

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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UNITED NATIONS MEDITATION GROUP

(1)

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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(2)

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.

(3)

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

Wednesdays: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

U.N. Secretariat, New York

Fridays: 12 noon to 1 p.m.

U.N. Secretariat, New York
Room 550

Tuesdays: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

U.N. Secretariat, Geneva

(4)

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MARTIN LUTHER KING: HUMANITY'S ASPIRATION-HERO

On 29 November 1977, Mrs. Coretta Scott King joined diplomats and staff in a meditation and tribute at U.N. Headquarters honouring her husband, the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Meditation Group Singers sang three songs composed by Group Director Sri Chinmoy for the occasion—one song in Dr. King's honour and two using Dr. King's words. The entire text of the programme, part of which is scheduled to be televised over WPIX-TV on Dr. King's birthday, is available in pamphlet form.

Following are brief excerpts from each of the speeches.



Sri Chinmoy presents a bouquet to Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

Sri Chinmoy, Director of the U.N. Meditation Group: Martin Luther King, beloved king of the heart-world, unhorizoned vision of the mind-world, hero-warrior of the vital-world, life-sacrificer of the body-world, to you my aspiration-dedication-life bows.

The Saviour-Son gave humanity the lesson of compassion and forgiveness. India's Mahatma Gandhi, with his message of non-violence, proved to be an excellent student. In America the Absolute Supreme chose you to be His unparalleled student, to love divinely the soul of His creation and to serve unreservedly the body of His creation.

We, the members of the United Nations Meditation Group, bow to you lovingly, devotedly and soulfully.



Opening meditation.



Mr. Paul O'Dwyer, President of the City Council of New York City: Friends, Mrs. Coretta King, I am grateful, for the opportunity of joining with so many people in this meditation ceremony and to be at a place where Sri Chinmoy is. It is altogether appropriate that he conduct the services here that commemorate the life and times of Martin Luther King because he is an apostle of peace and an apostle of non-violence. I think it is important for us at this time in the history of the world, that we contemplate on the tremendous problems that confronted Martin Luther King at the time that he embarked on a most difficult assignment. It is quite easy when one suffers from tyranny and oppression for over centuries to resort to violence. It is not easy to attempt to lead such people into an atmosphere of non-violence to bring about the end of the problems which have caused so much difficulty in the world.



Ambassador Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania, Chairman, Special Committee of 24 on Decolonization: One of the most inspiring aspects of Dr. King's life was his understanding and commitment to oppose the injustices not only in his own country but in the world at large. His unequivocal early opposition to the Vietnam War is a case in point. So was his total opposition to colonialism and racism in Africa. In the process, he linked the civil rights struggle in the United States with the general struggle against foreign domination and injustice.

Yet with all the bitter experiences, humiliation and degradation, it is to the greatest credit of Dr. King that he was not an embittered man seeking revenge and reprisal. His was a life truly dedicated to human equality, understanding and fraternity. In a sense, therefore, in him was symbolized some of the lofty goals of the United Nations. We shall overcome.



Ambassador Leslie O. Harriman of Nigeria, Chairman, Special Committee Against Apartheid: We, in Africa, recognize the symbolism of the presence of Mrs. Coretta King and Andy Young, the two closest associates of Martin Luther King, as the spokesmen of the United States at the United Nations.

The United States has not yet aligned herself fully with us in the crucial struggle which is going on in southern Africa. But I wish to believe that its conscience has awakened.

Yesterday, to be black meant to be oppressed, humiliated and despised.

Today, to be black has come to mean the burden of leadership, a vanguard role, in the struggle to free the whole of humanity of prejudice and iniquity, and to break down the barriers that segment it.



Ambassador Al Lowenstein of the United States:
Each of us has to, as we meet together, find the applicability of what we know to be essential now as the priority of our agenda, as human beings, as nations, as representatives. And if it's true that Andy Young is symbolic of what Martin Luther King tried to do, and now speaks for our country here, and if it's true that in Mrs. King we have one of the preeminent souls in the world sitting amongst us, and if it's true that Dr. King's father was the man that brought the benediction to the White House for the people of America, if it's true that the hands that picked the cotton in Mississippi picked the President this time around, so must it also be true that out of all of the hatreds and festering injustices that have pockmarked the whole of the human experience, this spirituality and this meditation, this quality has to now come through triumphant finally, lest the planet itself not survive.

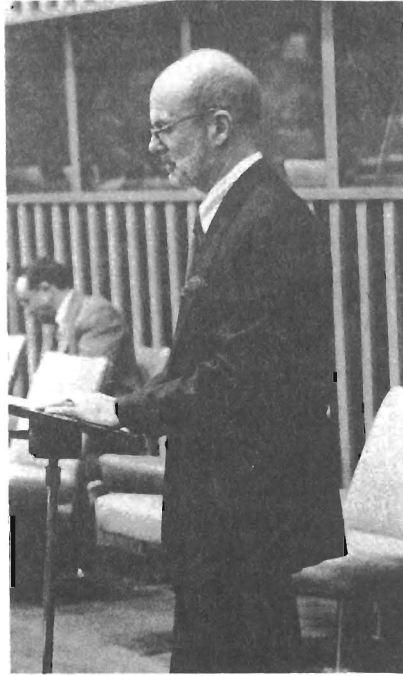
That's why we're here. And that's why we're grateful to the people who organized a programme like this to try to bring together past divisions into something that will lead us, in the words of Aeschylus, "to tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of this world."



The United Nations Meditation Group singers perform original songs by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., some of which were composed to the civil rights leader's own words.



Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: In the true American way Martin Luther King had his roots in Africa, bore the name of a European and professed a Christian faith born in the Middle East. His life and work overflow with the unmistakable accents of true vision and greatness. One could quote endlessly thoughts and words of his which make one's heart vibrate, which inspire, which elevate, which make us feel better, greater and proud to be a human. Everything he did and said bore the stamp of that same great human dream which is also being sought here under this roof. This is why he was described as a first citizen of the world, a man of all ages and of all continents. We find in him the same ultimate message which was left to us by Dag Hammarskjold and U Thant, namely that love is the secret to all secrets, the great transcending force which alone can change our society.



Mr. Donald Keys of Planetary Citizens: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. King always dealt with humanity in its largest sense. Martin Luther King, Jr. sowed the seeds of a mighty transformation in human relations. In the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change which you, Coretta Scott King, founded, you are protecting, nurturing and multiplying those seeds. In world affairs, Andrew Young, chief disciple of Martin Luther King, is sowing the same seeds of harmlessness, non-violence and creative love.

Thus the task begun goes on, and this is the greatest possible tribute to a great man and a divinely inspired team.



Mr. Jeff Kamen, U.N. Correspondent, WPIX-TV News: Martin Luther King, Jr. freed many people, even some reporters. In many ways he liberated me. Twelve years ago I was assigned to radio reports on Dr. King, virtually everywhere he went. And that brought me face to face with him, his philosophy of creative non-violence and the tremendous changes he was helping to bring about in the United States. Dr. King's charisma, I learned, was drawn not from the love of power, but rather from the power of love. He never forgot for a moment exactly who he was, a humble servant of God.



(Photo: United Nations)

Mrs. Coretta Scott King: God give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can change and the wisdom to know the difference.

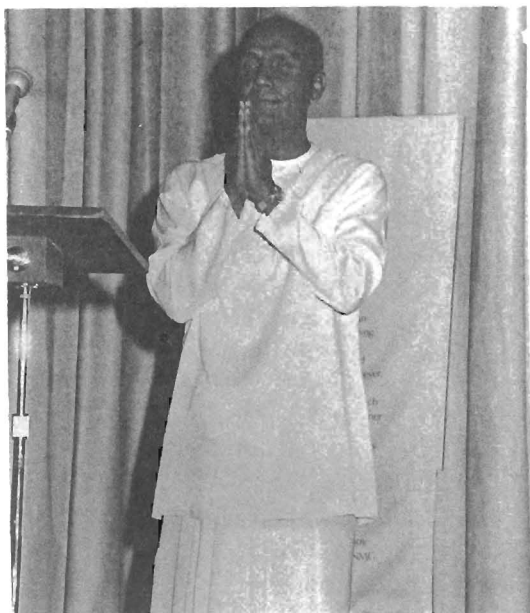
I want to first express my deep gratitude to the United Nations Meditation Group and to all of you in the United Nations and from the City of New York, who have gathered here in this special tribute to the life and contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr. Your words have been, indeed, an inspiration to me. And to have heard what has been said by representatives of nations around the world, who have understood Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message and his great life commitment, certainly inspires me personally to continue in the struggle which we are all a part of here, I feel, at the United Nations, to liberate those who are oppressed and to bring about a better quality of life for all people in this world and certainly in our nation, where I am a citizen.

A message extended to Mrs. Coretta Scott King by H.E. Ms. Shirley Gbujama, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, upon her return to New York from Africa:

As a student in the United States in the early 60's, I was deeply moved by the practical demonstration of love and concern for humanity of Martin Luther King, Jr. How can we fail to realise that all he did in life, and is doing in death, has been made possible through the tremendous spiritual dimension of his life. We thank almighty God for both of your lives. I pray that your philosophy of non-violence continues to flourish in its appeal to human conscience over the violence of racism, selfishness, greed, injustice and economic strangulation, all of which have unbearable effects on the very survival of their victims. It is necessary that this must be so, in order to avoid that violence which is often the result of despair.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

On 9 December 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group sponsored an observance at U.N. Headquarters of Human Rights Day, featuring the dedication of the song "O Human Rights," written by Sri Chinmoy. The full text of the programme is available in pamphlet form. Following are brief excerpts from each of the speakers.



Sri Chinmoy, Director, United Nations Meditation Group: Human Rights Day, what is it? Is it a day of hope? If so, what is hope? Hope is tomorrow's earth-illuminating reality founded upon humanity's purity-heart.

Human Rights Day, what is it? Is it a day of promise? If so, what is promise? Promise is constant self-giving.

Human Rights Day, what is it? Is it a day of achievement? If so, what is achievement? Achievement is man's complete perfection in the inner world and man's total satisfaction in the outer world.



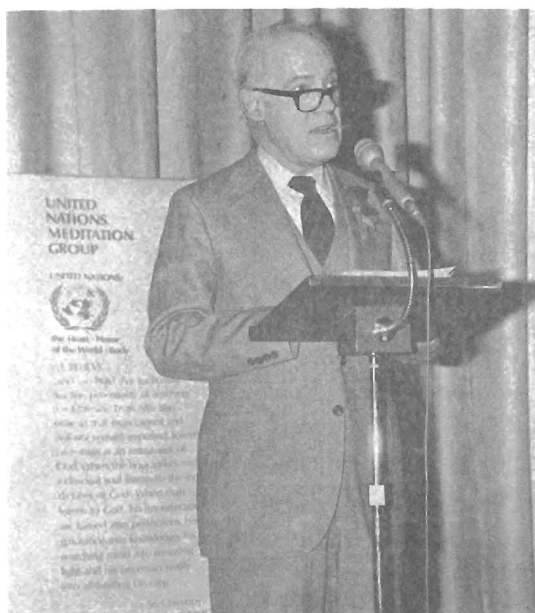
Statement from Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, presented by Mr. Virendra Dayal, Regional Representative for the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees: I remember back in the early sixties when I was on mission in what was then still called the Congo. At that time a group of refugees from Rwanda had arrived in the province of North Kivu in the most isolated and inaccessible area covered with virgin forest. We travelled hundreds of kilometres over dirt track in our Land Rovers with their United Nations symbols. When we finally

arrived, what struck me was not only their extreme need and their tragedy, but their reaction to us. They could not believe that someone had come all that way, had found them, that an organisation called the United Nations which was so far away was there to help them. Fortunately, we were able to help, just as we have been able to help millions in all parts of the world who through no fault of their own have been forced to flee their homes.



Mr. B. Ramcharan, Special Assistant to the Director, Division of Human Rights, United Nations, New York: I think that we have to seriously examine, at the present juncture, whether or not it is more important to follow what I choose to call the quiet approach in the question of human rights. I am of the considered view that we make best progress in the area of human rights

when we act in a quiet manner and when we can talk to each other rather than confronting each other politically. I think that the United Nations might also think more and more these days about whether the traditional forms and methods of diplomacy ought to be applied to human rights here. By acting diplomatically, and by that very fact alone, very often we are denying the human element which we should be emphasizing.



Congressman Charles W. Whelan, Jr., United States delegate to the 32nd General Assembly: The efforts of both the executive and legislative branches of the United States government in the field of human rights have the overwhelming support of the American people.

We in the United States, however, feel that our bilateral initiatives undoubtedly would be more

effective if international bodies were to conduct complementary activities. Thus, we hope the global institutions such as the United Nations will expand their undertakings in the area of human rights. The efforts of the United Nations Meditation Group and similar organizations must be continued and indeed accelerated if this objective is to be realized. You are to be congratulated on the fine work you already have done in generating awareness for human rights. But our concern must never flag for those who have been arbitrarily imprisoned, tortured or discriminated against in any country of the world.



Mr. Brady Tyson, Advisor, United States Mission to the United Nations: Before such a cosmopolitan and international group, I am sure you will forgive me if I address you in the Meditation Group not

only in the accents of an American Texan, but also in the language of a Methodist preacher, because, like my boss, Andrew Young, I am first and foremost a preacher.

Father, after we have been assured once again, by Thy Spirit bearing witness with our spirit, that we are sons and daughters of Thine, we know that Thy Will once again will send us out into this world, that we might there promote and protect the dignity of all persons, that we might never be insensitive, that we might always be open to the hurts of others—even though those hurts become ours also and we must once again cry unto Thee for help and for strength. It is Thy Grace that has brought us safe thus far, it is Thy Grace that will sustain us in the days and weeks and years to come, it is Thy Grace that will give us the tranquility and the peace and the strength to overcome the evil in this world with the power of Thy Love.

Dr. Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: We must establish reverence for life as the cornerstone of all future civilization: reverence for life not only by individuals, but also institutions, foremost among them, nations. Institutions were created originally for the good of the people. This is their main merit and the justification of their existence. And yet nations are developing and stockpiling incredible arsenals of murderous weapons meant for millions and millions of people, possibly for all human beings. The same nations come to this house and speak about human rights. Well, then they must be reminded of the first and most sacred of all human rights: the right to life and the right not to kill. Perhaps if we approach



the whole question of human rights and disarmament from the fundamental principle of reverence for life, we might achieve some progress. As a humanist and as a member of the human race who has seen so many killings and violations of basic human rights during his life, I just cannot conceive and accept the idea of a peaceful and orderly planet of armed nations. As we approach the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, I would therefore hope that nations will be reminded most forcefully of this foremost, fundamental, sacred and inalienable right and obligation of all human beings on this planet: "Thou shall not kill, not even in the name of a nation."



Mr. Winston Frost, Attorney-at-Law, Chairman of the Board, Suffolk Industrial Development Agency: "World peace through world trade" is a slogan for our 300-acre industrial park, located adjacent to the Suffolk County Airport, on the eastern end of Long Island, in an area endowed with many natural resources and with an enlightened work force. It may seem far-fetched to relate an industrial park to human rights. However, there is in fact a relation. One of the human rights seldom mentioned is the right to work, and while it is all well and good to talk about guaranteeing human rights in the undeveloped parts of the world, we must not overlook conditions as they exist in our own backyard.

O HUMAN RIGHTS

O Human Rights Divine!
 In harmony world you shine.
 You are the Voice of Light
 and blue Perfection-Height.
 Yours is the supreme role:
 to change the cosmos dole.
 You are the only strength
 of Heaven's Vision length.
 Division-bondage-doom
 no more—
 All oneness-bloom.

O HUMAN RIGHTS words & music by Sri Chinmoy

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fine

O Hu---man Rights----- di----- vine

In--- har-mo-ny world----- you--- shine-----

You are the voice of light----- and---

blue----- per-----fec-----tion height----- Yours

is the Su-preme role--- to change--- the---

cos---mos dole--- You are the on-ly strength--

of--- Hea-ven's Vi--sion length-----

Di-vi-sion-bon-dage-doom--- no-- more, no-- more,

no--- more all--- one--ness-bloom O Hu--man

Rights----- di-----vine

In--- har-mo-ny world----- you--- shine----- D.C.

THE HOLY SEE MISSION HONOURS THE MEDITATION GROUP

The evening of 9 December 1977, Monsignor Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, and members of the Mission welcomed members of the U.N. Meditation Group to a reception in their honour appreciating the Group's printing of the Holy See Mission's World Peace Day Booklet. Below is a statement read out by Monsignor Cheli, who then asked Dr. Robert Muller to say a few words.

Monsignor Cheli: My dear friends, it is a pleasure for the Holy See Mission to have you here and to get to know each of you who has worked so generously with us in the preparation of the World Peace Day Booklet.

You represent in the U.N. Secretariat a movement that seeks to help the people of the U.N., who are so busy and so preoccupied, to find themselves through the exercise of meditation, prayer and contemplation. In silence and reflection, people find themselves again. Not only themselves, but they find their origin, God. They identify their task in this world, which is to love and help their neighbour. Finally, they locate their ultimate goal which is to return to the Creator. In reflection, people come to see clearly the true scale of value of the created things around them and they learn to give to each one of them the right priority. The secret for happiness, for interior peace and brotherly co-existence with others: it's all here! For this reason, we here at the Holy See Mission feel ourselves very close to you, and we feel ourselves

supported and encouraged in our efforts to inject moral and spiritual values into the United Nations. We wish that this communion of spirit and of aims would continue forever.

We wish to thank all who collaborated with us. You will be happy to know that your efforts have touched people all over the world. We have sent a copy to the Holy Father in Rome, to members of the Curia, to all the Permanent Missions at the United Nations; UNICEF has asked us for six extra copies; so, you know that your work has gone to all corners of the globe. Everywhere people comment on the beauty of the production. So we congratulate everyone who contributed to it.

And now I will ask Mr. Muller to share his thoughts with us on this occasion.

Dr. Robert Muller: Thank you.

On the occasion of this gathering, may I say why I take such a vivid interest in the work of the Holy See Mission to the United Nations, the yearly Day of Peace celebrations, the messages of His Holiness the Pope, and the activities of the United Nations Meditation Group.

I have been blessed with the privilege of working for the United Nations almost since its beginning. As I saw the World Organization grow and change over the years, I often wondered what the ultimate culmination, the end of the path would be. Since 1945 the United Nations has grown tremendously in scope and in complexity. It encompasses today virtually the whole world, thus fulfilling the dream of many enlightened philosophers, prophets and thinkers. It comprises currently no less than thirty-two specialized agencies and world programmes,

attracting almost every conceivable problem related to our planet and human destiny. The process never ends. Thus, during this General Assembly, the United States submitted a proposal for a world conference on the aged.

I try very hard to understand what this all means in the total stream of history and evolution. Are we carried forward, half-knowingly, half-instinctively, by deep indiscernible currents towards some great ultimate objective? What will the structure of the World Organization be in a hundred, in a thousand years? In my particular function, whence I can see the totality of the world's problems, I could easily drown in an ocean of complexity if I did not detect a logic, a necessity, a sense, an order in all that is happening. Humans were always faced with a very complex reality: our planet is the most complex one in our solar system and we are the most complex species on it. How could our marriage therefore be anything but complex? For our cave-inhabiting forefathers, nature and life were at least as mysterious and complex as they are for us today, but certain great simplifying instruments and concepts were given to us in order to survive and thrive in the maze. Thus, the human eye receives several million bits of information every second, but optical ganglions and our brains reduce this bewildering information to a simple, meaningful picture to which our living being can react through thought and action. The heroic, astounding notions of good and bad, liking, love, beauty, peace, happiness and God also came to our help so that we may survive and enjoy as much as possible the gift of life on our complicated planetary shell.

Today, the known, uncovered reality is a billion times more complex than it was for our forebears.



*Above, Monsignor Cheli serving the guests;
below, Dr. Robert Muller addressing the gathering
after the Monsignor thanked the Meditation
Group.*



We know so much more about the universe, the infinitely large and outer space, and we have penetrated ever deeper into the infinitely small, the atom and its particles and sub-particles, genes, the DNA, etc. For example, scientists are wondering these days how nature has been able to "package" into a few microns genetic codes, the formulae of which are several feet long! Complete universes and living factories of immense complexity are unceasingly created by nature within astoundingly small spaces. The totality of scientific knowledge is today so minute, so vast and so staggeringly complex that most people give up their effort at understanding. All this knowledge culminates in the United Nations, from outer space to the atom, from solar energy to photosynthesis, from agriculture to industry, from development to the environment, etc. And this is far from all: in addition to scientific complexity, we are also the receptacle of all social, man-made and cultural complexities: problems between the North and the South, the East and the West, the rich and the poor, regions, races, sexes, nations, occupations, languages, institutions, firms, etc. No wonder then that the U.N. is the most complex place on Earth, the laboratory of laboratories, the institute of institutes, the greatest human museum and testing ground ever seen on this planet. It has come to a point where it is well-nigh impossible to draw a complete accurate chart of the whole United Nations system with its innumerable organs, sub-organs, divisions, programmes, conferences, centers, committees, expert groups, task-forces, etc.

Nevertheless, there must be a sense in all this, a clarity, a heart, a bloodstream, a great human aspiration and creative emotion. It is not by acci-

dent that all this happened. There is a law, a will, a structure in it. It is part of destiny, of our perennial forward march towards fuller, happier lives for all. It is part of our progressive settling down in our planetary home.

I tried to find a scheme, an outline, a table of contents for this fabulous human saga which had to fit in one way or another into my mind.

First, I adopted a classification of all our knowledge from the infinitely large to the infinitely small as it had revealed itself to me during my work at the United Nations: the universe, astro-physics, the solar system, the Earth's relations with our sun, outer space, the atmosphere, the bio-sphere, the continents, the seas and oceans, the mountains, the rivers, the poles, the tropics and equator, the deserts, the Earth's crust, the fauna, the flora, the underground sources of water, heat and minerals, down to the microbial world, the genes and the atom. To that cosmic picture of the physical world was added the view of our social cosmos with its innumerable groups, institutions and associations down to the natural family and the individual. For each of these layers of the total physical and social cosmoses I had observed a form of international cooperation somewhere in the United Nations system. World cooperation suddenly appeared to me as a prodigious Copernican, all-embracing global effort of the human species reaching from the infinitely large to the infinitely small. What was happening was indeed a progressive falling into place of all scattered, dispersed, uncoordinated human knowledge and efforts all over the planet and over aeons of time. As a matter of fact, it is from the United Nations' living world cooperation that my thirst for logic and light extracted the

cosmic scheme of realities which now presses itself more and more clearly upon us.

This was the first facet of the United Nations' cosmic vision. The second aspect was also the result of my many years of observations in the World Organization. I had noticed that we were moving increasingly and simultaneously towards a better understanding of the total time dimension. More and more I saw the United Nations and its agencies concerned with the past: preservation of the natural and cultural heritage, of endangered fauna and flora, of genetic material, of antiquities, great landmarks, languages, legends, customs, traditional methods, oral history, etc. Our planet's past evolution or history become ever more precious, as if the human species knew that some losses might impoverish us for all eternity. Simultaneously our time dimension into the future increased tremendously: there is not a single United Nations agency or programme today that does not have at least the year 2000 as its yardstick. Our population projections cover the next hundred years and the World Meteorological Organization takes an even longer view when it studies and projects the climatic conditions of our planet.

From the infinitely large to the infinitely small, and from the distant past to the unfathomable future, these are the two poles of infinities along which world cooperation is progressing right under our eyes. It all makes good sense. At our point of evolution, after having groped, tried, erred and learned so much, it is normal that our knowledge should suddenly accelerate and fall into a perfect space and time structure which always existed and is now becoming increasingly clear to us.

Of course, this mushrooming of knowledge into four infinite directions is one of the main causes of our current anxiety and bewilderment. How can we make sense out of all this? Whom should we believe? What is relevant and useful in all this knowledge? What will our future be? How should we behave? What does life mean in such an infinite and incomprehensible web? What is in it for the individual?

It was U Thant who gave me the key to the last part of this scheme of my search. As a Buddhist he believed that humans would never be able to comprehend the totality and would forever be condemned to live in "darkness". But he placed the human person at the centre of all preoccupations, the ultimate question being the proper relation between the individual and the surrounding world and universe. Starting, consequently, from the individual, he persistently used and never retreated from the following classification of basic human characteristics and needs: physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual. What I had observed at the United Nations bore him out and again made good sense: the paramount importance attached to individual human rights, better nourishment, health, shelter, education, peaceful relations, non-violence, compassion, help, cooperation, our many programmes in these fields, all this was the story of the physical, mental and moral fulfilment of individual human life. And this effort was now world-wide, with priority attached to the largest discrepancies and most crying injustices. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was a new consecration of the individual and the United Nations Charter was the Ten Commandments for the behaviour of nations.

But there was one element missing and it happened to be the one to which U Thant attached the greatest importance: spirituality. He kept repeating that this was the highest and ultimate need and fulfilment of the human person. How did he define spirituality? For him it was inner purity, the harmony between the innermost life and the outer life, or the life of the world and the universe. It was a serene comprehension of life in time and in space, the tuning of the inner person with the great mysteries and secrets around him. It was a belief in the goodness of life and the possibility for each human person to contribute his goodness to it. It was the belief in life as part of the eternal stream of time, that each of us came from somewhere and was destined to somewhere, that without such belief there could be no prayer, no meditation, no serenity, no true happiness. His belief in the long-term improvement of man and society through right individual behaviour gave me the last missing piece of the puzzle. Now the universe, our Earth and the individual's place in time and in space made sense. What lessons I had received from the United Nations!

Of course I could not fail to notice that this outcome resembled strangely the visions of all great religions. Even without knowing that the world was round, the great prophets and founders of religions had had visions which reached from the infinitely small to the infinitely large and from Creation to the Apocalypse. The Hindu view of the world and trinity, for example, is fully borne out by the observations and theories of astro-physicists regarding the birth, the stability and the death of a star or solar system. Each religion again saw the fundamental position of the individual human person in

the total framework of things and considered him as a miraculous entity of divine origin, made of physical, mental, moral and spiritual aspirations. Human fulfilment was never limited to purely material and mental progress as it is all too often today. Life was to be also a moral achievement and above all a spiritual transcendence. Religions never shied away from the ultimate, fundamental questions: "What is life? Why am I on this Earth? What is this strange miracle? What is the sense and purpose of it all? What exactly was I given when I was born and admitted to being, to existing? For what and to whom must I be grateful? What should I do, think, feel and hope for?"

Spirituality starts with these questions. This is why U Thant gave it the highest value: it represented in his eyes the deepest questions. The answers, of course, have varied greatly during human history: thousands of religions, with or without God or gods (e.g., Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism), philosophies and spiritual practices have offered humans their manifold insights and beliefs. Most of them thought that they had the ultimate, total truth, the real Creator, the universal principle, and they were all too often prone to fight each other to assert their discovery.

So I found that the United Nations was on the way of repeating progressively the old, all-comprehensive human story. It was forced upon it by the nature of things and men. Year after year, the scope of the United Nations' work increases, as does its perception of the totality. This is one of the most prestigious and amazing stories the Earth has ever seen. Alas, it is understood by only a very few of the four billion inhabitants. But there is one fundamental difference with the past: while most

religions were born in localized, different cultures, this time the story comes from the center, from the place of convergence of all human problems, dreams, aspirations and exertions. The United Nations is the school where they all learn from each other, listen to each other, try to find solutions and define what is good and bad for the whole human family. It is the place of a thousand bridges. It is the cradle of future world destiny, the scanning light of our planet, the warning tower from which one global signal after the other is emitted to humans over the globe. It is the birthplace of unique world efforts which help humanity to better know itself and guide its behaviour in our planetary home.

But the religions and the prophets and the poets and the artists did not need a United Nations, a world organization, conferences or experts to help them discover the truth. They saw it straight with the heart, with an internal vision, with an instinct that went right to the point without getting lost in the convolutions of the mind. They all gave us generally correct codes of conduct, codes of internal serenity, codes of happiness, codes for the highest fulfilment of the miracle of life. When I read recently the documents of the World Water Conference, I wished the conference had adopted one sentence from the Koran which says: "Never waste a drop of water, even when you are sitting on the bank of a river." That sentence is worth dozens of expert documents. As a matter of fact, it is an expert pronouncement, when one thinks of its effects if it were faithfully followed by four billion people.

This will explain to you why I am listening so attentively with my mind, heart and soul to what

great religions and spiritual groups have to say. They have a long experience of human life and often their perceptions are still the quickest and most accurate. This is why I am grateful to you for your efforts to give the work of the United Nations a spiritual interpretation and dimension. You are thus following in the path of Dag Hammarskjold and U Thant, who were deeply convinced of the spiritual character of the United Nations and saw in it the renewed story of the total dimension of man. Their message was one of love, compassion, understanding and human brotherhood. That message, after many vicissitudes through world history, is re-emerging as forcefully as ever, but now on a universal scale in the United Nations. It is a fascinating story and we are perhaps the only species able to comprehend it. I have always been an optimist, deeply in love with humanity, precisely because of its capacity to elevate and transcend itself into constantly higher levels of physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual lives. The march towards that transcendence has now started on a planetary scale, and we at the United Nations are privileged to be among its first witnesses and workers.

There is something mysterious and virtuous in symbolism. Pope Paul has been a living presence in the United Nations in many ways. He was the first Pontiff ever to visit an assembly of nations. He left us an imperishable message of hope and humanism. His visit itself was a symbol: he did not visit a State, but exclusively the United Nations. Each year, for the last eleven years, he has sent to peace-workers and to the world a message on the occasion of the Day of Peace. I consider His Holiness to be one of the great universal peace thinkers of our time. I have read most of his writings and

pronouncements, and there is no doubt in my mind that seldom has anyone on this planet had peace so much at heart. His Holiness is rightly known and will always be remembered as the Pope of Peace.

Domenico Mazzone brought me yesterday a first "bozzetto" of a bust of Pope Paul. I thought that our reunion here tonight would gain greatly from the symbolic presence of His Holiness. This why his bust is here.



UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND · FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

29 December 1977
17/219 - IYC

Dear Ms. Weisbrot:

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge receipt of a cheque for \$400 which represents the proceeds of the Bazaar the United Nations Meditation Group held on behalf of UNICEF. Enclosed please find UNICEF's official receipt for this donation.

We are especially gratified that your Group has decided to offer this contribution to the forthcoming International Year of the Child. The support given by private groups, such as yours, will help the IYC achieve its goal of permanently improving the level of basic services benefiting children throughout the world.

On behalf of the Administration of UNICEF, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for choosing our Organization as the beneficiary of your Bazaar.

Yours sincerely,

Giovanni Cavaglia
Acting Comptroller

Enclosure

Ms. Merri Weisbrot
Bazaar Programme Co-ordinator
United Nations Meditation Group
United Nations, Room 1925

(40)

BENEFIT TEN MILE RUN FOR UNICEF

On 11 December 1977 Sri Chinmoy awarded the UNICEF Cup to world-class marathon runner Dr. Norb Sander for his finishing first out of 300 in the Ten Mile Benefit Run for UNICEF held in New Canaan, Connecticut on UNICEF's 31st Anniversary.

Dr. Sander, who won the New York marathon two years ago, finished the race in 54 minutes 30 seconds. The run was sponsored by the Sri Chinmoy Centre, the NGO organisation for which Sri Chinmoy is representative, in honour of the upcoming International Year of the Child.

On receiving the trophy, Dr. Sander said warmly: "In over twenty years of running, I think this has been one of the most inspiring running experiences that I've ever had."

Sri Chinmoy presented the winner with a watch, replying: "This is a watch, as a very humble, symbolic token of my deepest appreciation for your most extraordinary running achievement, Doctor. Being a seeker, I wish to tell you that I value most cheerfulness and devotion. I had the good fortune of watching our best runner and I saw him cheerful throughout the run, and I also felt his devotedness towards today's cause, today's run. Therefore, from the inmost recesses of my heart I wish to offer this. It is a time piece, which symbolically tells that your time has pleased us, perhaps far beyond your own imagination."



Dr. Sander, holding the UNICEF Cup, with Sri Chinmoy (left), staff members of UNICEF and children who participated in the run.

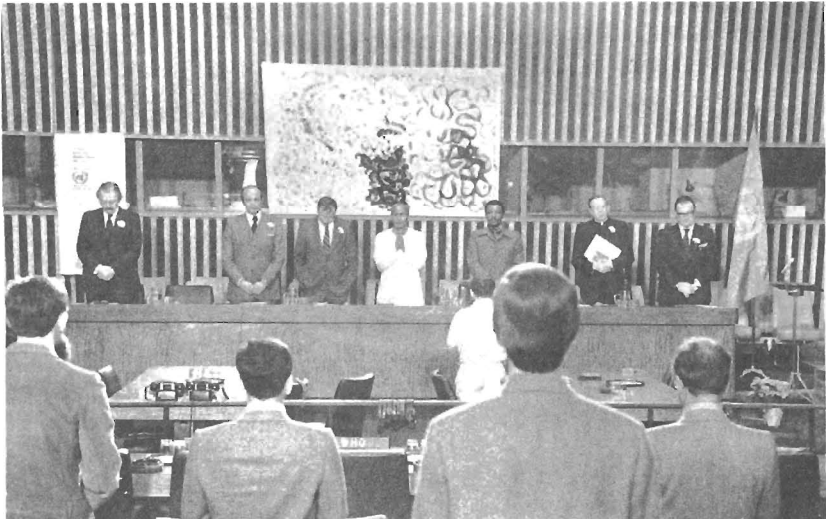
PERFORMANCES AT LINCOLN CENTER
FOR UNICEF BENEFIT

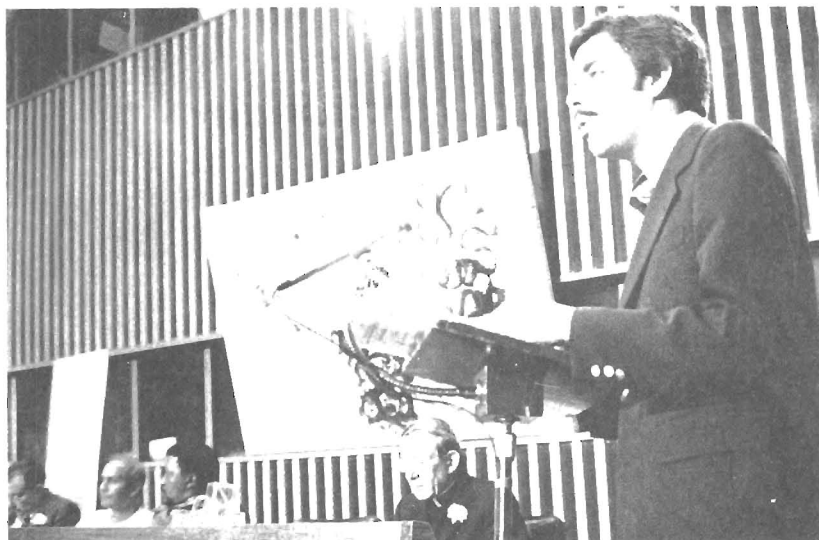
Several U.N. Meditation Group members who performed in the Madal Circus production for UNIS children last spring participated in a benefit for UNICEF at Lincoln Center the evening of 11 December 1977. Mrs. Sylvia Fuhrman, Special Representative of the Secretary-General at UNIS, who is in charge of entertainment for the UNICEF Benefit Committee, invited Ashrita the Magician, Abakash the Fire Eater, Ribhu the Clown and Madal Circus jugglers to perform in conjunction with the gala benefit performance of "The Nutcracker" at the New York State Theatre. The proceeds of the evening were donated to the Emergency Relief Fund in India.

ONENESS-EARTH

The evening of 14 December 1977 the U.N. Meditation Group celebrated the universal brotherhood and unity which are evoked in this season of holidays around the world with a programme entitled "Oneness-Earth." The programme, which was filmed by CBS-TV for broadcasting on Christmas Day, included statements by Ambassadors and U.N. officials and the performance of a song written by Sri Chinmoy especially for the occasion. On display was a painting by Sri Chinmoy entitled "United Nations: the Heart-Home of the World-Body." The work is dedicated to United Nations efforts for peace and has been recently exhibited around the world as an ambassador of good will and world-oneness.

The full text of the programme is available in pamphlet form. Following are brief excerpts from each of the speeches.



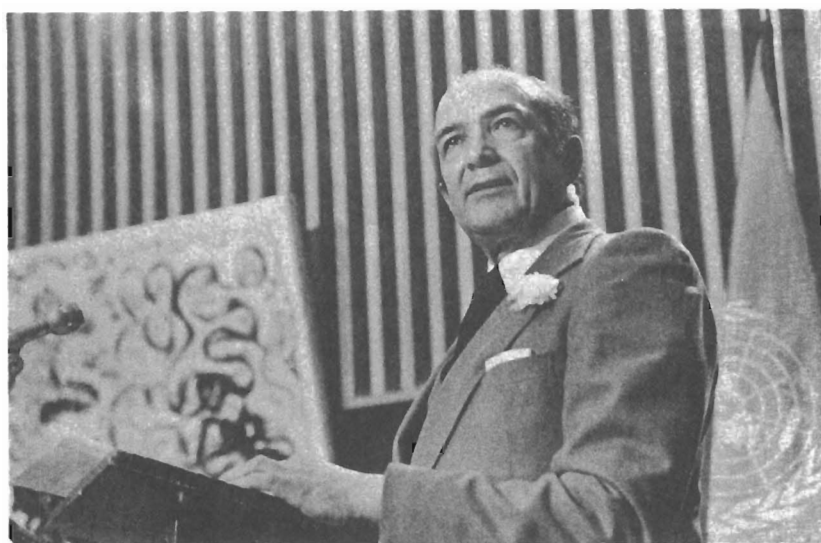


Mr. Jeff Kamen, U.N. Correspondent, WPIX-TV News: Ladies and gentlemen, good evening and welcome. The United Nations Meditation Group is honoured by the presence of diplomats whose lives are dedicated to the service of mankind. Despite differences of culture, language and faith, they are in fact united in the vision of the inseparability of the human family, of the need to share our fragile planet in love and peace.

This holiday season gathering at the headquarters of the world organisation is tangible proof that there are people of conscience and compassion who clearly understand that whoever leads in the heart is a true leader.



Mr. Thami Mhlambiso, Representative, African National Congress: Friends, I am happy to join with you this evening when the holiday season is approaching, the festive season when friends and loved ones will be joined. . . . Let us resolve to bring an end to apartheid and to fight the enemies of freedom and justice. Let us remember also all our brothers and sisters who are homeless today, for it must be our task and duty to see that they also have a place in the sun, so that oneness on earth will flourish.



His Excellency Dr. Jorge Illueca, Permanent Representative of Panama: . . . On this occasion we do well to meditate on the main purpose of the United Nations, which is to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations in the peaceful attainment of international co-operation and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. . . . In their quest for peace, brotherhood and harmony, the peoples of the world share common beliefs, hopes and dreams, and they should come closer one to the other at a time when this "Oneness-Earth" is plunging toward the twenty-first century.



Dr. John Grun, Director, International Year of the Child Secretariat: If there is one issue on which the world is in agreement, it is surely the child. Men and women everywhere agree with the Declaration of the Rights of the Child when it says that the world owes the child the best it has to give. That world, of course, is us, all of us. . . .

Just as we can best serve our neighbour by loving him as ourselves, so we can best serve ourselves and the world by thinking of and loving others. Loving a child, truly, with an open heart and an open intellect is as beneficial to us as it is to the child.

There is no future for us—morally, emotionally, physically—except in the child, in the world's children, *our* children.

That is the spirit which the International Year of the Child seeks to kindle, a spirit from which down-to-earth practical and realistic action for the benefit of children cannot fail but flow in abundance.



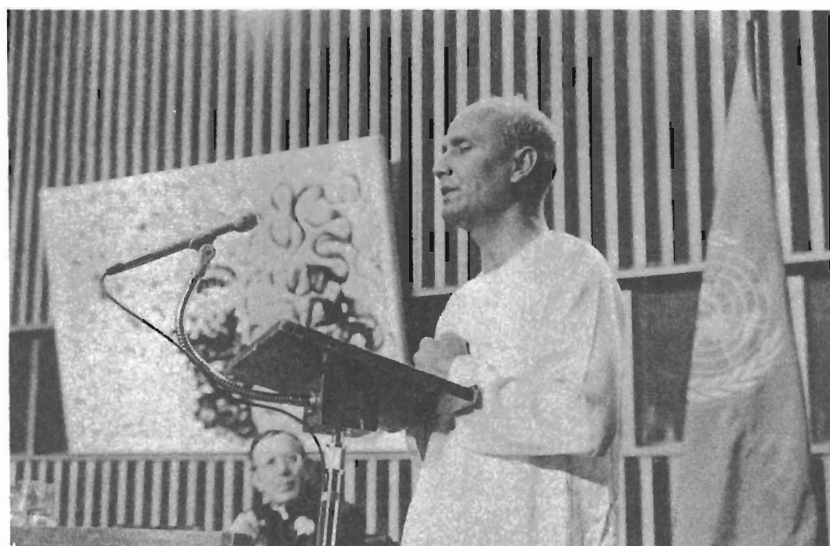
His Excellency Mr. Allard Lowenstein, Alternate Representative of the United States . . . I hope that in this programme commemorating the holidays and the international sense of renewal, there will also come to people the realisation that much more is necessary than the repetition of the Declaration of Human Rights or the Charter or past expressions of hope or brotherhood. . . . I think that if people in this season simply remember how much they have to learn from one another, how much they have to give to one another, and how much they lose by despoiling one another, perhaps the spirit represented by the President's new leadership in human rights and by Andy Young's remarkable efforts around the world to find common denominators for human beings to work together will grow and flourish.



Dr Robert Muller, Deputy Under-Secretary-General: . . . Never before has there been such an opportunity for the fulfilment, for the flowering of human life into an unbelievable consciousness, if we work together at it, not only with our minds, with our hands and intelligence, but also with our hearts and with our souls. We must learn to understand again our place in the universe. We must learn to believe again in the magic of creation, in the miracle which planet earth is and which each human life is. This is the great story which is beginning to emerge in the United Nations. I only wish that the public, instead of seeing merely failures and inefficiencies, would try to look at the magnificent human story, the only possible human story, that is beginning to be written in this house. This is my wish on this Christmas.



The Right Reverend Monsignor Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See: . . . The beautiful traditions of Christmas and occasions like this, when we can get together to share our thoughts and feelings at this season, are an inspiration to us to renew our love for our Creator and all of creation. We know that if all would have love for each other and for the universe which has been given to us, then all the problems of the world would be resolved. For, if we probe deeply to the very root of all the tremendous problems which we at the United Nations attempt to alleviate—racism, disarmament, hunger, underdevelopment, economic injustice, ecological imbalances, etc.—we would find that there at the beginning of the problem is a lack of love; we are dismayed to find that egotism, selfishness, pride and ill-will are operative in place of love and its manifestations in generosity, reconciliation, humility and hope.



Sri Chinmoy, Director, U.N. Meditation Group:
The desire-man demands division-earth. The aspiration-man yearns for Oneness-Earth. Oneness-Earth means God-Satisfaction in its universal Dream-Reality. Dream is the oneness of the earth-family; Reality is the perfection ever-transcending of the earth-family.

ONENESS-EARTH

Oneness-earth—Oneness!
 A life of fullness.
 Division-mind dies,
 Oneness-heart flies.
 Heaven's God-length:
 Oneness-earth's strength.
 Today's Vision-Plan:
 Tomorrow's God-Man.

ONENESS-EARTH

words and music by Sri Chinmoy

$\text{♩} = 126$ Moderate-fast

The musical score consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Moderate-fast' with a quarter note equal to 126 beats. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score includes repeat signs and a final double bar line. The lyrics are: 'One-ness-earth—One-----ness! a---- life---- of---- full-----ness Di-vi-sion—mind dies----- one-ness—heart flies----- Hea-ven's God—length:one---ness earth—strength To-day's vi-sion—plan----- To-mor-row's God-----Man----- (Sing song twice)'. The word 'Man' is written with '(rit.)' above it.

One-ness-earth—One-----ness! a---- life----
 of---- full-----ness Di-vi-sion—mind dies-----
 one-ness—heart flies-----
 Hea-ven's God—length:one---ness earth—strength
 To-day's vi-sion—plan----- To-mor-row's
 God-----^(rit.)Man----- (Sing song twice)

FINLAND: CHAMPION OF INDEPENDENCE

On 15 December 1977 the United Nations Meditation Group had the honour of welcoming United Nations delegates and staff to a programme highlighting the musical tradition of Finland in recognition of Finland's sixtieth year of independence and in celebration of the twenty-second anniversary of Finland's admittance to the United Nations. The programme included a slide show, performances of Finnish folk music, works by Jean Sibelius and the National Anthem of Finland. His Excellency Mr. Ilkka Olavi Pastinen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations, addressed the gathering, and special guest artist, Ms. Laura Penttinen entertained the audience by playing the kantele. Native Finnish sweets were then served.

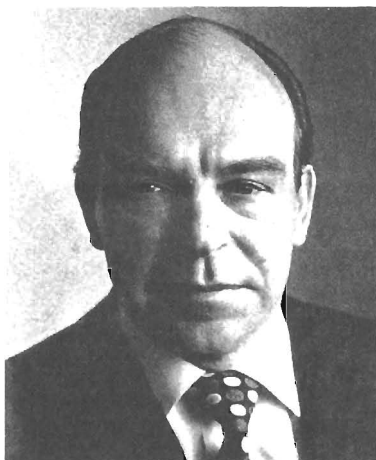
The programme was warmly received, especially by the Finns at the United Nations, including Assistant Secretary-General Helvi Sipilä, who praised the warmth and charm of the function. The text follows:

Mrs. Linda Serlin of UNICEF: Good Afternoon. Ambassador Pastinen, our Finnish guests, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to introduce myself as an American whose family was born in Estonia and emigrated to this country. Estonia borders Finland on the south, and we share much in traditions, native dress and language. Estonia even translated the Finnish National Anthem, and the Estonians no longer in their home country use that song as their own national anthem and song of freedom.

We have been listening to "En Saga," Op. 9, by Jean Sibelius. During his lifetime, Sibelius com-

manded more universal respect in the music-loving world in general than perhaps any other person in musical history. Sibelius's music, and in particular his early work, tells of his home, Finland—the Finnish land and its people—its strength and its love of freedom. We love Sibelius's music. In celebrating the respect for the individual that is native to Finland, Sibelius was declaring, "We love our way; it is best for us. You too have your way, and your way must be right for you. As long as the way is made of strength and beauty and respect for human beings, as long as it permits each man to be the man he wants to be, then it must be right, no matter what the pattern of it may be."

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are honoured to have with us today a man who represents the love that Finland is and that she has for her brother and sister countries in our world: His Excellency Mr. Ilkka Olavi Pastinen, Ambassador of Finland.



H. E. Mr. Ilkka Olavi Pastinen, Permanent Representative of Finland (Photo: United Nations).

H.E. Mr. Ilkka Olavi Pastinen, Permanent Representative of Finland: Ladies and gentlemen, friends, let me say first of all that I would be remiss in my duties if I did not express my gratitude to the United Nations Meditation Group for arranging this occasion in celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Finland's independence and also, secondly, in celebration of the twenty-second anniversary of Finland's joining the United Nations.

Now, for Finns and for me personally, independence is something that is not an abstract concept. It is not even an abstract national concept, but it is a deeply felt national commitment which is anchored in everyday reality and it is a deeply felt personal commitment which is a living reality. It is a basic framework for all our actions and our work. This is because, as you are all aware, although the Finns have always been free in spirit, Finland won her independence against heavy odds, and she has been forced to maintain that independence against heavy odds. But now comes a time when we celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of our independence. We have a feeling that much of what we witness in this world and here in the United Nations is caused by the fact that many nations are in search of external security. My Finland has found this. I say this without conceit and arrogance, but with proper humility and gratitude.

Now the main theme today is music in Finland, or how we perceive the Finnish music. Finnish music and particularly the music of Sibelius—and you will listen to some more later in the programme, I hope—is closely interwoven with our aspirations for independence. It is not only a symbol of independence; it is synonymous with it. The Finnish music and the music of Sibelius have

sustained us in difficult times as well as in moments of joy. If you would ask me what the origin of Sibelius's music and most of Finnish music is, I would give very much a layman's answer that, in my own view, the music has two main origins. The Finnish mythology describes it in the national epic, "Kalevala," which contains tales of wandering minstrels who played the kantele. The second origin is our closeness to nature. Even in this time and age, we would contend that Finns are still a people who, perhaps, live closer to nature than any other European industrialized country, and I think that you see and hear these two origins in Finnish music, particularly the music of Sibelius.

Now I find no better way of describing the particular message that this music conveys to us than by quoting a very beautiful thought which is found in one of the United Nations Meditation Group bulletins: "The outer message of the United Nations is Peace. The inner message of the United Nations is Love. The inmost message of the United Nations is Oneness. Peace we feel. Love we become. Oneness we manifest." These are very much thoughts that I believe inspire the Finnish people. And as we celebrate their independence, we find music perhaps as an instrument to convey those feelings, as a messenger of those feelings.

Mrs. Linda Serlin: Thank you very much, Ambassador.

Among the ancestors of today's Finnish nation were professional minstrels known as "runolainen," who through national songs, folklore and sagas, preserved the memory of their race. They traveled throughout what is now Finland, singing their

songs and playing the “kantele,” a primitive sort of harp. Their legends, wonder tales and proverbs were collected in 1835 by Dr. Elias Lonnrot and became the national epic, “Kalevala.” With its myths, wisdom, magic and rhythms, the poem contributed an important sense of unity to the country.

I am happy to introduce Ms. Laura Penttinen, a remarkable woman who is treating us today to a sampling of the music of the kantele. She has been playing the kantele at festivals in various parts of this country and the world for the last twenty-eight years and stands virtually alone in her mastery of the instrument today. Ms. Penttinen.

(Ms. Penttinen entertains the audience with several pieces.)



Ms. Laura Penttinen, after performing on the kantele (photo by Ian Prior).

Thank you very much, Ms. Penttinen. Now we have a slide show of Finland. It will be accompanied, again, by Sibelius's music, excerpts from his second symphony, which has come to be known as a musical portrayal of Finland's struggle for political liberty.

(Slide show is presented.)

In closing, would you please stand for the singing of the Finnish National Anthem. Our Finnish friends are asked to kindly lead us.

Thank you, Mr. Ambassador, Ms. Penttinen and our guests, for joining us this afternoon.



Finnish guests enjoy native homemade sweets (photo by Ian Prior).



*Mrs. Linda Serlin of UNICEF in traditional dress
(photo by Ian Prior).*

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

U.N. delegates and staff joined Mrs. Coretta King in singing Christmas carols in the U.N. Secretariat lobby on 19 December 1977, during a carol sing hosted by the Meditation Group. Adding to the holiday spirit were large colourful paintings by Sri Chinmoy, which were on display for the occasion.

Mrs. King charmed the several hundred who gathered by opening the programme with a solo performance of the spiritual "King of Kings" and then asking the audience to join her in singing this and many other of their favourite carols. Later she asked to sing another solo called "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," saying, "I often compare the message in this Christmas spiritual to the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. It was one of his favorite songs, and very often at this time of year he would ask me to sing it at one of our regular meetings at Ebenezer Baptist Church as a meditation solo."

After a moving rendition of the hymn, Mrs. King thanked the participants, "It has been a great pleasure to be with you, to share with you and to be inspired by you. Thank you, God bless you, and have a Merry Christmas."

Christmas cake and eggnog were then served.



Mrs. Coretta King leading Christmas carols in the Secretariat lobby (photo by Richard Howard).



Ms. Paula Hart of UNICEF offers Mrs. King a package of holiday baked goods from the Meditation Group (photo by Ian Prior).



After the function, Mrs. King commented about Sri Chinmoy's paintings, saying, "I like his work. I'd love to have one of them, as a matter of fact, because there's a lot of feeling in them." (photo by Richard Howard.)

MEDITATION GROUP SINGERS
PERFORM AT VALLEY FORGE

The United Nations Meditation Group Singers were invited to open an historic commemoration of the 200th anniversary of America's first Thanksgiving Day on 18 December 1977 at Valley Forge, Pa., which was being celebrated by representatives of the armed forces, the clergy and the international community. The singers performed Sri Chinmoy's songs "World Gratitude" and "O My America" for the programme, which marked the original Thanksgiving observed by George Washington and his soldiers at Valley Forge on 18 December 1777.

THANKS GIVING SQUARE

January 16, 1978

National Thanksgiving Foundation

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

The United Nations Meditation Group Singers at Valley Forge started the national celebration of the 200th anniversary of America's First Thanksgiving as a nation. We wanted to express our thanks to you as Director and also to the Singers as a body for the beautiful words and music that were received by those attending.

As Director you have given continual support to the spiritual traditions which have made America great and good. You are giving inspiration to your students and to the world at large through the songs that we received - "America" and "World Gratitude".

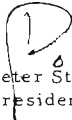
For this beautiful moment we owe you personal thanks because your support made it possible.

We were sorry that your pressing engagements would not allow you to attend, but we were grateful that your personal representative, Kevin Keefe, could come.

At Valley Forge, at the moment of beginning of the deepest spiritual tradition we enjoy as a nation, we were rewarded with a vision of the people from many countries over the world who have joined with others on the American continent in serving the highest goals of the New World.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING FOUNDATION



Peter Stewart
President

Sri Chinmoy
Director, United Nations Meditation Group
866 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 11432

PS: pc

cc: Mr. Kevin Keefe

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Newsday

20 CENTS
FRIDAY,
DEC. 2, 1977

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER • NASSAU EDITION

Meditation Garden Planned for Trade Park

By Fred Tuccillo

Southampton—The developers of a planned \$100-million world trade park in Westhampton announced yesterday that the complex is to include a 1,000-seat amphitheatre, conference center and "mediation garden" to be built in cooperation with the United Nations Meditation Group.

A spokesman for Suffolk Industrial Overseas World Trade Park Inc. said that the facility, tentatively named "Oneness World," was proposed by the meditation group. The 8-year-old, nonsectarian organization has 100 United Nations staffers and delegates as members but has no official connection with the UN. The group's spiritual leader is Sri Chinmoy, a 46-year-old native of India, who now lives in the metropolitan area.

The developers were authorized by the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency Oct. 12 to sell \$100 million in tax-free bonds to finance construction of the park adjacent to the county airport at Westhampton. County officials plan to seek federal desig-

nation of the site as a foreign trade zone. That would enable foreign goods to be shipped in for final assembly without customs clearance or import duties and to be shipped out for distribution overseas or within the United States.

Bernard Curchack, a spokesman for the UN Meditation Group, said yesterday that his organization had contacted Myron B. Levy, the world trade park's vice president and general manager, after reading about the planned complex and its theme, "Working for World Peace Through World Trade."

Andrew Boracci, a spokesman for the developers, said that the meditation facility will "show how the world trade park is reflective of that theme and not just a spread of warehouses." While the developers have agreed to set aside up to five acres of about 300 on the site for the meditation group, a decision on whether the land would be donated or purchased will depend on private funding for the facility, Boracci said.

"We wanted a meditation park where people could

come out, have lunch, spend some quiet time and which people who would work in the trade park could use as well," Curchack said. No design or cost estimates have been prepared yet. But he said that planners envision an auditorium "prestigious enough to house concerts and other performances, a commercial library which business's could use," language translation rooms, and a "meditation garden" surrounding a fish pond, he said.

Curchack and Boracci said that the name "Oneness World" was suggested by Sri Chinmoy. Chinmoy, whose published works include "Yoga and the Spiritual Life," has an estimated 900 followers nationwide for a philosophy which "combines western dynamism and eastern spirituality," Curchack said.

"It's a philosophy of working in the world," Curchack said. "We don't go around seeking converts or anything like that. We try to inspire humanity, to show what it can do, not only in the arts, but by getting in touch with that higher part of yourself through meditation."

BAKE SALE

BENEFIT FOR THE PAUL HOFFMAN STAFF BENEVOLENT FUND

All homemade baked goods

Cakes

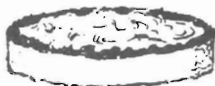
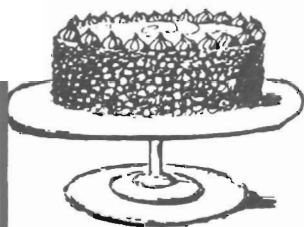
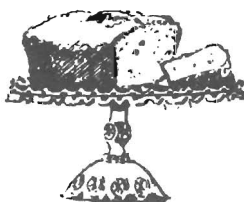
Pies

Cookies

Pastries

Breads

Our Special Cheesecake



WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER
12:00 — 2:00
CONFERENCE ROOM, 20th FLOOR
UNDC BUILDING

Sponsored by the UN Meditation Group

*The United Nations Meditation Group is an association of
U.N. delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents*

