

PEACE WALKS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Room S-2225 • GPO-20 • United Nations • NY 10163 • (212) 754-7668 or 523-0289

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26 June 1984

AMBASSADORS AND NATIONALS OF OVER 75 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE IN PEACE WALK AT UN

Ambassadors and other members of the United Nations Community from over 75 nations joined in a two-day "Peace Walk" in the United Nations Garden on Monday and Tuesday (June 25-26) to commemorate the 39th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter. A Charter Day message from Jorge Illueca, President of Panama, and also President of the United Nations General Assembly, was read at the concluding ceremony.

In relay fashion, walkers from each nation made a single loop around a section of the North Garden in a silent, contemplative manner reflecting the highest ideals of the human spirit.

A copy of the Preamble to the United Nations Charter was carried by a member of each national "team" during its segment of the walk and passed to the succeeding country in alphabetical order, in much the same way that a baton is passed in a relay run.

The event ended with people from many nations joining together in a final "international" walk followed by a concluding ceremony. Sri Chinmoy, who has conducted meditations for delegates and staff of the United Nations for the past 13 years, opened the ceremony by leading the participants in a silent meditation on the goals of the Charter. Representatives of India, Samoa and Zambia then took turns reading from the Preamble of the Charter.

President Illueca's message was then read:

"I assure you of my wholehearted support in this effort to renew our dedication to the spirit of the Charter, and ~~I extend my appreciation~~ to those missions which have collaborated with the Meditation Group in sponsoring the second in a series of Peace Walks.

A series of events to inspire renewed dedication to the highest ideals of the United Nations Charter.

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I would urge that we avail ourselves of every opportunity of this kind, both as individuals and as representatives of our respective countries, to rededicate ourselves to the ideals which we are striving to realise in our devotion to the principles and purposes of the United Nations.

"Peace is not a passive state; it is not merely the absence of conflict. It is the effective expression by all nations of a determination to create and continuously support a world of progress and development, governed by justice and understanding.

"We see the United Nations through Sri Chinmoy's eyes as a church of mankind, dedicated to worshipping the aspirations of men, women and children of all races, nationalities and political and religious beliefs for a better life. The United Nations should become a sanctuary of moral and spiritual values as a better foundation of peace."

Peace Walk for United Nations Charter Day 1984 was sponsored jointly by ambassadors from seventeen nations and Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations.

Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations is an association of United Nations delegates, staff members, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents who believe the quest for world peace must encompass not only political, economic and social issues, but the spirit of man itself. Members believe that inner silence and meditation can contribute to this end.

The United Nations Charter was signed in San Francisco on June 26, 1945.

For information, call 291-7406.

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