



SEVEN MINUTES  
OF WORLD PEACE:  
TO JOIN HUMANITY IN PEACE

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*Sri Chinmoy leads 1984 observance of Seven Minutes of World Peace at United Nations Headquarters.*

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### WHAT IS IT?

All the world's countries, meeting at the United Nations, declared 1986 to be the International Year of Peace. On United Nations Day (24 October 1986), individuals, groups and organizations around the world will join simultaneously for seven minutes of silence to experience the spirit of peace on earth.

This observance, now in its third year, is called Seven Minutes of World Peace. This year it will be held from 1:00 to 1:07 pm Eastern Daylight Time at United Nations Headquarters in New York and during the simultaneous seven minutes in various time zones throughout the world corresponding to 17:00-17:07 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

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### ITS PURPOSE

Seven Minutes of World Peace seeks to focus the world's attention on the urgent need for peace in the ecumenical spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Dag Hammarskjöld and the United Nations itself.

The observance offers people in every country an opportunity to transcend their individual and national identities and join all humanity in absolute peace as part of one human family. Each participant can combine his or her own longing for peace into a moving statement of international brotherhood.

As part of the organization of Seven Minutes of World Peace, governments of all countries are being requested to refrain from hostile or warlike action during the Seven Minutes observance. If peace can

reign on earth for seven minutes now, some day it might endure for seven hours, seven days, seven years and even seven centuries.

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## THE SPONSOR

The event is sponsored by Sri Chinmoy:

The Peace Meditation at the United Nations in co-operation with United Nations Associations and a broad range of religious, spiritual, educational and peace organizations around the world. The Peace Meditation at the United Nations is an association of United Nations delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents who believe that inner peace must serve as the foundation for outer peace, and actively work to pursue these goals through the United Nations. Toward this end, the Peace Meditation has been holding twice-weekly meditations at United Nations Headquarters under the direction of Sri Chinmoy since 1970.

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## PAST OBSERVANCES

Seven Minutes of World Peace was inaugurated in 1984 with the participation of groups in over 40 countries. In 1985, with interest in the event continuing to grow, ceremonies were held around the world, and messages of support were received from several heads of state.

The President of Colombia, Belisario Betancur, said, "I wish to offer your organization the expression of my personal support, and to reiterate the peaceful purpose of my Government." Sir F.A. Glasspole, Governor-General of Jamaica, said, "I sincerely hope that the activities you are planning will help to promote the spirit of peace around the world." Patroclus Stavrou, Under-Secretary to the President of Cyprus, wrote, "The President expresses appreciation for your praiseworthy efforts and wishes you every success." Rudolph Kirchschräger, the Federal President of the Republic of Austria, sent "best wishes for your laudable initiative."

In Sri Lanka, with the organization of the United Nations Association, over 1000 school-children, teachers and members of the public gathered in the city of Panadura for the seven minutes of silent prayer and meditation under the guidance of officials and clergy from the main faiths of Sri Lanka.

Some 75 cities in the United States and Canada proclaimed 24 October as World Peace Day. Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley said, "I encourage all citizens to organize and participate in appropriate observances and activities." The message from Richard E. Neal, Mayor of Springfield, Mass., was, "It is my sincere hope that this inspiring endeavour will begin to nurture peace in the hearts of all mankind."

Hundreds of individuals, churches and peace groups from Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, the Dominican Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States also participated in the 1985 observance.



*Members of U.N. delegations holding some of the proclamations sent by more than 60 mayors of America's principal cities.*

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## PARTICIPATION DURING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

Because 1986 has been declared as the International Year of Peace by the world's governments meeting at the United Nations, special efforts are being made to increase global involvement in this year's Seven Minutes of World Peace. In Sri Lanka, for example, the United Nations Association is planning to send 15,000 letters to institutions in the country (including all secondary schools) calling for participation in the event.

Individuals can join the Seven Minutes of World Peace by silently dedicating themselves to peace during the period from 1:00 to 1:07 pm (Eastern Daylight Time—New York time) on 24 October 1986. For information about group observances in your location or country, contact the individual or group closest to you from the list at the end of this brochure. Information has also been sent to the national United Nations Association offices around the world.

Seven Minutes of World Peace has no political affiliations or point of view other than the universal human aspiration for harmony, peace and oneness among nations and peoples.

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## COMMENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

"I am happy to offer Sri Chinmoy my sincerest thanks and appreciation for all he has done throughout his extraordinary life to promote global peace and understanding . . .

"I commend him for his faith and serenity, and I hope that he will continue to exert his calming and constructive influence on the international community for many years to come."

—Brian Mulroney—  
Prime Minister of Canada

"The Seven Minutes of World Peace observance and meditation to be held on 24 October 1986 is an excellent idea. Heads of state and all world governments should support it in action, taking into account their peoples' wish for peace.

"Moments of prayer, moments of peace unite the peoples of the world and make them realize the oneness of the human family. This is the significance of Sri Chinmoy's noble efforts, which I wholeheartedly uphold."

—Zenon Rossides—  
Ambassador of Cyprus to the United Nations

"We affirm our intention to join the Seven Minutes as an addition to our traditional UN Day activities. We intend to canvass the support of religious and political leaders of all denominations and political persuasions in order to make it a non-sectarian observance uniting all peoples."

—Kumaran Fernando—  
Secretary-General, United Nations  
Association of Sri Lanka

"The Soviet United Nations Association joins you in your belief that someday we may have not only days and weeks but many centuries of peace. . . . Appreciating your efforts for the cause of peace."

—Dr. Serguey Gribkov—  
Secretary-General, United Nations  
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"I hope the Seven Minutes of World Peace will grow eternal world peace."

—Masahiko Ikeda—  
Director, Office of the Mayor  
Hiroshima, Japan

"We will certainly continue our support in your annual Seven Minutes of World Peace observance."

—Louis R. Montano  
Mayor, Santa Fe, New Mexico

"Seven Minutes of World Peace is an inspiring endeavour to unite the world in peace."

—Dr. Helen Caldicott—  
President Emeritus, Physicians for  
Social Responsibility (US affiliate of the  
International Physicians for the Prevention of  
Nuclear War, Nobel Peace Prize winner, 1985)

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United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
(212) 754-8484

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My group or organization plans to participate in the Seven Minutes of World Peace on 24 October 1986. Please send details on participation to the following address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State or Province \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone day \_\_\_\_\_ evening \_\_\_\_\_


Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please send us \_\_\_\_\_ additional free brochures.

Please send us \_\_\_\_\_ free Seven Minutes of World Peace posters.

Return to:

Seven Minutes of World Peace  
GPO Box 20, Room DCI-1256  
United Nations, NY 10017



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