

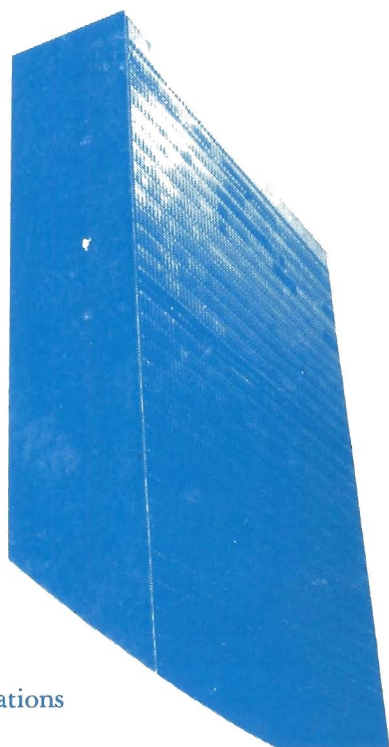
# Meditation at the United Nations

United Nations:



the Heart-Home  
of the World-Body

Monthly Bulletin of  
Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations



Vol. IX, Nos. 7-8  
July/August 1981

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**MEDITATION  
AT THE  
UNITED NATIONS**

**MONTHLY BULLETIN OF  
SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION  
AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

Since January, 1973, Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations 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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SRI CHINMOY MEDITATION  
AT THE UNITED NATIONS

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.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

*Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations is an association of U.N. delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents, who believe that inner reflection and meditation can bring us in touch with the founding spirit of the United Nations and inspire renewed dedication to its ideals.*

*The main focus of our activities, both in New York and in Geneva, is our twice-weekly meditations, which provide an opportunity for quiet, spiritual renewal in an atmosphere reflective of the highest purposes of the world organisation. In addition, through an ongoing series of conferences and symposia, we provide forums where ambassadors, Secretariat officials and staff, religious leaders and other world-minded individuals can share and reinforce their spiritual vision for the United Nations.*

*The Meditation Group was founded in 1970, when interested staff members invited the distinguished spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy to conduct non-denominational meditations at New York Headquarters. Since then, the Group's membership has grown considerably and its expanded activities have been warmly received by the U.N. community.*

*July/August 1981*

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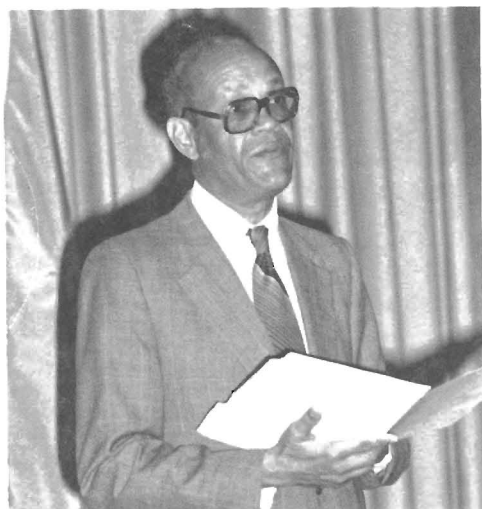
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PROGRAMMES HIGHLIGHTING  
REGIONAL TRADITIONS

*LATIN AMERICAN STATES*

*During July 1981 the meditation group hosted a series of programmes at U.N. Headquarters highlighting the cultural and spiritual traditions of the major regions of the world. The first of the series, focusing on the Latin American region, was held on 7 July. The guest speaker was Mr. Lucien J. Henar, Deputy Permanent Representative of Suriname to the United Nations. A statement from H.E. Mr. Davidson L. Hepburn, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas, was also read out. Excerpts from the text of Mr. Henar's remarks and Ambassador Hepburn's statement follow.*



*His Excellency Mr. Lucien J. Henar, Deputy Permanent Representative of Suriname to the United Nations: Thank you.*

Before answering the question of how Suriname contributes, or I would rather say hopes to contribute, to cultural and spiritual solidarity in Latin America, in my opinion, another question must first be answered, namely whether it is legitimate to consider the continent as a unified entity. Expressions such as "Latin American nationalism" or "internationalism" are often used to stress the importance of Latin American unity. The cohesiveness of the region can be traced back to common historical, religious, racial and cultural links. Almost all of the Latin American peoples have a similar Indo-Iberic and partly African background, which, throughout the years, has provided a common factor unifying the populations. The similar historical experience of emancipation from the yoke of the Spanish empire, more than 150 years ago, also produces an added feeling of common identification. Generals like Jose de San Martin

or Simon Bolivar, who participated in the general movement of independence from Spain, are considered heroes for the whole of Latin America and represent the ideal of unity in Latin America. The population of Latin America is 90 percent Catholic, which means the greatest concentration in any area in the world. The region also has cultural and linguistic homogeneity, since Spanish is a unifying link.

What is the case with Suriname? The people in Suriname do not have an Indo-Iberic background. The majority of the people of Suriname are of African and Indian descent. The English and Portuguese introduced Negro slaves from Africa as early as the 16th century to do the hard work on their plantations. When the Dutch conquered Suriname in 1667, they also took over the slave trade and brought Negro slaves to Suriname. In 1863 the Negro slaves in Suriname threw away the yoke of slavery of the Dutch. After the abolition of slavery, Chinese, Indians and Javanese were brought to the Dutch colony to work on the plantations as contract labourers. Up to the present day the official language of Suriname has been Dutch and the majority of people in Suriname have other religions than the Roman Catholic.

Since the independence of Suriname in 1975, the country has tried to put its best foot forward to integrate into the region and, in doing so, it is trying to promote the unity and progress of Latin America. Spanish is now being taught in all secondary schools, and there are many private institutions, like the Andres Bello Cultural Centre in Paramaribo, which make a great contribution to the knowledge of the Spanish language in Suriname. Suriname has become a member of the Organization of American States, as well as several

other regional groups, and maintains diplomatic, cultural and commercial relations with many countries in the region. Although the contribution of Suriname to cultural and spiritual solidarity might not have been substantial in the past because of historical and other reasons, we can say that the quest for integration in Latin America has manifested itself in many ways. Hopefully this will gradually result in a greater contribution of Suriname in the years to come.

*Statement by H.E. Mr. Davidson L. Hepburn,  
Permanent Representative of the Bahamas  
to the United Nations*

It seems to me that as transportation and communications systems make our universe smaller, mankind in general is endeavouring to form closer ties of friendship and brotherhood. This attitude is keenly felt in the Latin American region where programmes are specifically geared to promote better understanding and cooperation. Bahamians, for example, are being taught Spanish and French in public and private schools. Young people are urged to study the culture and custom of their neighbours. Consequently, the differences are beginning to disappear and are being replaced by that inherent spiritual bond which transcends selfishness and isolation. Based on these and other observations I am confident that our region is determined to exemplify that familiar adage: "Unity is strength."

WESTERN EUROPEAN  
AND OTHER STATES

*The second in the series of regional programmes, featuring the Western European and other States regional group, was held on 10 June 1981. The guest speaker was H.E. Mr. Talat S. Halman, Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations. Excerpts from Ambassador*



*H.E. Mr. Talat S. Halman, Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations:*

“The nation of love differs from all others.  
Lovers bear allegiance to no nation or sect.”

“Whatever you think of war, I’m far, far from it.  
Whatever you think of love, I am that, only that, all  
that.”

“Like a compass, I stand firm with one leg on my  
faith  
And roam with the other leg all over the other  
seventy-two nations.”

“Come. Come again. Whoever, whatever you may  
be, come.  
Heathen, fire worshipper, sinful of idolatry, come.  
Come even if you have broken your vows a hundred  
times.  
Ours is not the portal of despair or misery. Come.”

These are lines from the poetry of the great Islamic mystic philosopher, Mawlana Jalal al-Din Rumi, who preached love, tolerance, ecumenical unity and the brotherhood of nations. We find in his thousands of exquisite poems, written in the 13th century, more than seven centuries ago, innumerable evocations of the fundamental tenets and ideals of the humanism that the United Nations represents.

Standing against war, tyranny and injustice in the 13th century, Jalal al-Din Rumi writes as if these were principles written into the Charter of the United Nations: “When weapons and ignorance come together, Pharaohs arise to devastate the world with their cruelty.” He also referred to that extremely important fact of human love and faith that God must be found in one’s own heart:

“I roamed the lands of Christendom from end to end,  
Searching all over, but He was not on the cross.  
I went into the temples where the Indians worship  
    idols  
And the Magians chant prayers of fire: I found no  
    trace of Him.  
Riding at full speed, I looked all over the Moslem  
    Kaba,  
But He was not at that sanctuary for young and old.  
Then I gazed right into my own heart.  
There I saw Him. He was there and nowhere else.”

Rumi's vision of the unity of mankind and love in the reality and beauty of God prompted admiration from Gandhi, who used to quote Rumi's couplet:

“To unite, that is why we came;  
To divide, that is not our aim,”

and from Pope John, who wrote in 1958, “In the name of the Catholic world, I bow with respect before the memory of Rumi.”

Like most Islamic mystics before and after him, Rumi expressed his faith in the human spirit, transcending schisms and sectarianism. It was his humanitarian ideal that attracted to his funeral not only the dervishes, his own followers, and other Moslems, but also Christians, Jews, Greeks and Armenians of Anatolia who came to pay tribute as well. That was in the city of Konya where he spent about 45 years of his life and where he is buried. Konya was known as a melting pot.

(That reminds me of a story of my son, who at age six was asked to write his first composition at the United Nations International School. The topic

was New York City. He had heard that New York City was a great melting pot. He wanted to vary that sentence a little bit, and he wrote: "New York is a pot that is melting.")

In Anatolia's melting pot, a follower of Rumi, Yunus Emre, a folk poet of Anatolia, wrote in exquisite, simple Turkish which is still intelligible to even the ill-educated people in Turkey. He composed beautiful hymns, as lovely as the songs by Sri Chinmoy which the singers sang a few minutes ago, and many lovely short poems in which he made quintessential statements about the paramount importance of love and of transcending narrow schisms and ridding hate from our hearts. He wrote:

"Hate is my only enemy.  
I harbour a grudge against none.  
To me the whole wide world is one."

"I bear malice against no one,  
Even strangers are friends of mine."

In a couplet that is almost reminiscent of that very popular statement in the U.S. in the 1960s—"Make love, not war"—he wrote the following lines almost seven centuries ago:

"I'm not here on earth for strife.  
Love is the mission of my life."

He also said:

"The man who doesn't see the nations of the world as one is a heretic, even if the pious claim he is holy."



"The lover must love all the 72 nations."

"The man who feels the marvels of true love abandons his religion and nation."

All these humanistic principles found their echo and embodiment in the great leader of modern Turkey, the creator of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the centennial of whose birth we are celebrating this year. He was born in 1881 and from May 19th, 1981 until May 19th, 1982 we will be celebrating throughout the world the memory of the great leader of Turkey, the ultimate hero of the Turks. At the United Nations we will have a number of major activities to pay tribute to this extraordinary figure who was a man of ecumenical spirit, resolved to combat colonialism and imperialism throughout the world. He holds a significant place as an early 20th century world statesman and peacemaker. His works and actions are embodied, in a way, in the principles subsequently enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Under his leadership, Turkey established a progressive republic, after repelling imperialist occupation. He was a forerunner of secular government and launched sweeping legal, political and cultural reforms, including the conferring of equal rights to Turkish women. He espoused the cause of anti-imperialism and eloquently expressed his belief that "As clearly as I see daybreak, I have the vision of the rise of the oppressed nations to their independence." That prophetic vision, of course, came true. And therefore many prominent leaders among the emerging nations throughout the world, including Nehru, Nasser, Bourguiba

and others, stated they saw Ataturk as their model of national emancipation and sovereignty based on democratic principles.

Tributes to his memory also came from such great world figures as Roosevelt, de Gaulle, Eisenhower, Churchill and Kennedy, who wrote a very eloquent statement about Ataturk just about two months prior to his death, and also from many other statesmen, as well as from the League of Nations, the predecessor of the United Nations.

From the early 1920s until his death in 1938, Ataturk affirmed his abiding faith in peace, international harmony and the interdependence of all countries. He had a succinct slogan: "Peace at home, peace in the world." He made that the basis of Turkish foreign policy. He wrote some beautiful lines about the importance of the unity of mankind. He said, "Mankind is a single body and each nation a part of that body. We must never say, what does it matter to us if some part of the world is ailing? If there is such an illness we must concern ourselves with it as though we were having that illness ourselves."

He was a great military hero who had won victory after victory against many foreign invaders. But as a heroic military leader, he knew the value of peace and did his utmost to secure and strengthen it throughout the world during his fifteen-year presidency from 1923 to 1938.

Few of the giants of modern times have spoken with Ataturk's eloquence on the vital need to create a world order based on peace, on the dignity of all human beings and on the constructive interdependence of all nations. He stated immediately after the Turkish War of Independence that

“Peace is the most effective way for nations to obtain prosperity and happiness.” Later, as he concluded treaties of friendship and created regional ententes, he affirmed: “Turks are the friends of all civilised nations.” His new Turkey established cordial relations with all countries, including those powers which had tried a few years earlier to wipe the Turks off the world map. He did not pursue the policy of expansionism and never engaged in any action contrary to peaceful co-existence.

In 1932 the League of Nations invited Turkey to become a member. That was the first and only time that a nation was actually invited by the League to become a member. All the other Member States had actually applied for membership. Because of Ataturk’s stature, a special invitation was issued, and Ataturk accepted and joined. Many of his ideas and ideals presaged the principles enshrined in the League of Nations and later in the United Nations. He said, “If lasting peace is sought, it is essential to adopt international measures to improve the lot of the masses. Mankind’s well-being should take the place of hunger and oppression. Citizens of the world should be educated in such a way that they shall no longer feel envy, avarice or vengefulness.”

Ataturk’s creation of modern Turkey and his contribution to the world have made him a major figure of history. He stands in the direct line of humanistic and humanitarian principles which have been expressed so eloquently by the two mystic poets I referred to at the beginning of my talk, Jalal al-Din Rumi and Yunus Emre. Yunus Emre once said, “For those who truly love God and His Ways, all the people of the world are brothers.” He

also issued, seven centuries ago, a plea to people of all faiths, of all nations—a plea which is just as valid and vitally important in our time. It is a call for peace that might have been voiced by the United Nations as well as by your distinguished group:

“Come, let us all be friends for once.  
Let us make life easy on us.  
Let us love and let us be loved ones.  
The earth shall be left to no one.”

## ASIAN STATES

*The third in the series of regional programmes, held on 14 July 1981, featured the Asian States. The guest speaker was Mr. Hermes J. Dorado from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations. A statement was sent by H.E. Mr. Hazem Nuseibeh, Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations. Excerpts from Mr. Hermes' remarks and Ambassador Nuseibeh's statement follow.*

*Mr. Hermes J. Dorado, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations: The Philippines is particularly honoured to participate in this programme of the meditation group at the United Nations on the theme of spiritual and cultural solidarity of peoples. On this occasion, we wish to recall the ideals and aspirations of Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino to be beatified during Pope John Paul II's recent memorable pastoral visit to Asia. Ruiz, together with fifteen martyrs, was slain in*

Nagasaki, Japan during the 17th century. When asked by the Nagasaki governors, "If we grant you life, will you renounce your faith?" Ruiz replied, "That I will never do, because I am a Christian. I shall die for God, and for Him I would give many thousands of lives if I had them." Lorenzo Ruiz's steadfast faith inspires us.

However, the Papal visit to Asia and the Pacific transcends the theme of beatification of martyrs. Pope John Paul II brought profound messages to the most populous region of the world, messages of global unity and hope. The Pontiff's trip gave him a glimpse of the diverse cultures of Asia, including the Philippines, where Christianity took root 460 years ago, and where nearly 45 million are Catholics. The Holy Father met with the poor, the slum dwellers, the sugar plantation workers in the island of Negros and with Moslems in Mindanao. In the address to the Filipino nation, the Pope said, "The Philippines has a special role to play in the community of nations to consolidate peace and international understanding and more particularly in maintaining stability in Southeast Asia where it has a vital task."

On the crucial theme of unity, the Pope made an impassioned plea to Moslem leaders, stating that, "In the Philippines, the Moslems and Christians are really traveling in the same ship. . . . In the storms that sweep across the world, the safety of each individual depends on the cooperation of all." To the refugees in Bataan, he gave the following message: "May you never lose confidence in the rest of mankind and think you have been forgotten. In every country on earth, there are people who care about you."

Of great significance to the spiritual solidarity of Asia, Pope John Paul II issued an unexpected and dramatic appeal to China in a broadcast by the church-run Radio Veritas in Manila. Pope John Paul II praised China as a country rich in cultures and history. He assured Beijing that in seeking to resume ties, the Church would respect Chinese tradition and culture. "The Church," he said, "asks no economic or political goals, and desires no privileges."

These messages from the Pope's recent visit to Asia focus our attention on the urgent need for spiritual and cultural solidarity of peoples in order to attain lasting peace as an objective of the United Nations.

*Statement by H.E. Mr. Hazem Nuseibeh,  
Permanent Representative of the  
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
to the United Nations*

In a world afflicted by turbulence, beset by economic and social woes of ever-increasing magnitude; living on sufferance in the shadow of endemic fear of life-destruction of our planet in an unprecedented nuclear age; dispirited and uncertain notwithstanding accelerated material advancement; may we pray that spiritual serenity overcome doubt and ambivalence; that fortitude prevail over fear; that goodness—as an important component of our human nature—may not succumb to the

urges of evil; that humaneness and justice within our respective national societies shall gain the upper hand and radiate their light to relations amongst nations in the brotherhood of our human race.

The great continent of Asia, in whose name I have the honour to cite this meditation and whose peoples have given expression and embodiment to this noble message in rich abundance and unity in diversity, does hereby reiterate its abiding commitment to a better world, free from fear, hate, bigotry and unconscionable inequities, so that peace and love may reign supreme amongst all peoples of good will throughout our blessed planet. Amen!



## “WITH THE SUPERIORS”

*On 7 August 1981 the meditation group members held a special programme for their supervisors and senior colleagues within the United Nations Secretariat. The programme featured vocal and instrumental performances by members of the group and slides of meditation group activities. The programme was followed by a buffet luncheon.*

*Following is a song written by Sri Chinmoy especially for the occasion and performed by the group's choir.*

## O WISDOM-LIGHT

You are my boss, O wisdom-light!  
 You long for my perfection-height.  
 O promise-moon, O promise-sun!  
 In you, with you, Peace-Dream has begun.

$\text{♩} = 72$  Moderate-fast

Words and Music  
 By Sri Chinmoy

fine

You-- are my-- boss, O----- wis--dom - light!

You long for my per--fec-tion - height.

O pro--mise - moon,-- moon,-- moon,--

O----- pro-mise - sun!-----

In you, with you, Peace - Dream has-----

be-----gun.

Once with repeats  
 Once without repeats  
 D.C. without repeat

## FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY SALUTE

*On 20 August 1981 the meditation group observed the fiftieth birthday of Sri Chinmoy in a special ceremony in the Chapel of the Church Center for the United Nations. Guest speakers were Mr. Donald Keys, Planetary Citizens; Mr. Rafael Rubin, Department of State of Puerto Rico; H.E. Mr. David W. L. Hepburn, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations; and Dr. Jorge Illueca, Foreign Minister of Panama, who presented Sri Chinmoy with the National Decoration of his country. Excerpts from their remarks follow.*



*Mr. Donald Keys, President, Planetary Citizens: Here at the United Nations, all of humanity is for the first time connected and related in a functional*

way. If one accepts the reality of a Supreme Being, then one must accept what follows: namely that He would be especially interested in the United Nations as the focus of promise for a better future for humanity on earth. Thus it is not surprising, rather it is natural and to be expected, that His exalted emissary and representative would focus love, concern and encouragement upon the United Nations and the representatives of nations. Sri Chinmoy has been that representative at the United Nations for over ten years now, playing a quiet, luminous, intercessory role. Beloved of world leaders, including Secretaries-General, Sri Chinmoy is minister to the intangibles—the souls of men, of nations and of the United Nations itself.

There may be many other reasons for his presence here on earth, but certainly one of the most significant and the most ordained must be this, as nurturer of the planetary tree of humanity's nobler future.

A half-century he has been with us—fifty summers, and also fifty winters in the life of humanity. His sojourn will be limited in the same way and in the same terms with which we all, as mortal humans, are familiar, for Sri Chinmoy plays within the rules of the game of life. But for the sake of the life of the world, and of foolish and suffering humanity, may we hope that the Lord Supreme will grant him another full fifty years of his compassionate, life-giving mission.

We honour him on this day for who he is, who he represents, and what he has brought. We honour you, Sri Chinmoy, and we thank you today and every day, from the bottom of our hearts.

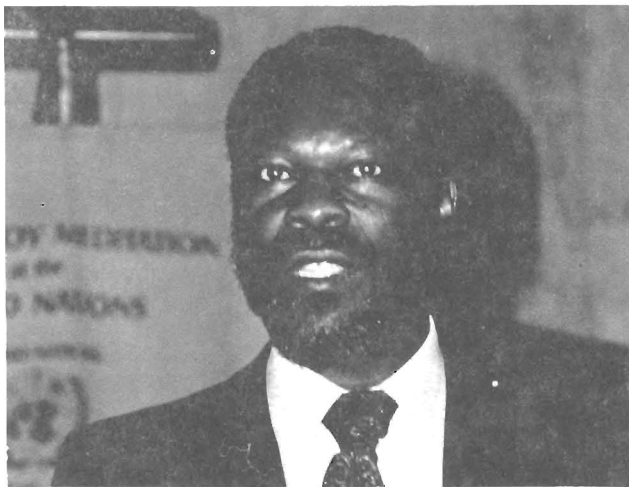


*Mr. Rafael Rubin, Chief of Protocol, Department of State of Puerto Rico:* Master Sri Chinmoy, Ambassador Illueca, Ambassador Hepburn, dear friends, it is indeed an honour to have been given this opportunity to say a few words on this very auspicious occasion when we commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Master Sri Chinmoy. We were fortunate to have Sri Chinmoy visit Puerto Rico recently to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the establishment of his first international meditation centre in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico, like many other countries in the world, is at the moment plagued with political misunderstanding. This, I believe, is the main problem in the world at the moment: misunderstanding among the leaders of countries, both large and small.

Sri Chinmoy's message to the world is love, devotion and surrender. Love has many meanings. In the spiritual sense, one of the meanings of love is understanding. When you understand your fellow

man, your fellow brother, you're able to place yourself in his position. Therefore you are able to allow him to find his own solutions to his problems. You do not insist on giving him your solutions, for you understand his problems, and because you understand, you are willing to accept his solutions and not yours.

Sri Chinmoy says: "When the power of love replaces the love of power, man will have a new name: God." This is the message of Sri Chinmoy to humanity today: understand, accept, live the meaning of love, spiritual love.



*H.E. Mr. Davidson L. Hepburn, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations: "Lives of great men all remind us/We can make our lives sublime,/And, departing, leave behind us/Footprints on the sands of time." I believe that these words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow apply to Sri Chinmoy, because of his humil-*

ity, his love of mankind, his search for peace, and his desire to promote love among human beings.

Today I am happy to be here, to be a part of this celebration. Your presence here today shows your love, admiration and respect for Sri Chinmoy, for what he has done. Your presence also shows that he has set an example for you and that you would like to emulate him as you interact with your fellow men.

There is a spiritual text that says, "He who would be great among you, let him first serve." I think you can all say that of Sri Chinmoy. He loves to serve, because he realises that it is for this purpose he was called.

This celebration is a deserving tribute to him, and I'm very happy to be a part of it. May God bless him and may we continue to do the work that he is trying to teach us. Thank you.

*Dr. Jorge Illueca, Foreign Minister of Panama:*

Friends, Sri Chinmoy has shown how much can be done by having faith in the dignity and worth of the human person—in children, in youth, in the elderly, in men and women alike. All of us here have tears and smiles of joy in our hearts in paying a tribute of gratitude to Sri Chinmoy on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday. Sri Chinmoy is a guiding light that leads to the way of oneness and to the supreme Oneness itself. I would say that through his teachings he has given us Heaven-vision and earth-reality.

Sri Chinmoy has said that a nation is a drop—a tiny drop or a mighty drop—in the vast ocean of divine, fulfilling and fruitful consciousness. My government and my people want to honour Sri

Chinmoy today since he has done so much for all of us. The President of Panama and I, as Foreign Minister, have decided to grant him the National Decoration of the Republic of Panama, the Order of Vasco Nunez de Balboa, the discoverer of the Pacific Ocean. We want Sri Chinmoy to have this decoration because he has in his heart an ocean of the qualities of love, understanding and oneness. We always will keep the image of Sri Chinmoy in our hearts.

*Dr. Illueca placed a maroon and gold sash around Sri Chinmoy's shoulders and read out, in Spanish, a proclamation from his Government which he translated as follows:*

"The President of the Republic of Panama, Grand Master of the Order of Vasco Nunez de Balboa, confers the decoration of the Order of Vasco Nunez de Balboa in the rank of Great Cross on the honourable Sri Chinmoy in recognition of his eminence. Given in Panama this seventh day of August 1981."

*Sri Chinmoy:* This is a most remarkable day for us and a most joyous experience that the soul of Panama is giving us in and through its choicest representative, its beloved son, Illueca. In accepting this most blessingful gift from him, I am bowing again and again to the soul of Panama. This is not only an honour but also a most blessingful gift which my life of dedication and my heart of aspiration will treasure until I breathe my last. What I have done for Panama or for the world is next to nothing. But what my Beloved Supreme is doing for me, in and through His creation, is





*Above: Foreign Minister Illueca of Panama decorates Sri Chinmoy with the Order of Balboa, his country's highest decoration. Below: Dr. Illueca reads a proclamation from the President of Panama.*



beyond my imagination and far beyond my capacity to express in words. Therefore, in silence I can only offer my constant gratitude to my Beloved Supreme and also to those whom He has chosen, such as my dearest brother Illueca, as His choicest instruments to love Him and serve Him soulfully and devotedly here on earth.

I wish to invite the meditation group singers to sing the song that I composed in honour of Panama. They are quite unprepared to sing this song, but I am sure that the soul of Panama will forgive them even if they make many mistakes, because the soul of Panama knows that we deeply love her and adore her. Our heart of implicit oneness the soul of Panama will feel.

*After the meditation group singers sang the song dedicated to Panama, as well as several other songs dedicated to the United Nations, Sri Chinmoy renewed his pledge of unconditional love and service to humanity with the following words:*

My dearest brothers and dearest sisters, to each of you I wish to offer my heart of love, my soul of oneness, my life of concern and my God of Satisfaction.

When I was an infant, God wanted me to be a God-dreamer. Indeed, it was a sweet experience.

When I was a little boy, God wanted me to be a God-seeker. Indeed, it was a soulful experience.

When I was a youth, God wanted me to be a God-lover. Indeed, it was an illumining experience.

When I became an adult, God wanted me to be a God-server. And now that I am fast approaching my fiftieth birthday, God wants me to remain a God-server.

Out of His infinite Bounty, my Beloved Supreme has taught me how to love Him and how to serve Him unconditionally. Now He has a special Message for me, a special Command which I must needs execute. His Command is that I love and serve unconditionally His entire creation—His children, my brothers and sisters throughout the world—in the same way that I have been able to love and serve Him unconditionally from the day He made me sleeplessly and inseparably one with Him, out of His Compassion infinite and Love immortal, many, many years ago, before I crossed the threshold of teenagehood. I pray to my Beloved Supreme to grant me this capacity, and I am sure that He has already granted it. For my Beloved Supreme would never ask me to do anything without having first given me the capacity in ample measure to fulfil His Will. I pray to Him to execute His Will in and through me. I pray that from today on I shall love and love and serve and serve His creation vast—my dear and sweet brothers and sisters on this earth-planet—unconditionally.



El Presidente de la República de Panamá

Gran Maestro de la Orden de Vasco Núñez de Balboa



confiere la Condecoración de la Orden de Vasco Núñez de Balboa en el grado de  
Gran Cruz a Alfonso de los Ríos Chinnoy

en reconocimiento a sus virtudes

Dado en Panamá a 7 de agosto de 1942

El Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores  
Gran Comendador de la Orden Vasco Núñez de Balboa



Hecho en el Palac. N.º 1 del Poder Ejecutivo  
del Poder del Presidente  
Joaquín Arriola Alvarado

## LETTERS OF TRIBUTE

*The following are some selected letters of tribute received from members of the international community on the occasion of Sri Chinmoy's fiftieth birthday.*



(35)



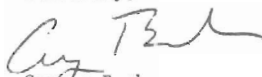
THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

August 27, 1981

Dear Mr. Cannon:

I understand that you are celebrating today your 50th birthday. I hope that this is a happy day for you and the many friends who will be celebrating it with you.

Sincerely,



George Bush

Daniel P. Moynihan  
New York

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

August 19, 1981

Dear Sri:

Splendid milestone.

Mrs. Moynihan and I should like to join your family and many friends in congratulating you on the celebration of your 50th birthday.

We wish you the very best on this joyous occasion, and trust you will enjoy good health and happiness in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Daniel Patrick Moynihan

*(former United States Ambassador  
to the United Nations)*



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
ALBANY 12224

HUGH L. CAREY  
GOVERNOR

August 18, 1981

Dear Mr. Chinmoy:

I wish to add my congratulations to those of many others as you celebrate your 50th birthday.

You have earned richly deserved admiration and appreciation in recognition of your humanitarian efforts.

On this, your Golden Jubilee, I know that countless people will join to salute you for your many achievements and to wish you continued success in your work on behalf of world peace and spiritual enrichment.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hugh L. Carey".



# United Nations Association of the United States of America



300 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017  
212-697-3232

Cable: UNASAMER

*President*  
Robert M. Ratner

*Founding Chairman*  
Robert S. Benjamin  
1909-1979

*Honorary Chairmen*  
Arthur I. Goldberg  
Henry Cabot Lodge  
Charles W. Yost

*National Chairman, UN Day 1980*  
(By appointment of  
the President of the U.S.A.)  
Charles L. Brown, Chairman  
American Telephone and Telegraph Company

August 27, 1981

Dear Sri Chinmoy:

This brings congratulations and best wishes on an occasion that invites an outpouring of gratitude and affection from your host of friends.

As you know better than any of us, it is the life, not the birthday, that is important. It is the unique and extraordinary quality of your life that we celebrate, and it is that for which we are grateful.

As Chairman of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, I am pleased to join in the heartfelt hope that the influence of your teachings and prayers will continue to widen and gain in force.

With warmest regard and admiration,

Sincerely,

Elliot L. Richardson

10 August, 1981

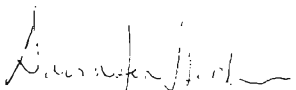
Dear Sri Chinmoy:

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your 50th birthday and to express the hope that you would be blessed with good health and strength for many years to come.

Those of us who know you can attest to your dedication and humility. You symbolize an "oasis" in a "desert" of conflict and discontent. Your life has been an example to many and you richly deserve the honour that is given to you.

As you celebrate your Golden Jubilee may you be comforted by the thought that your efforts are appreciated by many; and be assured that your work will not be in vain.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Davidson L. Hepburn

(40)

Zenon Rossides  
THE AMBASSADOR OF CYPRUS (Ret).

48 EAST 60TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10028

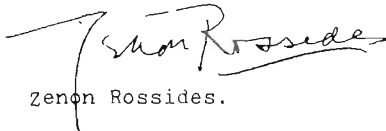
Commemorative Statement.

I am happy for this occasion to express profound admiration and gratitude to Sri Chinmoy for the signal service he is rendering to humanity and the United Nations through the spiritual uplifting of meditation. An outstanding personality with remarkable achievements in poetry, philosophy and all expressions in art and culture, has nobly dedicated his life to spiritual values.

In a world increasingly torn by dissension, enmity and armed conflict, Sri Chinmoy, an inspired apostle through his communion with the universal mind, brings the light of serenity, harmony and love. At a time when the human intellect cannot match its technological achievements by comparable advance in ethical standards and proves unable to adjust to the compelling demands for survival in a nuclear age, there is need for the spirit of man to come into play. For the spirit, as partaking in the moral flow of the universe, cannot err.

Sri Chinmoy by profound meditation in his group and in other ways has been devotedly and consistently endeavouring to bring a supreme spiritual message to the heart of the World Organization —most significant endeavour that merits the grateful appreciation and support from the membership of the United Nations.

In an expression of brotherly love, my heartfelt wishes go to Sri Chinmoy, together with my fervent prayers for a long, happy and increasingly fruitful life.

  
Zenon Rossides.

(41)



PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION  
OF THE HOLY SEE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, 4 November 1981

Dear Sri Chinmoy,

The 50th birthday is a very important moment in life marking, in some way, a new beginning with new challenges and new energies.

May your birthday bring you renewed joy and peace and may you continue to celebrate with all of us for many years to come.

Sincerely,

+ *Giovanni D'Ercole*

Archbishop Giovanni D'Ercole  
Permanent Observer of the Holy See  
to the United Nations



PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

750 THIRD AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

No.NY/PM/1210/1/81

August 17, 1981

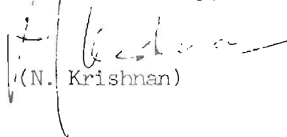
Dear Mr. Vineberg,

Thank you for your letter of the 3rd August, 1981.

I take this opportunity to send my congratulations and best wishes to Sri Chinmoy on the occasion of his 50th birthday. I wish him many more years of active life to be able to continue with his dedicated mission of peace and goodwill.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(N. Krishnan)

(43)

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

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

1 September 1981

Dear Mr. Howard,

I am sorry that I received your letter of 25 August only this morning. I regret it for I would have liked to participate in the Golden Jubilee to honour Sri Chinmoy on the occasion of his 50th birthday on 27 August 1981.

Sri Chinmoy knows well the esteem in which I hold him. He has done the greatest good to the United Nations by bringing spirituality to bear upon the Organization and by inspiring so many staff members. With Dag Hammarskjold and U Thant, he is one of the three persons who had the deepest influence on my own spiritual development as a world servant and I will always be grateful to him.

Whenever I can I will attend the meditation sessions and would be grateful if someone could let me know when they are taking place.

With my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Muller  
Secretary of the Economic  
and Social Council

(44)

TRIBUTES BY MEMBERS OF THE  
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Following are brief excerpts from tributes offered by members of the United States Congress to Sri Chinmoy on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday, 27 August 1981, and recorded in the *Congressional Record*.

SPEECH OF  
**HON. BILL GREEN**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 27, 1981*

● Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, it has recently come to my attention that on August 27 the Honorable Sri Chinmoy Kumar Ghosh, the spiritual leader who has received international recognition for his contributions to world peace, will be celebrating his 50th birthday. On behalf of my colleagues in the U.S. Congress and the citizens of the 18th Congressional District in New York, I would like to take this occasion to pay tribute to the achievements of this extraordinary man.

Through these offerings and in personal contact, Sri Chinmoy has inspired countless Americans to combine an active public life with regular inner reflection. I join my colleagues in saluting him on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

Hon. Joseph A. Addabbo  
of New York  
in the House of Representatives  
July 1981

Mr. ADDABBO. Mr. Speaker, I consider it indeed an honor and a distinct privilege today to rise and offer birthday congratulations to a man many in this country and this world have come to respect and admire, Sri Chinmoy, who on August 27, will be celebrating his 50th birthday in New York City. He is a truly remarkable and creative human being, an utterly selfless individual who has devoted his life toward the betterment of world peace and understanding.

Seventeen years ago Sri Chinmoy arrived in this country from India where he was born and raised. When he came to this country he founded the Sri Chinmoy Centre whose headquarters are located in Jamaica, Queens, which encompasses part of my district. The centre, which has many branches all over the country, as well as the world, is dedicated to the twin goals of public service and personal spiritual growth through the use of meditation. The Sri Chinmoy Centre has sponsored many cultural and athletic activities worldwide, such as poetry contests, lectures on the use of meditation in our everyday lives, concerts, arts classes, and various athletic events. The centre is supported by contributions and from the over 400 books Mr. Chinmoy has written on a variety of subjects.

Sri Chinmoy is a fervent advocate of what he sees as the right for all people to be able to live in peace and harmony. He has been a strong supporter and advocate of the work and goals of the United Nations since arriving in the United States. Since 1970 he has conducted twice-weekly meditations for diplomats and staff in the U.N., his meditation and inspirational programs widely hailed as an important sustaining influence and motivational tool for all participants.

He has long found that athletics combined with meditation can be an invaluable source of motivation and enrichment for thousands of people, young and old alike. Last year for example, 200 men and women from 50 States participated in a 4,500 mile marathon bicycle race to inaugurate the "Sri Chinmoy Cross-Country Bicycle Trail," a major national cycling route. In 1976 his interest in marathon running was recognized by a commendation from the President's Council on Physical Fitness for his role in the 9,000-mile "Liberty Torch" relay race held in honor of the U.S. Bicentennial.

A prolific writer and poet, he has written over 400 books of essays, plays and short stories. His artistic accomplishments have long been recognized and he is the recipient of an award from the New York School of Visual Arts and has had his works exhibited in North America, Western Europe, and Australia.

You would think that this busy schedule and numerous interests would be enough for one man, but not for Sri Chinmoy, an accomplished musician and composer of over 4,000 songs for choir and instrumental. Considered one of the world's foremost authorities on Eastern philosophy, which is a systematic method of obtaining consciousness through meditation and prayer, he has lectured on this topic at many of the major universities in the United States, including Yale, Harvard, Stanford, and Columbia Universities.

On this, the celebration of his upcoming birthday I wish him the very best for many more happy and healthy years in contributing to world peace and brotherhood.



SPEECH OF  
**HON. DONALD J. MITCHELL**  
OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, July 27, 1981*

● Mr. MITCHELL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend sincere best wishes to a distinguished poet, author, artist, and spiritual leader, Sri Chinmoy, on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

Born on August 27, 1931, Sri Chinmoy has become a true renaissance man. He has inspired thousands of individuals to enrich themselves spiritually and physically through sports and meditation. A marathon runner and cyclist, he has encouraged the participation of many youth in such activities through his sponsorship of many public races. A foremost authority on Eastern philosophy, his writings have received numerous awards and much critical acclaim. His prolific artistic and musical creations are equally impressive. His contribution to international understanding and his endeavors to promote world peace deserve the praise of all Americans.

In his 50 years, he has accomplished much. I am sure, however, that his greatest achievements are yet to come. I wish him continued success in his many endeavors.●

## HON. BALTASAR CORRADA

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 27, 1981*

● Mr. CORRADA. Mr. Speaker, I consider it both a pleasure and a privilege to announce before this honorable House of Representatives, that on August 27 of this year we will celebrate in Puerto Rico the 50th birthday of an extraordinary man born in India—presently domiciled in Jamaica, N.Y.—who has made many contributions to America during the last 17 years.

I refer to the Honorable Sri Chinmoy Kumar Ghosh, the founder of the Sri Chinmoy Centres throughout the United States and the rest of the world—four of them in Puerto Rico—dedicated to render active services to the community in the cultural, civic, and athletic fields. The centres have sponsored art exhibitions, concerts, lectures, poetry festivals, tennis tournaments, free meditation classes, and a number of small businesses.

I point out with pride that the first Sri Chinmoy Centre was established in the city of Ponce, P.R. The founder is regarded in the island with admiration and affection, and a number of honors have been bestowed upon him. In January 1975 the Senate of Puerto Rico paid tribute to Sri Chinmoy in a special ceremony. In 1976, he was declared distinguished guest and honorary resident of Puerto Rico. In 1980 he was invited to open the Pan American games with a silent meditation. In July of this year, Sri Chinmoy held a series of cultural activities in San Juan, including a public meditation ceremony at the State capitol. Each year the Sri Chinmoy marathon team holds a marathon in December. This marathon has been declared to be the official marathon of the city of San Juan.

I wish to join the hundreds of Puerto Rican fans and admirers of Sri Chinmoy in wishing him many happy returns on his 50th birthday, August 27, 1981.●

## HON. BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 1981*

● Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, the then Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, urged that there be a room set aside in the Secretariat which could serve as a refuge—a room of quiet for meditation.

Beginning in 1970, a non-denominational group was formed and the distinguished spiritual teacher, Sri Chinmoy, was invited to conduct the meditations. Since that time the group membership has grown considerably and expanded its activities.

Throughout these years, Sri Chinmoy has worked tirelessly in a quiet and steady way to further the cause of international understanding and peace. The main focus of the meditation group's activities in New York and also in Geneva is the twice-weekly meditations which provide an opportunity for spiritual renewal in an atmosphere reflecting of the highest purposes of the world organization.

The group sponsors an ongoing series of conferences and symposia which provide a forum for Ambassadors, Secretariat officials and staff members, religious leaders, and other world-minded individuals who can share and reinforce their spiritual vision of the United Nations.

Behind much of this activity stands Sri Chinmoy, with his vision and support for the world organization.

While I was serving as a delegate in the 34th General Assembly, I cosponsored a program with Sri Chinmoy, "Meditation at the United Nations," when they honored Members of Congress who have served there.

Today, I congratulate Sri Chinmoy on his 50th birthday which he will be celebrating on August 27, and to wish him continued success in his work at the United Nations and in his activity as an artist, poet, and musician. ●

## HON. MATTHEW F. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 1981*

● Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, 1,800 years ago St. Irenaeus said that "the glory of God is a human being who is fully alive." Today, in celebrating half a century of life for Sri Chinmoy, we celebrate not only the duration of a single significant life, but the limitless—the divine—in the life of all humanity.

It is that kind of vision of boundless human possibilities that the life of Sri Chinmoy evokes. The author of hundreds of books, creator of thousands of paintings and songs, proclaimer and teacher of the life of the spirit, and explorer and servant of the ways of peace—Sri Chinmoy has been all of these to his fellow sojourners on our planet. The example of his joyous immersion in life gently and beguilingly calls us all to truer being, deeper becoming.

It is an honor to join in extending birthday greetings to one who daily honors us all with the beauty and goodness he brings to birth and shares with us.●

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**HON. THOMAS J. DOWNEY**  
OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, August 4, 1981*

Sri Chinmoy's philosophy has much to do with the inner life, but parallel with this emphasis on contemplative experience is a strong affirmation of the value of material existence, and of the need to develop and transform every aspect of life through work and action. This view of reality as dynamic and also his profoundly positive view of human potential leads Sri Chinmoy to stress the transcendence of previously attained goals and the pressing of limits.

Through his remarkable life he is illustrating that there is no end to our capacities for excellence as individuals or as a nation.

SPEECH OF  
**HON. GERALDINE A. FERRARO**  
OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, July 27, 1981*

● Ms. FERRARO. Mr. Speaker, I have long been aware of the good works of Sri Chinmoy, who resides in New York City and who will celebrate his 50th birthday this August 27. It was my privilege to become personally acquainted with this dedicated and creative individual at a program held at the National Visitor Center in May of 1979 commemorating the International Year of the Child. I was honored that day to be one of the guest speakers at the program organized by the U.S. Department of Interior in conjunction with the Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations, an organization dedicated to advance the cause of world peace through prayer and meditation.

On that occasion, I had the opportunity to witness first hand the beauty of a few of the hundreds of thousands of dynamic and colorful paintings by this extraordinary man, and to hear one of his many musical compositions, "This Is My Year", the official song of the International Year of the Child. Also during that ceremony, I joined in the dedication of a tree to the International Year of the Child. The tree was subsequently planted in the President's Park behind the White House where it stands today as a testament to America's commitment to the world's children.

The example of Sri Chinmoy is an inspiration to thousands of Americans. I am pleased to join my colleagues in paying tribute to him to the occasion of his 50th birthday both for his many contributions to the American people and for his efforts to further international understanding as founder and director of the Meditation Group at the United Nations.●

## HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 1981*

● Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, on August 27 Sri Chinmoy will celebrate his 50th birthday. Sri Chinmoy is a man of many accomplishments. Along with 11 years of dedicated service to the United Nations furthering the cause of international understanding, Sri Chinmoy has enriched the world with his esteemed art work, dynamic musical accomplishments, and insightful writings. His work clearly demonstrates his profound sense of quietude and inner peace, qualities respected by us all.

Sri Chinmoy's work has enhanced the quality of life not only for residents of Massachusetts, but in every area of this country. On behalf of my constituents I wish Sri Chinmoy a very happy birthday. His life represents an inspiration to us all and we wish him continued inner peace, fulfillment and happiness.●

Sen. Paul Tsongas  
of Massachusetts

50TH BIRTHDAY OF SRI CHINMOY

● Mr. TSONGAS. Mr. President, I call attention today, as we see 1981 coming to a close, to the occasion of this year marking the 50th birthday of Sri Chinmoy. Sports enthusiast, artist, musician, poet, and director of a meditation group at the United Nations, Sri Chinmoy in a very brief period has accomplished more than most people do in a lifetime. We wish Sri Chinmoy in all his endeavors that help so many, success in the years ahead and best wishes for a long and continuingly fruitful life.●

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## GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS SET

Several members of the meditation group participated in *Guinness World Book of Records* feats during August 1981 as a unique way of celebrating Sri Chinmoy's fiftieth birthday. Inspired by Sri Chinmoy's philosophy of continual self-transcendence, they showed in a tangible way the power of concentration and meditation by breaking three Guinness world records and setting one new world record.

At 9:55 a.m. on Friday, 14 August in a pool in Connecticut, Carol Tooker (UNISPACE '82/PSCA/OSAD) began a world record-setting 50-kilometre swim using only the breast stroke. At 12:04 a.m. Sunday, 16 August she completed her 2184th lap, covering the 50-kilometre distance (31 miles) in a total of 38 hours and 9 minutes. "It was a grueling, but most rewarding experience," says Carol, "remarkably intense and certainly unique. For over a day and half the water became my home, at first an interesting playground for a fun swim; later, a battlefield where aching limbs longed for their hourly massage during breaktime."

On 17 August Bill Paradis (Field Operations), Joe LaGalia (Pension Fund), and 5 others played 28 chromatic hand bells for 60 hours, breaking the existing world record of 50 hours. They repeated 125 devotional songs composed by Sri Chinmoy.

On 16 August, breaking the existing world record of 101 hours and 11 minutes, 4 men completed 103 hours of table tennis. UN staff were Yasu Shimizu (Messenger Unit) and Lindsay Weller (CS/Publishing).

On 7 August, Richard Gibson of UNICEF and his partner played badminton for 77 hours and 2 minutes which broke the existing world record of 73 hours and 20 minutes.



*Ms. Carol Tooker of UNISPACE '82.*



THE ADMINISTRATOR

8 August 1981

Dear friends:

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flower arrangement which you sent to me for my birthday.

Your kindness and thoughtfulness are deeply appreciated.

With high respect and warmest personal regards,  
I am,

Sincerely yours,

Bradford Morse

The United Nations  
Meditation Group  
United Nations  
New York

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(58) BLANK