

# The Beaches

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# Leader

Mayport • Atlantic Beach • Neptune Beach • Jacksonville Beach • Ponte Vedra Beach

23rd year, no. 34

25¢



Three marathon swimmers who are also employees of the United Nations are conducting a series of swims worldwide to dramatize the UN's International Year of Peace. They are, from left, Adhira Keefe, Sunil Davidson and Shradha Howard. The three are members of peace meditation group which meets at the UN. They began their "peace swims" on Jan. 1 at Hiroshima, Japan, and last Sunday were in Jacksonville Beach.



# The Florida Times-Union

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA **MONDAY** FEBRUARY 10, 1986

★★★ B-3

## U.N. trio swimming for peace

By Chelle Delaney  
Staff writer

JACKSONVILLE BEACH — Three United Nations employees endured the chilly Atlantic yesterday in one of a series of swims for peace, the U.S. portion of which began this weekend.

Under an overcast sky, the three swimmers stood for a moment with their palms together in silent prayer, then headed out about noon for a 32-minute swim as a few people, wrapped snugly in their jackets, watched from the shore.

Near the surf at the foot of Beach Boulevard, a blue and white banner proclaimed the United Nations' "International Year of Peace."

To draw attention to 1986 as the U.N. International Year of Peace, Adhiratha Keefe, 38, Sunil Davidson, 38, and Shradha Howard, 32, swam about a mile. They swam later at Daytona and had swum at Savannah and Fernandina Beach on Saturday.

"I don't know how they can do it," said Alberta G. Jackson, vice president of the local chapter of the U.N. Association of the U.S.A., who was there to lend moral support.

The men began their personal swims on New Year's Day in Japan with a 2-kilometer swim around Miyajima Island near Hiroshima and



— Bob Self/staff

Shradha Howard, 32, Sunil Davidson, 38, and Adhiratha Keefe, 38, (from left) have a

moment of meditation before plunging into the Atlantic off Jacksonville Beach.

also swam in Nagasaki Harbor.

"Unless people do something more," Keefe said, the U.N.'s message for 1986 will not mean as much. "We hope that our swims can inspire others to attempt something exceptional for peace."

The threesome is also in training to swim the English Channel later this year. In September they will join about 20 other swimmers from the United States and Europe who will be attempting the channel swim to give

additional impetus to the U.N. year of peace.

In fact, the four Southeastern cities were selected because the water temperatures are similar to that of the channel, about 50 degrees, said Dhruva Hein, who travels with the group.

For Keefe, who swam the channel last year to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the U.N.'s founding, it will be a second venture.

The group funds its swims from their salaries, Hein said.

Although the men grew up in either the Jewish or Christian tradition, they all are members of a peace meditation group that meets at the United Nations under the spiritual leadership of Sri Chinmoy. And each has changed his first name and adopted a name from Sanskrit as a reminder to "go beyond what we are the present time in our prayer and outward daily lives," Hein said.





BICENTENNIAL FLAG PAVILION — JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA, U.S.A.

P R O C L A M A T I O N

**DELAWARE**  
December 7, 1787

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
December 12, 1787

**NEW JERSEY**  
December 18, 1787

**GEORGIA**  
January 2, 1788

**CONNECTICUT**  
January 9, 1788

**MASSACHUSETTS**  
February 6, 1788

**MARYLAND**  
April 28, 1788

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
May 23, 1788

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
June 21, 1788

**VIRGINIA**  
June 26, 1788

**NEW YORK**  
July 26, 1788

**NORTH CAROLINA**  
November 21, 1789

**RHODE ISLAND**  
May 29, 1790

**VERMONT**  
March 4, 1791

**KENTUCKY**  
June 1, 1792

**TENNESSEE**  
June 1, 1796

**OHIO**  
March 1, 1803

**LOUISIANA**  
April 30, 1812

**INDIANA**  
December 11, 1816

**MISSISSIPPI**  
December 10, 1817

**MICHIGAN**  
January 26, 1837

**FLORIDA**  
March 3, 1845

**TEXAS**  
December 29, 1845

**IOWA**  
December 28, 1846

**WISCONSIN**  
May 29, 1848

**CALIFORNIA**  
September 9, 1850

**MINNESOTA**  
May 11, 1858

**OREGON**  
February 14, 1859

**KANSAS**  
January 29, 1861

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
June 20, 1863

**NEVADA**  
October 31, 1864

**NEBRASKA**  
March 1, 1867

**COLORADO**  
August 1, 1876

**NORTH DAKOTA**  
November 2, 1889

**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
November 2, 1889

**MONTANA**  
November 8, 1889

**WASHINGTON**  
November 11, 1889

**IDAHO**  
July 3, 1890

**WYOMING**  
July 10, 1890

**UTAH**  
January 4, 1896

WHEREAS, the year 1986 has been officially designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Peace to be observed by all member nations throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Adhiratha Keefe, Sunil Davidson and Shradha Howard, three members of the Peace Meditation Group which meets at the United Nations under the spiritual leadership of Sri Chinmoy, are travelling to diverse points in the world to swim at least one kilometer to draw attention to the International Year of Peace; and

WHEREAS, the three swimmers draw their inspiration from the world-harmonizing goals of the United Nations, from their longtime participation in the Peace Meditation Group and from their daily personal meditations; and

WHEREAS, we affirm the goal of inspiring others to find personal and collective means to express their support for world peace; and

WHEREAS, we as Floridians, as Americans, and as world citizens wish to promote and spread the awareness of the necessity for deeply founded and lasting peace among humankind,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert W. O'Neill, Mayor of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, do hereby designate and proclaim February 10, 1986 as:

THE DAY OF THE PEACE SWIM

in the City of Jacksonville Beach, and urge all citizens to recognize this event and participate fittingly in its observance.





BICENTENNIAL FLAG PAVILION — JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA, U.S.A.



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WHEREAS, the three swimmers draw their inspiration from the world-harmonizing goals of the United Nations, from their longtime participation in the Peach Meditation Group and from their daily personal meditations; and

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December 10, 1817

ILLINOIS  
December 3, 1818

ALABAMA  
December 14, 1819

MAINE  
March 15, 1820

MISSOURI  
August 10, 1821

ARKANSAS  
June 16, 1836

MICHIGAN  
January 26, 1837

FLORIDA  
March 3, 1845

TEXAS  
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IOWA  
December 28, 1846

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UTAH  
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OKLAHOMA  
November 16, 1907

NEW MEXICO  
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ARIZONA  
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ALASKA  
January 3, 1959

HAWAII  
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