, and also it embodies the fruit. From the highest point of view, this tree of peace, light, bliss and harmony has already started bearing fruit, the fruit of oneness, universal oneness. This fruit some God-lovers have already seen and felt. Let us use the term 'Truth-lovers', since there are many people who do not consciously admit the fact that God exists. But for them, Truth exists. We know perfectly well that God and Truth are identical, inseparable; they are like the obverse and reverse of the same coin. But if someone likes the idea of Truth as the only reality, as the ultimate Goal, let him remain with his realisation. Your realisation that God is the only Reality is exactly the same.

When we see the evolution of the soul of the United Nations from the point of view of the Transcendental God, then we feel that the soul of the United Nations is quite mature. It is evolved to a considerable degree. We who love the principles, the ideals, the goals of the United Nations are consciously aspiring to eat the fruit, which the soul of the United Nations has already become. Again, since we believe in the process of evolution, we feel that there is no end to the progress that the soul of the United Nations will make. Evolution is from within and without, whereas transcendence is something that we grow in as we achieve great, greater, greatest perfection in life, in nature and in our multifarious activities. So, if we believe also in

the process of transcendence, then we feel that the light, the peace, the bliss that the United Nations has already received and achieved and become is being transcended every day, every hour, every minute, every second.

Ken Peck: What does the outer world need in order to accept the real significance of the United Nations?

Sri Chinmoy: The outer world needs a broad mind and a sympathetic heart in order to accept the real significance of the United Nations. When the outer world uses its broad mind, then the thought-world that is operating in and through the United Nations will be accepted by the outer world. Here the thought-world is the idea-world. And when the outer world uses its sympathetic heart, it will be able to accept the ideals of the United Nations. The idea of the the United Nations is universal peace, universal brotherhood, and the ideals of the United Nations are one family and a oneness heart.

Michael Anandan: There seems to be a movement towards a mental realisation where countries are starting to work with parapsychology and mind control. Is this a step towards the heart or away from the heart?

Sri Chinmoy: Parapsychology and mind control need not help a sincere seeker. We cannot say that they cannot help, but we can say that they need not help the seeker who believes in the heart. One can control the mind, but from mind control of parapsychology one may not get even an iota of oneness with reality, which the heart can easily acquire by virtue of its aspiration.

Mind control is one subject and the heart's acceptance and the heart's oneness are a different subject. By controlling the mind, one can make fast progress in almost every walk of life. But that is not enough in order to have supreme oneness with God the Creator and God the creation. Undoubtedly it helps the seeker to some extent, but that is not the direct way to establish oneness with the supreme Reality. In order to establish the supreme oneness with the highest Reality, one has to aspire, one has to meditate and one has to dedicate oneself totally.

Holly Maben: How can we help people in the undeveloped countries?

Sri Chinmoy: We can help only by becoming soulful and fruitful as individuals. If our conscious day-to-day existence becomes soulful and fruitful in our thought-world, in our speech-world and in our self-giving-world, then we can easily help people in a physical way.

Danny Tuohy: How do we best deal with people who are actively opposed to the United Nations?

Sri Chinmoy: We have to deal with people who are actively opposed to the United Nations with perseverance, tolerance and forgiveness. If we have perseverance, then that is our first step towards world harmony. If we have tolerance, then we have put forward the second step; and if we can forgive, then we have made the third and ultimate step.

So, with perseverance, tolerance and forgiveness we can eventually illumine people who are actively opposed to the ideas and ideals of the United Nations.

Kevin Keefe: How can we work with dynamism and confidence at the United Nations?

Sri Chinmoy: Here we have to know that patience itself is dynamism. If we separate patience from dynamism, then we are making a mistake. Now, in patience there is confidence, in dynamism there is confidence. We can safely say that confidence is the hyphen between patience and dynamism. Dynamism is in the vital proper, patience is in the heart and confidence, let us say, is in the mind. If the mind is inundated with confidence, if the heart is inundated with patience and if the vital is inundated with dynamism, then we can easily have

a far-reaching vision of the United Nations. At that time, we will know that we embody patience, because embodied patience is already there inside our aspiring heart. And we will know that we have confidence in our mind, because the mind is constantly challenging a higher reality than what it has already achieved. That means the mind already has some capacity which we call confidence. As for the vital, we have to know that there has always been dynamism and aggression in the vital. It is up to us which of these qualities to accept, aggression or dynamism. But just because we are seekers, our vital is bound to be flooded with dynamism.

Joseph Wallace: What is the best way to serve the United Nations: through meditation or action?

Sri Chinmoy: There is no basic difference between soulful action and soulful meditation. Meditation and action are one, provided they are done in a soulful way. If one acts soulfully, then he is doing a really good meditation. And if one is meditating soulfully, then that person is also acting in a divine way. So, it all depends on how we meditate and how we work. If there is a soulful reality inside our action and if there is a soulful reality in our meditation, then we are serving the same purpose.

At times our mind separates action and meditation. But we can easily convince the mind by

becoming the embodiment of a true seeker reaching a certain height with our morning meditation and by again reaching the same height through our daily actions during the day. So in the morning let us call what we do meditation, and during the day let us call what we do dedication. This soulful dedication is undoubtedly soulful meditation.

Paul Kazarov: How can both staff members and delegates of member nations understand that spirituality is a true base to build their goals upon?

Sri Chinmoy: Staff members and delegates of member nations can understand that spirituality is a true base to build their goals upon only by your own personal example. If you can grow into a flower, then naturally you will emanate fragrance-reality. If you become a flame, then automatically you will spread light. So it is not by talking but by becoming. If you can become a torch-bearer of truth and light, then automatically the world around you will see light. And if you have in your inner heart flowers of oneness, flowers of peace, flowers of divinity, and if you can bring them to the fore, than automatically the essence of these flowers will emanate all around you and enter into those who are around you.

Nancy Rosario: Is it best to try to bring new seekers to our United Nations meditations, or just let them discover it on their own?

Sri Chinmoy: It depends on the individual. There are some individuals who are afraid of bringing others to the Meditation Group here. They feel that by doing so they are wasting their precious time, which they can utilise by doing something more valuable. Again, there are some people who have felt something in our meditation here. They feel that they have got some delicious fruit and now their wide heart, their kind heart, their sympathetic heart wants to share this fruit with others who are near and close to them. It is like the mother. When the mother gets something nice, immediately the mother wants to share it with her child. So if one has a oneness-heart, then it is advisable for that individual to bring seekers here to meditate.

But unfortunately there are some who feel that the Peace, Light and Bliss that we bring down is measured, limited, so naturally they feel a certain kind of loss when they bring others. For they feel that the more people that are here, the less there is for everyone. But this is a deplorable mistake. Here all of us are meditating most sincerely and soulfully, and what we bring down is measureless in every way. Spirituality cannot be measured. Spiritual Peace, Light and Delight can never be

measured. And these qualities are not the sole monopoly of an individual either. All those who sincerely cry for spiritual Peace, Light and Bliss will be granted the same opportunity and the same reality.

Larry Hogan: How has the consciousness of the United Nations affected America as a country?

Sri Chinmoy: According to my inner feeling, the United Nations has definitely contributed something very sublime to the consciousness of America. At every moment the United Nations is aiming at world brotherhood, world peace, world harmony and world oneness. America is undoubtedly the right place for the United Nations to be, for America is constantly offering hope and promise to the world at large. America embodies at once humanity's hope and Divinity's promise.

On the one hand, the United Nations is getting ample opportunity from America as regards hope and promise. On the other hand, the United Nations itself, through its inner capacities, is transforming hope into reality and promise into fulfilment. The United Nations needs a few things from America and it has found them. Again, America needs a few things from the United Nations, and the United Nations is more than willing to offer them. The soul of America is

promise and the soul of the United Nations is the fulfiller or, you can say, co-ordinator of that promise. They go together. The soul of the United Nations looks around and offers the reality to those who need it and care for it. And the soul of the United States, from above, looks down to the foot of the tree and offers Divinity's promise, to all those who are aspiring to climb up to the topmost branches.

Michael Anandan: How can one best serve the ideal of the United Nations when not working at the United Nations?

Sri Chinmoy: One can best serve the United Nations even though one is not working there by keeping in one's heart the main principles of the United Nations. What are these principles? World peace, world harmony, world transformation and world oneness.

Loren Bright: How can we instil a spiritual feeling in the work that we do, so that it will be conveyed to the people we work for?

Sri Chinmoy: You can instil a spiritual feeling in the work that you do if you keep in mind that you are always working for one body and one soul.

You are not working just to please your boss. You must please your boss without fail, but the ultimate goal is to please the soul of the United Nations. For that, every day you should try to increase your own aspiration; and your own aspiration will automatically convey its strength to the people you work for.

(Continued in next issue)

UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION-FLOWERS

Sri Chinmoy delivered the following short inspirational talks during the January meetings of the United Nations Meditation Group.

POSSIBILITY-SEED

O my heart's possibility-seed,
In you I see my mind's hopeful plant,
My life's soulful flower and
My soul's fruitful food.

O my heart's possibility-seed,
You embody my promise-dawn,
You reveal my success-sun,
You manifest my progress-light.

O my heart's possibility-seed,
This moment you are my caterpillar-dream,
The next moment you are my butterfly-reality.
This moment you are my rainbow-beauty,
The next moment you are my satisfaction-
prosperity.

O my heart's possibility-seed,
In God's entire creation
I have only one possession
And that is you, only you.

O my heart's possibility-seed,
With you, my journey's Eternity
In you, my goal's Infinity.

O my heart's possibility-seed,
You gave me my inspiration-capacity,
You are giving me my aspiration-Divinity,
And you will give me my realisation-Immortality.

O my heart's possibility-seed,
You are at once unveiling the universal art
 of my life's mystery
And granting me the transcendental picture
Of my soul's victory.

SORROW

Sorrow, my sorrow, my world-sorrow,
You have given me a pure heart.

Sorrow, my sorrow, my world-sorrow,
You have granted me a wise mind.

Sorrow, my sorrow, my world-sorrow,
You have given me a brave vital and a
sleepless body.

Sorrow, my sorrow, my world-sorrow,
You have given me two most precious gifts:
Patience-seed and perseverance-fruit.

Sorrow, my sorrow, my world-sorrow,
You warn me timely, you correct me soulfully
And you perfect me unreservedly.

Sorrow, my sorrow, my world-sorrow,
You have taught me how to walk along
the road of Truth,
You have taught me the secret of self-giving.
You have given me universal Love
So that I can become the Transcendental Soul.

Sorrow, my sorrow, my world-sorrow,
It is from your infinite bounty
That I have developed an eternal hunger to devour
The infinite Light and Delight of my
Beloved Supreme.

I KNOW YOU SURELY CAN

U.N., U.N., U.N.!

I know you surely can
Transform the human face,
Illume the earthly race,
And strike the Hour Supreme
To clasp your Promise-Dream.

♩ = 112 Moderate

U.---N., U.---N., U.---N.! I know you sure-ly-- can *fine*

(faster) trans-----form the--- hu---man face-----, *(a tempo)*

Il---lume--- the----- earth-ly--- race, and strike the

Hour----- Su-----preme to clasp your Pro--mise—Dream-----
Da capo without repeats

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Moderate' with a quarter note equal to 112 beats per minute. The first staff contains the vocal melody for the first line of lyrics, ending with a 'fine' marking. The second staff begins with a '(faster)' marking and includes a '(a tempo)' marking. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a 'Da capo without repeats' instruction.

WITH YOU BEGAN

U.N., U.N.!
With you began
A fullness-cry
In oneness-sky.
For you I see
A flood-ecstasy.

Musical score for the hymn 'WITH YOU BEGAN'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Moderate' with a quarter note equal to 104 beats per minute. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. The second staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The third staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

$\text{♩} = 104$ Moderate

U.---N., U. N.! With-- you be-gan a full-ness cry-----

in--- one--ness—sky----- For you--- I see a

flood-----ec--sta---sy.

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 Deputy Under-Secretary-General 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 just 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.



Sri Chinmoy plays the opening musical dedication on esraj.

*His Excellency Mr. Zenon Rossides
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations*

Ambassador Rossides: 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.

U Thant had inherently the noblest Asian traditions of the spirit that enriched humanity with the higher ethics of religions, all of which originated from that one continent.

For it is the spirit that constitutes man's link with the flow of the Universal Mind that has been the origin of eminent men throughout history. And it is to this Source of eternal life and human virtue that we pay homage today in the name of U Thant.

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.

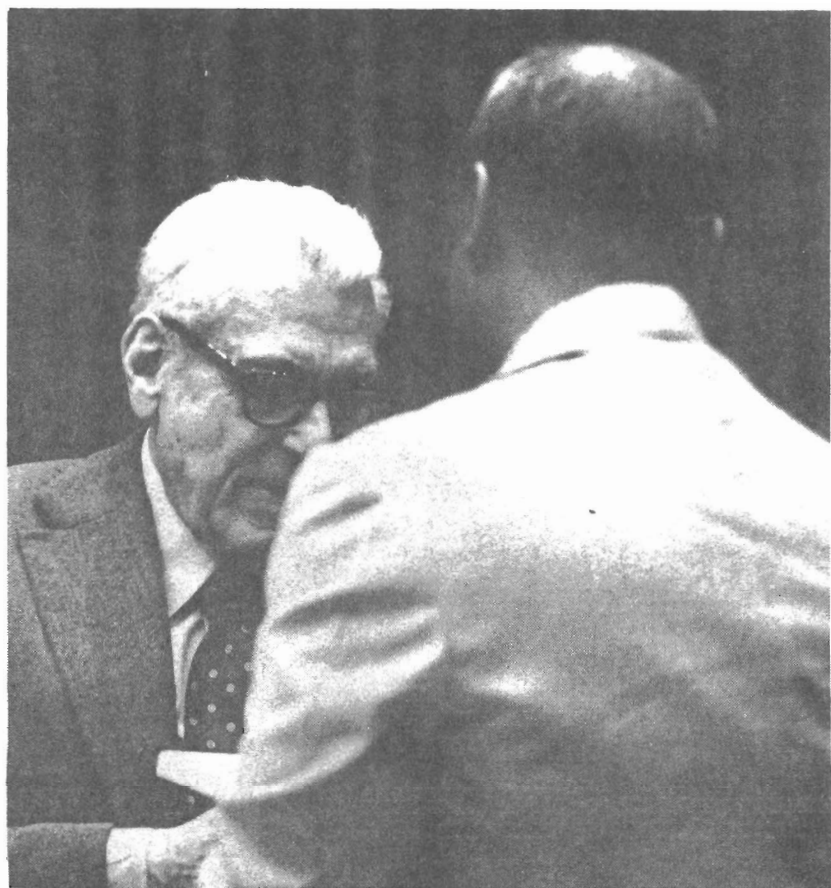
In the Congo crisis, through unswerving determination and moral courage he gave to the limited scope of U.N. Peace-keeping Operations in the area the meaning and content of a true U.N. peace-force in the service of freedom, international

security and peace. He thus preserved the directly threatened territorial integrity and independence of that small country.

In a second and most important occasion, that of the Cuban crisis, U Thant's inspirational initiative and prompt action saved the world from the holocaust of an impending nuclear confrontation. For indeed, it is the spirit that leads to the liberation from the self, which is the basis of great human achievement.

And this is what is needed in world leadership today, more especially among the nuclear powers, to save a sorely tested mankind from the engulfing dangers of a technological breakthrough that, in its misuse, is threatening the very survival of the human species.

The prophetic warning solemnly pronounced by U Thant in 1969 must no longer go unheeded.



Sri Chinmoy thanks Ambassador Rossides for his
illuminating talk.

*His Excellency Mr. Piero Vinci
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Italy
to the United Nations*



Ambassador Vinci: Dear friends, I was glad to accept the invitation so kindly conveyed to me to come and take part in this commemorative day. I think it is always very refreshing and inspiring to get together and to concentrate on the memory of a great man, a man whom we have known so well and to whom we had the good fortune to be so close. I hope you won't mind if I repeat some of the things I have said on the previous occasion about U Thant. In a case like this, when you repeat some strong convictions and some strong feeling, it is not a repetition really, but a confirmation of that belief and faith which this man has been able to inspire in many of us.

I said on that occasion, and I will repeat, that future historians will be in a better position to appraise the daily performance and the personal role which U Thant has played in the many international disputes which occurred in the nine years he held his high responsibility. But what I consider more important is the mark he has made on the world-stage by his philosophy and his political foresight. Because the two provide the true stature of the man we are commemorating today and the place he will occupy in the history of mankind. I say the history of mankind because I strongly feel that U Thant belongs to the whole world and not only to his country. At the same time, he is part of mankind as a whole.

As a matter of fact, he was one of the main in-

spiring forces, if not the main inspiring force, in drawing the attention of the governments and of the people throughout the world to all the difficult problems and challenges we are facing today. And I am not only speaking of the dangers of war, the dangers of competition between north and south. I am thinking also of some of these difficult problems we are facing today, which concern environment, health and the dangers of spiritual deterioration.

Now may I just also remember the unconditional dedication of U Thant to the United Nations. We saw this in his candor in public statements, in his contacts with representatives of different countries, in his integrity, his humility, his compassion. But perhaps this is less known, but I think the previous speaker, my dear friend and colleague Zenon Rossides, has mentioned also his strong religious belief and convictions. That's why I always saw in U Thant an extraordinary mixture and combination of religious strong convictions and ideal attachment—ideal attachment to some of the political ideas of today, and mainly socialism. Perhaps this is also less known, but U Thant in his early days was a student of socialism and followed very closely the movements of socialism in the world. I think this gives you a better knowledge of the man as he was.

To conclude, my dear friends, I think the best way we can pay tribute to U Thant is by keeping

alive his highly spiritual message which Ambassador Rossides has so eloquently conveyed to all of us. 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. This is my humble plea and my humble dedication to the man we are commemorating today. I thank you.

*Mr. Robert G. Muller
Director and Deputy
to the Under-Secretary-General
for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination*

Mr. 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.

I knew U Thant well and I have read assiduously much of what he has said and written. And everywhere I can find the expression or the influence of this simple, but so fundamental, classification of human attributes and needs. Therein lie the main cries of humanity. The cry to physical life, to start with. He was very clear about this. For example, in a speech on education in 1967, he said :

I have been trained all my life to regard human life as sacred. I abhor violence and violent death. I do not particularly worry much about my own life, but I do worry a great deal about the children of today. How they should be taught, how they should be brought up, what kind of life they should live and what values they should cherish. I do not particularly distinguish between the lives of my own children and the lives of the children of other people. Nor do I distinguish between Burmese lives and American lives and Russian lives and Chinese lives. It is life itself that is threatened.

U Thant always took an unequivocal stand for the sanctity of life. He condemned war and violence in all their forms. In his Toronto speech

you will find many beautiful statements on non-violence and on the universal law of love and compassion for all living beings. He was against war, against nuclear weapons, against all armaments, against poverty, against all human suffering, and he never hesitated one moment to express his full commitment to life and non-violence, often to the great annoyance of the powerful, armed and wealthy.

He also voiced humanity's cry for mental fulfilment. As you know, he was a teacher. Although he usually didn't resort to such extreme words, he began the above speech as follows: "I am going to speak with a feeling of trepidation because I am going to speak about something which is very close to my heart: education." What he saw foremost in education was the fulfilment of the human mind. There can be no conscious life if a human being does not receive a minimum of education. Otherwise, how can he understand life? He pleaded constantly for the education of the children of the poor and for the work of UNESCO. But for him education was even more: it was the preparation of a universal, human brotherhood. Therefrom arose his great love and support for the international schools and his dream of a United Nations University. He believed that only through proper education would we be able to build the world of peace and kindness mankind had been always dreaming of. He said it to me very often in our private conversations.

His third cry was for morality. Here U Thant had a long list of cravings: e.g., his craving for truthfulness between nations. He wanted nations to be true to each other, not to lie, not to exaggerate, not to cheat, not to start from those falsehoods called "bargaining positions" which make international diplomacy a primitive market place. He craved for understanding between nations, non-violence, generosity, live and let-live. He believed in the magic of love and compassion in international relations. All this you will find reflected in his statements on apartheid, racism, colonialism, violations of human rights and whatever else is reprehensible on this planet. He was not just repeating the political slogans of the day. He was speaking from a sound, all-out commitment to human life. U Thant's great strength, the alpha and omega of all his action and thinking were the supremacy and centrality of the human person. In an impromptu farewell speech at a party offered for him by Planetary Citizens on 17 December 1971, he said:

What was my basic approach to all problems? What was the "system" I employed? I would describe it as the human approach or the central importance of the human element in all problems: political, economic, social, colonial, racial, etc. And when I say the human approach, some of you are aware of

my philosophy, of my basic concept regarding the human community and the human situation.

And once more he outlined the four categories:

There are certain variations and priorities in values. In my view, an ideal man or an ideal woman is endowed with four virtues, four qualities: physical qualities, mental qualities, moral qualities, and above all, spiritual qualities.

And once more he discussed the hierarchy between these values.

Let us now turn to the smile from divinity. By choosing this term, Sri Chinmoy has understood that the reign of spirituality has not yet come on this planet. The smile of divinity is a confident premonition of the next stage of evolution, understood as yet only by a very few people. U Thant foresaw the advent of a moral and spiritual age of humanity. He believed that it alone would bring peace and justice on Earth. For him, spirituality was an inner harmony, a purity, the individual's deep consciousness of the cosmos, of the world, of his relations with all living beings and people. This was for him the highest level an individual and humanity could reach. It was simply the full realization of human nature. Once you find

harmony through love, through compassion, through right behaviour, through respect for life and through peaceful relations with others, then you have enlightenment. Then you are in peace, you are a serene, harmonious, happy cosmos of your own. He said it many times. Unfortunately we are still a far cry from this higher stage of evolution. The western world has succeeded tremendously in the physical, intellectual and scientific spheres, but it has not yet perceived the fathomless treasures of moral and spiritual fulfilment. The heart and soul of Western man has not followed his mind. As U Thant said in his speech to the Planetary Citizens:

I am in no sense anti-intellectual, but the stress of education in the schools of highly developed societies, as I have stated on many previous occasions, is primarily on the development of the intellect or in physical excellence. To me, moral and spiritual aspects of life are far more important than the physical and intellectual aspects of life.

In his kind and unobtrusive way, U Thant was far ahead of our time. He saw for the entire world what you have discovered for yourselves, namely that thought, meditation, prayer, contemplation, inner search and interrogation are the link between the miracle of human life and divinity. Good physical lives—respect for one's body; good mental

lives—the acquisition of knowledge; good moral lives—the practice of love; and good spiritual lives—the practice of prayer and meditation, merge individual life with divinity. This is the royal way to peace and happiness. This is the path the next phase of human evolution will take.

I would like to conclude by saying this: humanity is finding the right road, awkwardly but surely. Much has been achieved for the physical and mental improvement of human lives, but it has not yet reached the entire world since two to three billion brethren and sisters are still living in poverty and ignorance. But in a great part of the world life now is generally long, good and healthy, and a school child knows more than any king or emperor in the entire history of man. Good bodies and good minds bring us nearer to divinity. The same is true of morality and spirituality: they are a fundamental part of man's aggrandizement. But here we have much progress to make. There has been great corruption and immorality of late in many countries. It was good, therefore, to hear President Carter stress in his inaugural address the need for a moral and spiritual renaissance. The people are crying for these virtues without which there can be no true civilization.

And so we progress, physically, mentally, morally and spiritually towards a higher level of human consciousness, towards that smile of divinity which knows that someday the human race will be

able to re-establish paradise on Earth. There is no longer much difference between the political approach and this broader, richer concept of human fulfilment. Government, public service, international agencies and most firms and institutions are seeking to bring about a better life, an increase in the happiness and consciousness of the people. This is also the aim of religions, which go a step further and include the heart, the soul, eternity and infinity. There are many religions, there are beliefs in many Gods, and there are faiths without a God (for example, Buddhism). For many, God is the symbol of that fullest life, knowledge, love and soul-consciousness man has been seeking since the beginnings of time.

U Thant often spoke of the law of Karma, the principle that every action has a reaction, good or evil. I am grateful to him for having taught me this law. I am grateful for so much I have learned from him, and I try to be a good echo of his good thinking, feelings and actions. I hope that his message will continue to spread, that the law of Karma will operate and that more and more people will understand that in his heart and mind he held the keys to the future peace and happiness of our world.



*Above: Sri Chinmoy presents a copy of his book *U Thant: Divinity's Smile and Humanity's Cry* to Dr. and Mrs. Myint-U.*

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



TO-MORROW'S NOON

(Continued from previous issue)

8.

As God's unconditional Compassion permeates humanity's entire being, even so, humanity's gratitude-heart can permeate God's entire creation.

9.

The study of etymology will undoubtedly make you a learned and great man. But if you know how to climb up the aspiration-tree in the inner world, then you become a wise man, which is infinitely more important than to become a learned man or a great man.

10.

A prevaricator is he who not only exploits God's Transcendental Truth, but also squanders God's Universal Bliss.

11.

A nefarious person is he who has destroyed his heart's beauty long before he has made his

nefarious attempt to destroy God's Reality-Beauty in others.

12.

If you are spontaneously gregarious, that means you have already taken a long stride to see the heart of oneness on the face of multiplicity.

13.

A simple and sincere seeker finds it extremely difficult to mix with either the intelligentsia or stark fools.

14.

When there is a fight between impurity and purity, humility's role as the intercessor is of tremendous importance.

15.

An intransigent person can never have peace of mind.

(Continued in next issue)

A WELCOME TO MR. ROBERT MULLER

On 7 January 1977 Sri Chinmoy welcomed Mr. Robert Muller, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination, 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 Mr. 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. In you I have already seen a true seeker of world peace, and I have already felt the truth-lover of world oneness, and I have already discovered a perfect instrument of the United Nations.

This is a most glowing tribute that you have paid to our most esteemed brother, U Thant, the Pilot of the United Nations. I have read it, and I have learned so many things, so many things about the lofty ideas and ideals that are centered around the great, noble soul U Thant. This tribute of yours has illumined me and the members of the Meditation Group far beyond your imagination.

So with the members of the United Nations Meditation Group I welcome you with my heart's deepest 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 in order to please the Absolute Pilot Supreme. Once more, on behalf of all the members of the Meditation Group I wish to offer, from the depths of our hearts, our soulful, everlasting gratitude to you, to your soul.

Mr. Robert Muller: Thank you very kindly for this beautiful gift. 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 peoples 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 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.

The little piece on U Thant which you were so kind to publish was the fruit of a meditation. The day when U Thant died, he was with me very peacefully. I could not think for a moment that he was leaving Earth. He was serene, he was peaceful, and he rendered me a great service by inspiring that little piece of writing which has led me to join you. He would be happy, I am sure, to see me here today. You have recognised the hand of fate and I am very obliged to you for it.

Mr. Donald Keys: This is a very moving moment for me, but beyond that, a very meaningful one for the United Nations and for all of us, because Robert Muller has always stood for and lived in the soul and heart of the United Nations in every move that he has made and every effort that he has undertaken.

It was both inevitable and fully proper that he would recognise and take refuge with us in the bosom of this great representative of the Supreme who is among us at this time. And I can only join in the heartfelt love that we all have for him, on this day of welcome to Robert Muller.



Sri Chinmoy welcomes Mr. Robert Muller as member of the U.N. Meditation Group.

At the invitation of President Carter's/Vice-President Mondale's Inaugural Committee, the Meditation Group ushered at the Inauguration Day early morning prayer service held at Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Wearing pink or blue blazers in the sub-freezing temperature, the Group gathered at 6:30 a.m. to pass out programmes, seat people and generally help with a crowd which grew to 5,000.

The 8:00 service was led by the Rev. Bruce Edwards of the Plains Baptist Church, who was assisted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr. Sherill Milnes, baritone, and Leontyne Price, soprano, of the Metropolitan Opera each sang a traditional hymn and 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,


Co-Chairperson

Second and F Streets S.W., Washington D.C. 20599, (202) 472-4000