

Meditation at the United Nations



MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE
UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

UNITED NATIONS:



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

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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

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.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The United Nations Meditation Group consists of U.N. delegates, staff members and NGO representatives 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 at New York Headquarters was inaugurated on 14 April 1970, when it invited the well-known mystic and philosopher Sri Chinmoy to lead its meetings. Since then the U.N.M.G. has sponsored conferences on the role of spirituality in world affairs, held symposia on the philosophy of world peacemakers, convened formal interfaith gatherings and hosted concerts, poetry readings and benefits for disaster relief and UNICEF at Headquarters in New York and in Geneva.

Schedule of Meetings:

Tuesdays: 1-2 p.m.
U.N. Secretariat, New York
Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium

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

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RECEPTIONS AT THE JHARNA-KALA GALLERY

U.N. EVENING AT THE JHARNA-KALA GALLERY

On 26 September 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group hosted a concert and dinner for U.N. delegates and staff at the colourful Jharna-Kala Gallery exhibiting Sri Chinmoy's paintings in the heart of Grand Central Station. Before the concert, the artist presented Colonel Trimble, Chief of U.N. Security, with the newly published Salute to the United Nations Security and Safety Service, a compilation by the Meditation Group of informative talks and personal interviews with 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.

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 “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 Mr. Robert Muller at the Jharna-Kala Gallery, New York (photo by Lloyd Hart).

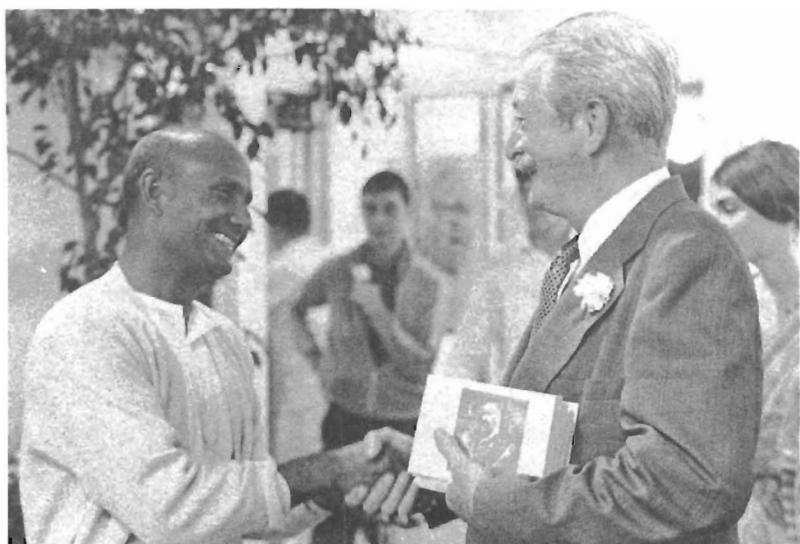
Sri Chinmoy dedicates the finished painting to Mr. Robert Muller (photo by Lloyd Hart).



Sri Chinmoy [*presenting the U.N. Security tribute book to Col. Trimble*]: You have been serving the United Nations for so many years. Your selfless service at the United Nations—what you have done and what you will do—will always be recorded within our gratitude-hearts. In our case we pray and meditate and then we try to manifest our prayer and meditation—in our own small way—through the same kind of selfless, dedicated service that you have been rendering to the United Nations.

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 extremely 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.



Sri Chinmoy presents A Salute to the United Nations Security and Safety Service to Chief of U.N. Security, Colonel Trimble (photo by Lloyd Hart).

Sri Chinmoy [To Mr. Roy Moyer]: I am so grateful that you have come tonight. My art is my very humble offering to the seekers. I am all admiration and gratitude for the service that you have been offering to the United Nations.

Mr. Roy Moyer of UNICEF Greeting Cards: I perform a very humble function.

Sri Chinmoy: On the contrary, you are serving the world at large. Each greeting card is like a new creation. The world gets from you this new creation.

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 (photo by Lloyd Hart).



Mr. David Rowe, Political Advisor to the U.S. Mission, with Sri Chinmoy (photo by Richard Howard).

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.

[About another painting] My reaction to red is not exactly positive. Red is energy and strength, in a way, but it also is symbolic of less controlled aspects of human energy. When I see it encased, it is controlled and I feel very reassured.

MAYOR BEAME HONOURED

On 28 September 1977, Mayor Beame was the 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. Following is a transcript of the occasion.

Mayor Beame [Shaking Sri Chinmoy's hand as Sri Chinmoy greets him outside the Gallery]: How are you?

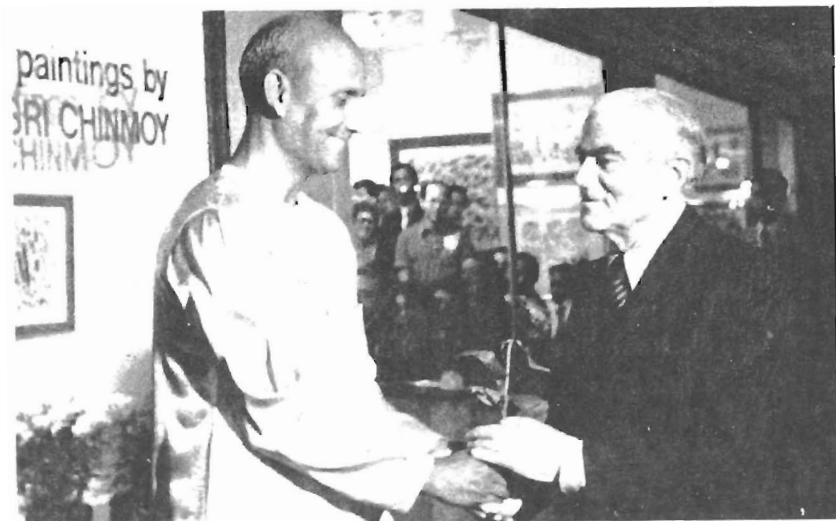
Sri Chinmoy: I am extremely grateful to you. It is so kind of you to come. I wish to offer you my deepest gratitude.

Mayor Beame: Thank you.

Sri Chinmoy [After welcoming the Mayor into the Gallery]: May I play for a couple of minutes on an Indian instrument, the esraj?

Mayor Beame: Yes.

Sri Chinmoy plays several of his own compositions on the esraj.



Sri Chinmoy greets Mayor Beame at the Jharna-Kala Gallery (photo by Richard Howard).

Sri Chinmoy paints a special picture for Mayor Beame (photo by Richard Howard).



Sri Chinmoy [*Presenting a plaque to the Mayor and reading out the inscription*]: To Mayor Beame, the unparalleled champion pilot of New York. Mayor Beame, the soul of New York will eternally treasure your matchless contributions to change the face and fate of each and every New Yorker. With deepest appreciation and admiration, the United Nations Meditation Group and Fountain-Art.

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: Now we have something else to offer you. Just two hours ago I composed a song in your honour and my students now are going to sing this song. I wish to offer this soulful song to your soul.

Mayor Beame: Thank you.

The singers sing "O Great Pilot, Mayor Beame."

Mayor Beame: What are you doing next week?
[*Laughter*] Thank you very much. I really enjoyed it; I appreciate it. I wish Mrs. Beame were here so she could hear it.

Sri Chinmoy: Now, with your kind permission, I wish to paint something. It will take only a few minutes. Right here, in front of you, I would like to paint one painting, and then I wish to offer it to you.

Mayor Beame: All right, fine.

Sri Chinmoy: This will be our third soulful offering to you.

In a matter of minutes, Sri Chinmoy paints a 16 x 20" original with acrylics.

Sri Chinmoy [Presenting the painting]: This is my humble offering.

Mayor Beame: Thank you. Thank you very much. If I knew I was going to get so much, I would have brought a valise or something. This is more than I've received in a long, long time, and I not only appreciate it for its material good, but more particularly for your sentiments. I very much appreciate it. Thank you. [*Applause*]

I wanted to thank the singers. Could I do that?

Sri Chinmoy: Yes, please.

Mayor Beame [*Shaking hands with all the singers*]: I just want to thank you. It was wonderful. Thank you.

[*To everyone*] Thank you, you've made my evening wonderful.

Woman from the audience: You made New York great! [*Applause*]

THE U.N. MEDITATION GROUP WITH MUHAMMAD ALI

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.

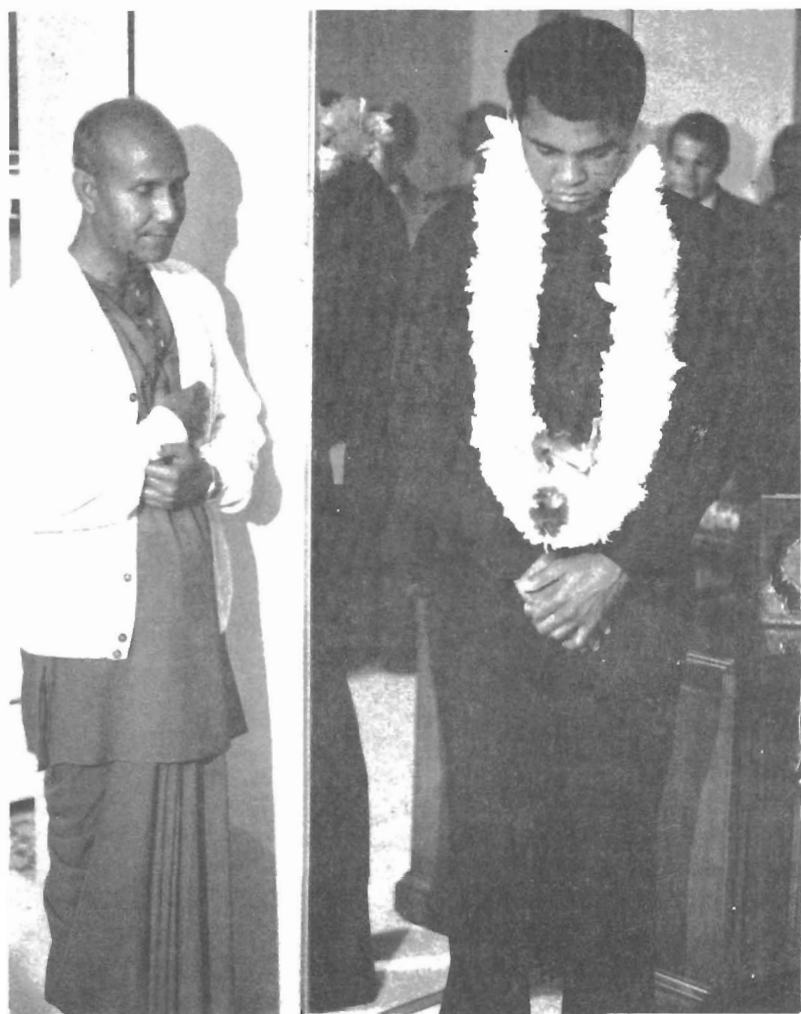
Sri Chinmoy garlanded the champion and presented him with a trophy, saying, "Along with this is my heart. My heart is inside this."

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.

Muhammad Ali: I was so obligated; I couldn't make it. I appreciated it. I was real honoured to get that invitation, but we couldn't make it. What do you do there?



Sri Chinmoy meditates with Muhammad Ali the morning of the Shavers fight.

Sri Chinmoy: 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.

Sri Chinmoy: You know the purpose. It is only a question of Allah’s Hour. You are the supreme instrument of Allah. Today He is utilising you as the greatest boxer. One day He will utilise you as the greatest preacher. The other day I was reading

in the newspaper about you as a preacher and minister. So, now your heart of love you are using for a special purpose.

Muhammad Ali: I'll only say one thing, Brother, not to cut you off. But I don't want and I never wanted the image of being the greatest preacher. Boxing is all publicity. In this country this is how we promote: "I'm the greatest. I'll get him in round seven." But this is not really my heart. This is just outer appearance to promote fights. I don't really feel this way. Ministry is so serious, and there everybody is equal before God. Therefore, I don't want to get the image of being the greatest preacher, because that's boastful; it is not humble, it is not spiritual. So I don't want to go into the thing-that I am the greatest preacher: just a minister, just a lecturer or helper.

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 very name 'Muhammad Ali' inspires millions of people on the vital plane. We cannot say that the vital plane is not good, that only the spiritual plane is good. No, all the planes are good; only some planes have to be elevated to a higher consciousness. Some planes need more purity, more determination, more awareness and more acceptance of light. 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.

Right now the physical is wallowing in the pleasures of ignorance-sleep; therefore, the physical needs to be awakened. The vital is aggressive quite often; therefore, the vital needs dynamism. The mind is full of doubt and uncertainty; therefore, the mind needs faith and certainty. The heart is full of insecurity; therefore, the heart needs confidence. When the wakefulness of the body, the dynamism of the vital, the faith and certainty of the mind and the confidence of the heart come forward and become one, then only does the individual become perfect.

Each individual as well as each nation has these good qualities. Since it is the individuals who form the country, it is always advisable for the individuals to bring these qualities forward first; then, whatever the country has will also come forward. When the individual brings forward his good qualities, it becomes easier for the country to bring forward its qualities.

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.

Right now, in the political world, the mental aspect is predominant. In political ways the countries are trying to establish oneness, peace, harmony and so forth. But in our Meditation Group we are trying to bring to the fore the psychic qualities, the inner qualities, which are peace, light, love, harmony and the feeling of oneness. The Meditation Group is aspiring soulfully and devotedly and, according to our inner capacity, each individual member here is receiving light directly from the soul of the United Nations. The soul of the United Nations has given us ample opportunity, out of its boundless bounty, to share with the rest of the world the peace that we get from it.

All religious faiths, all countries, are one on the inner plane. Outwardly they are still not seeing eye to eye with one another, but in the inner world, definitely they have gotten the message of the United Nations. Therefore, they have all come together here. They see that they are from one Source, and that only in the One will they get their ultimate satisfaction.

When Muhammad Ali accepted our invitation to be with him, it proved in abundant measure that the physical and the vital in him wanted illumination. The interview lasted for about an hour, and for about twenty minutes we meditated together soulfully and devotedly in pin-drop silence. If he had not been spiritual, he would not have granted the interview; nor would he have meditated with us

and accepted the fruits of our prayer and meditation. But he did meditate with us and receive what we offered to him, so we know definitely that he is spiritual in the purest sense of the term. He prayed with us and meditated with us and he shared with us wholeheartedly his inner divinity.

Many times I have been misunderstood when I see famous people. Some people think that I am going out of my spiritual domain, that I am entering into another world for name and fame. But those who have faith in me do not misunderstand me. Here I wish to say that each individual, no matter in which field he shines, has received some light from above. Since I am a seeker of the Absolute, the Supreme, out of his infinite Bounty, has also given me some light. This light I want to share with others who have received light from above and who are sharing it with the rest of the world in different fields and in different ways. We are all God's children. One son of His has achieved something. The other one comes to soulfully congratulate him and, while congratulating him, he brings with him his appreciation, admiration, good will, love and oneness. This is the exchange of our light.

To be with Muhammad Ali is not just a coincidence; nor is it a display of our vital emotion or exuberance in order to get name and fame. No, here the soul of the United Nations has given us a golden opportunity to spread its light and its mes-

sage of universal oneness. We are all seekers; we are all in the same boat. Therefore, I can safely say that this morning, while I was running from my house to the playground where we practise sports, I vividly saw—not with my third eye but with my human eyes—the soul of the United Nations. It was extremely happy and delighted at what we have achieved. As a matter of fact, it is the meaningful and fruitful blessing of the soul of the United Nations that has manifested in a tangible form in the divinely inspired meeting between Muhammad Ali and our Meditation Group.

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.

Sri Chinmoy opened the programme with silent meditation, followed by some brief remarks by Mr. Donald Keys, Registrar of Planetary Citizens.

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.



Mr. Donald Keys of Planetary Citizens speaks about President Carter (photo by Richard Howard).

The following excerpts are taken from President Carter's address to the General Assembly on 4 October 1977.

We have survived and surmounted major challenges since the UN was founded, but we can accelerate progress even in a world of ever increas-

ing diversity. A commitment to strengthen international institutions is vital, but progress lies also in our national policies. We can work together and form a community of peace if we accept the kind of obligations I have suggested.

We must share these obligations for our mutual survival and prosperity.

We can see a world at peace. We can work for a world without want. We can build a global community dedicated to these purposes and to human dignity.

The view that I have sketched for you, today, is that of one leader in only one nation. However wealthy and powerful the United States may be—however capable of leadership—this power is increasingly relative, the leadership increasingly in need of being shared. No nation has a monopoly of vision, of creativity, of ideas. Bringing these together from many nations is our common responsibility and challenge. For only in these ways can the idea of a peaceful global community grow and prosper.

Unless we establish a code of international behaviour in which the resort to violence becomes increasingly irrelevant to the pursuit of national interests, we will crush the world's dreams for human development and the full flowering of human freedom.

We have already become a global community— but only in the sense that we face common problems and share, for good or ill, a common future. In this community, power to solve the world's problems—particularly economic and political power— no longer lies solely in the hands of a few nations. Power is now widely shared among many nations with different cultures, histories and aspirations. The question is whether we will allow our differences to defeat us or whether we will work together to realize our common hopes for peace.

Fourteen years ago, one of my predecessors spoke in this room under circumstances that in certain ways resembled these. It was a time, he said, of comparative calm and there was an atmosphere of rising hopes about the prospect of controlling nuclear energy. The first specific step had been taken to limit the nuclear arms race—a test-ban treaty signed by nearly a hundred nations.

But the succeeding years did not live up to the optimistic prospect John F. Kennedy placed before this Assembly because, as a community of nations, we failed to address the deepest sources of potential conflict among us.

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, 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.

A brief part of their conversation follows. Here Miss Lillian was talking about the U.N. Meditation Group's public concert that evening.

Miss Lillian: Well, this is going to be a lovely night. I hope you have a crowd. People don't understand this. I don't know whether many people will be here or not. Have you heard?

Mr. Steven Hein: We really don't know if a lot of people will come or not. There was a little article in the newspaper.

Miss Lillian: Yes, and weren't you in Plains this afternoon?

Mr. Steven Hein: Yes. There are a few posters up there.

Miss Lillian: But here they don't understand. I am the only one who does, and I wouldn't miss it; but I hope you're going to have a nice crowd.

Sri Chinmoy: With your kind permission, may I meditate for a minute?

Miss Lillian: Oh yes. [*To the group*] He wants me to be quiet!

Sri Chinmoy: Not in the least! Far from it. Please forgive me. My students had informed me that you would like me to meditate for a minute, that's why.

Miss Lillian: Y'all better be quiet now; we're going to meditate.

[*Silent meditation for four or five minutes.*]

Sri Chinmoy: Thank you.

Miss Lillian: Thank you. Very nice.

Sri Chinmoy: Now I wish to offer a soulful song to you, which I composed yesterday. It is about you. First I would like to sing it and then my students will sing it for you. Could my students come in now, please?

[*They open the door and additional members of the United Nations Meditation Group come in.*]

Sri Chinmoy: Just yesterday I composed it in honour of you.

Miss Lillian: Wonderful! Y'all come in! [*Turning to the Secret Service agent accompanying her*] Ray, you should see the little piano, little organ, or what-do-you-call-it! [*To the members of the Meditation Group*] Good afternoon.

Sri Chinmoy: These are the members of the United Nations Meditation Group.

Miss Lillian: Beautiful, beautiful. The saris are gorgeous. I never could wear one because I couldn't put it on. Hello! Hello! How many are there?

Sri Chinmoy: Here there are about forty.

Miss Lillian: Wonderful.

[*Sri Chinmoy sings the song Compassion-Ocean, Mother Lillian, accompanying himself on the tote-a-tone.*]

Miss Lillian: That's beautiful.

Sri Chinmoy: Now they will sing.

[*The members of the United Nations Meditation Group sing Compassion-Ocean, Mother Lillian.*]

Miss Lillian: You just don't know me. I'm not that good! Oh boy, this is wonderful! But I just really don't deserve all this.

Sri Chinmoy: You deserve all this and much, much more.

Miss Lillian: Oh, no, no, no, I don't. This is just beautiful.

Sri Chinmoy: And we mean it. What we have sung, we literally mean it.

Miss Lillian: Thank you, thank you, Sir.

Sri Chinmoy: ...It is all of our hearts' feelings.

Miss Lillian: Thank you very much. It is a great honour that you are doing this for me. But you don't know me. Ray knows me, though. He knows that I'm not that good. Don't you, Ray? It's beautiful. Let me ask you something. Do you go everywhere with...I call him Mr. Chinmoy...all together all the time?

U.N. Meditation Group member: As often as we can.

Sri Chinmoy: We have many more students. We have about eight hundred or so.

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.

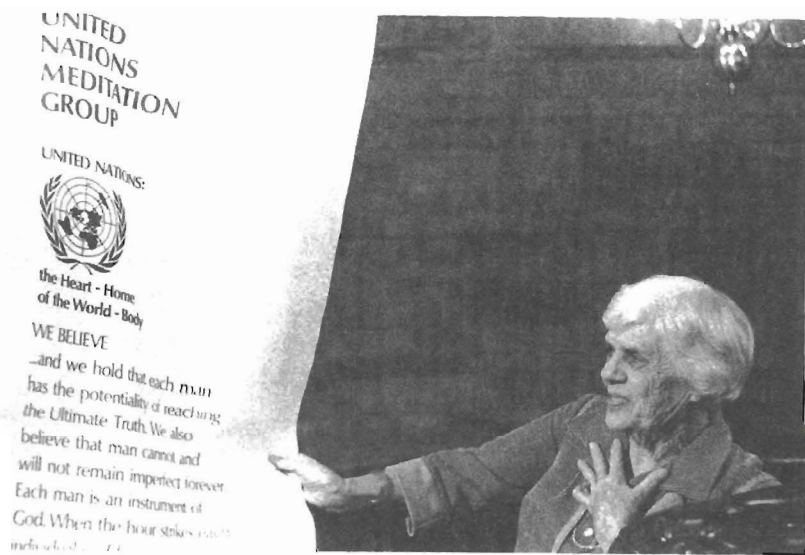
Miss Lillian: Do you want me to tell you the truth? I don't know what I was thinking about, but I had a thousand thoughts. I can't get everything out of my head like you can. When you meditate, you completely bare your mind, don't you?

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 (photo by Richard Howard).



Sri Chinmoy meditates with Miss Lillian (photo by Richard Howard).



Meditation Group Members chat with Miss Lillian (photo by Richard Howard).

At the concert that the U.N. Meditation Group presented later that evening, 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."

During the concert Sri Chinmoy commented:

Sri Chinmoy: I am a seeker. I have been here for six or seven hours. On the strength of my aspiration, I wish to say what I feel about Plains. Simplicity, sincerity, spontaneity, humility and self-giving are the birthright of this town. This is what my inner aspiration tells me and I wish to offer my soulful gratitude to the soul of this town where our dear President was born.

(14)

United Nations Group Gives Concert

By James L. Barlow

Last Thursday, the United Nations Meditation Group visited our community while in the area to give a free concert in nearby Americus. The Group is under the leadership of Sri Chinmoy who for the last seven years has held meditation sessions twice weekly for United Nations delegates and staff. Approximately thirty of his Group accompanied him on this tour with the Plains area as their ultimate destination.

Sri Chinmoy is an accomplished writer, poet, musician, and painter - giving credit for his talents to the grace of God working through humanity. He presently resides in Jamaica, New York where he serves as Director of the Meditation Group at the UN. There are Sri Chinmoy centers throughout the United States and the world with a total of nine hundred members. Members from the Miami center joined the UN group here in Plains. The concerts are free with each member paying his own expenses. The Meditation Group, according to one spokesman, seeks through these concerts to share their experiences, not to

make converts.

Last January, Sri Chinmoy was invited by the Carter Inaugural Committee to come to Washington as a special guest clergyman. Members of the Meditation Group were also invited to serve as ushers at the national prayer service and later volunteered as parade marshals. For the Inaugural Sri Chinmoy composed a special poem with accompanying music which is presented at the completion of this article.

The Meditation Group had left New York some twenty hours before arriving at their destination in Plains and Americus. Many of the ladies wore the sari dresses native to India - dresses which, according to one spokesman, represent purity, modesty, and beauty. The wearing of the sari is not mandatory but aids in meditation. The men usually wear white as a symbol of cleanliness and purity. White also serves to calm the mind and aid in meditation.

The Group seemed to enjoy their trip to Plains. They first went on a tour of the unique sights of the President's hometown. Next they walked down

Main Street where they were greeted by the President's cousin, Hugh Carter. The State Senator showed them several of the sights of Plains such as the different buildings of the Carter Peanut Warehouse, and the office of Hugh Carter's Worm

Farm. Senator Carter entertained the Group with some anecdotes of his and Jimmy's boyhood. The Group seemed especially to enjoy the story of how the President and Hugh Carter sold ice cream to farmers on Saturday.

Then the Group ventured down to Carter's Warehouse where Chip Carter met Sri Chinmoy and had his picture taken with the Group. Shortly after, the Group boarded their

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Director Sri Chinmoy and the United Nations Meditation Group gather in the park for a group photo while visiting "America's Hometown."



Chip Carter meets Director Sri Chinmoy in front of the Carter Warehouse.

Meditation Group

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cantankerous bus for a return to Americus to prepare for their concert.

Members of the Meditation Group stated that they enjoyed their trip to our community. We were asked by several to thank the citizens of Plains for the courtesies shown to them while on their visit. The people of Plains, likewise, seemed to enjoy the Group's visit to our town. We hope that they found their stay worthwhile and had a safe journey back home.

Following is the Inaugural poem by Director Sri Chinmoy.

PRESIDENT: BEAUTY'S MIND AND DUTY'S HEART

By Sri Chinmoy

Carter, Carter, you are your Vision's start.

You are your beauty's mind and duty's heart.

Your power-light has smashed the ignorance-dart.

In you the Country's promise-soul

With you its great perfection-goal

Your surprise-gift: your oneness-role

Your golden boat is sailing at lightning speed

The smiles and tears of the world your heart shall feed.

In you at last fulfilled your Nation's need.

UNITED NATIONS
MEDITATION GROUP CONCERTS

The Meditation Group gave several concerts during the month of October 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 Puran Sharma and his wife.

At the beginning of the programme Sri Chinmoy addressed the audience: "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."

On 15 October 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 Group at Carnegie Recital Hall.



Dr. and Mrs. Myint-U receive prasada, a blessing-gift, from Sri Chinmoy (photo by Lloyd Hart).

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.

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.

In this context, there has been some confusion about the concept and indeed operations of the Model United Nations idea. Often, the exercise seems to be a way of imposing or taking the U.N.

structure and running world youth through it in certain ways. Yet, I believe that the idea is much more than this: it really is a two-way channel between world youth and the world organization—a model of the world community as embodied in the United Nations and a model of the hopes and aspirations of young people throughout the world.

I was asked to recall, in this regard, some personal experiences relating to this question. In the 1950's, I was at a camp in the mountains of North Carolina, U.S.A., which brought together approximately 500 young people for summer activities—one of which was a model U.N. session. I recall that the organizers divided everyone up according to national delegations and I remember for the first time in my life envisaging and experiencing to a degree what actually happens in the General Assembly and Security Council from the perspective of national delegations (on one level) and world youth (on a second level). This was long before the time when simulation games were very popular in colleges, universities and high schools.

Yet, this type of exercise has been going on now for well over fifty years. During the time of the League of Nations, there were several such activities which reflected these two levels of the model world organization idea. In 1927, an International Student Committee began to function under the League's International Institute for Intellectual Co-

operation in Paris, and encouraged, among other activities, the convening of model League of Nations meetings for young people in association with the International Federation of League of Nations Societies. Then, in 1936, there was a World Youth Congress in Geneva, Switzerland, convened by the International Federation of League of Nation Societies, which brought together young people from many European countries to discuss world problems. In organizing the congress, the Federation was concerned with the fact that almost everywhere "the younger generation was seeking to leave the tracks of the traditional social and political parties." The ex-servicemen of the Great War had already tried to introduce a new spirit of peace into the conduct of public affairs. Unfortunately, without much success, since seventeen years after the armistice of 1918, the Disarmament Conference had broken down, like the Economic Conferences organized by the League of Nations, and unjust wars had been carried on successfully for a period in Manchuria (China) and later in Abyssinia (Ethiopia).

Thus, it was felt that the hour had come for the generation which was not old enough to have participated in the world war itself to take action for the reform of international and social policies that their elders had followed with such unhappy results. The objects of this first World Youth Congress were:

1. To provide an opportunity for youth in all countries to exchange ideas on international affairs and to reach agreement on a common plan of international co-operation for the prevention of war and the organization of peace;

2. To discuss concrete possibilities of co-operation between youth of all countries, based upon mutual understanding and mutual respect for opinion, to attain those ends; and

3. To strengthen the links between the organizations of youth themselves and between youth and the League of Nations Societies.

The second World Youth Congress was convened in Poughkeepsie, New York, U.S.A. at Vassar College in August, 1938 by the International Federation of League of Nations Societies. More than 600 delegates and observers representing youth organizations in 54 countries and 18 international organizations debated the serious problems confronting the world community on the verge of World War II. Indeed, with wars already in progress and with serious threats of a world war impending, a world congress of young people representing all races and religious convictions and many political tendencies, met to discuss and plan activities "to meet the current economic and political crises." This second World Youth Congress represented a significant growth. Not only were more countries represented than at Geneva two years earlier, but each delegate came as an

official spokesman for a youth organization and there were many more delegations from Latin American nations. As the report stated, "Equal in importance was the splendid representation from the colonial countries. For the first time in the history of international youth and student meetings, European domination was impossible."

Thirty-two years later, after World War II, and yet with other wars dividing mankind in Indo-China and the Near East, the United Nations itself convened the first U.N. World Youth Assembly in July, 1970 at U.N. Headquarters as part of the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the world organization. After World War II, UNESCO, the UN/OPI, and the World Federation of United Nations Associations had begun to promote the convening of model United Nations meetings for young people. Now, all Member States of the U.N. were invited to send up to five young people to participate in the first U.N. World Youth Assembly and similar invitations were sent to several non-self-governing territories. In addition, the Planning Committee, composed of thirteen international youth and student associations, was authorized to select up to 126 young people. This Committee in turn invited some national and international youth and student organizations to nominate candidates, among whom were young people from countries and territories not represented in the United Nations. All participants

were admitted to the Assembly on an equal basis and exercised the same rights, and 653 youth delegates from 120 Member States, 13 non-Member States and territories, and 36 world youth and youth serving organizations and several hundred young volunteers attended this first U.N. World Youth Assembly, which at its third plenary meeting, accepted the proposed agenda comprising four major topics: world peace, development, education and man and environment. Notice the absence of the moral and spiritual dimensions which were prevalent during the first and second League of Nations World Youth Congresses and notice the increasing popularity of these moral and spiritual dimensions in the transnational youth culture which has emerged over recent years.

So, if one looks at these world youth congresses and assemblies convened by the world organization over the past fifty years during the period of both the League and U.N. systems of world order, one begins to understand the differences and similarities of these events to the Model U.N. idea. One basic difference is that, at least the first U.N. World Youth Assembly did not divide up its participants into national delegations, but simply attempted to unite them as representatives of world youth, reflecting the needs and aspirations of youth to the major challenges confronting the U.N., the world community and indeed "the succeeding generation." In this context, the Model

U.N. invariably takes the General Assembly as its framework and divides the young participants into national delegations.

I would like to point out that the General Assembly, as the heart of the world body, reflects both the nation-state concept and the attempt to go beyond it via transnational co-operation. So, from my vantage point, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Gannon College Model United Nations provides a wonderful opportunity to follow up the pioneering work of the first and second World Youth Congresses and first U.N. World Youth Assembly, and the Department of Political Science of Gannon College and the students associated with planning and directing the project should be commended for carrying out and cultivating this idea over the past twenty-five years. And I would hope that in this Model U.N., that these two fundamental issues could be reflected: the national and transnational/yin and yang heart of the world organization. The national perspectives can be learned from the simulated meetings debating the problems as perceived by the African, Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern, European and North American delegations. But, at the same time, I would hope that the young people have a way of transcending the nation-state and perceive ways and means to build bonds of transnational co-operation. This yin and yang of life at the U.N., nationalism and transnationalism, go hand

in hand at the organization—ironically, but actually. The nation-states have to come together increasingly now at the General Assembly, not simply to have their time in the lime-light, to make speeches and to pursue their own national interests. At the same time, and not always intentionally, the seeds of transnational cooperation are planted through functional interests which bond rather than divide the world community. So, I would hope that the twenty-fifth Model U.N. at Gannon College and others around the world would not only reflect the U.N. structure *per se*, but the hopes of young people throughout the world in providing some analytical thought and physical, moral and indeed spiritual energy to transcend these problems from a global perspective.

Ms. Therese Niedenberger: I would like to thank all of you today for letting me speak about the Gannon College Model United Nations. I'm the Secretary-General for the twenty-fifth General Assembly which is held in Erie, Pennsylvania every November.

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.

The college students act only in a supervisory capacity. They do not advise in any of the committee meetings. I had a staff of approximately forty-five students which oversee the high school students. This year we expect over one thousand students from over eighty-five high schools. These high schools are spread out over the tri-state area of Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania. The high schools will be heading up to Gannon on November 11 and 12 for two days of heavy debate. The students are broken down into five committees and the Security Council.

The topics to be discussed this year are the African crisis, the Middle East crisis, human rights, revisions in the U.N. Charter and international control of drug traffic. I might add that much research has preceded this General Assembly. The students get together with the other students in their district and have meetings and design the resolutions before they come up to Gannon. Before the Security Council, we have simulation games dealing with international crises which the students have to react to. All resolutions in the committees go before the General Assembly. Role playing is heavily stressed within the high school delegations. Every high school delegation represents a different country and not only attempts to represent that country in ideology, but also in costume.

As I stated before, this year we are celebrating our twenty-fifth anniversary. The Assistant Secretary-General and myself have written a book on the history

of the Model U.N. at Gannon, which will be coming out next week and I will send you several copies. We are also very happy that Mr. Keefe and Mr. Curchack will be able to come to our Model U.N. this year, and I invite any of you who wish to come to please do so. Your recognition of us will make the future of our organization all the more promising.

Now I would like to read out a letter from the Secretary-General:



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

5 October 1976

I take great pleasure in extending my best wishes to the participants and organizers of the Twenty-fourth Annual Model United Nations which is sponsored by the Department of Political Science of Gannon College.

It is very desirable that young people everywhere should become thoroughly acquainted with the aims and activities of the United Nations. One of the most effective ways of achieving this is through Model United Nations which provide an excellent framework for learning about the procedures and the substance of the work of the world Organization. By taking part in such simulated diplomatic meetings, every participant is bound to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of international life, and a better appreciation of the great potential as well as of the present limitations of the United Nations.

I trust that this Model United Nations will be instructive and enjoyable for all participants, and that they will maintain their interest in world affairs in the years ahead.


Kurt Waldheim



Mr. William Angel



Ms. Therese Niedenberger

UNITED NATIONS 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.

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. The authorities were so pleased with the song that they asked that it be performed at the finish line of next year's 26-mile race, and also during the awards ceremony.

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 acknowledgement 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.



The U.N. Meditation Group Singers sing Sri Chinmoy's "Marathon" song for Ambassadors and world-class runners (photo by Lloyd Hart).



Sri Chinmoy presents a trophy to world-class runner Miki Gorman of Japan (photo by Lloyd Hart).

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