



# Thailand thrills to Peace Run '89

By Anton Perera

**THAILAND will be one of 51 nations on six continents that will be an active supporter of the Peace Run 1989, called "the ultimate running adventure when you carry the Peace Torch in history's longest running relay."**

Between April 21 and August 7, 1989, more than 100,000 people — including at least one representative of every country on Earth — will carry a torch for peace over a route longer than the entire circumference of the globe.

It will be history's largest and longest relay — The Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run.

In the Far East and Asia, Thailand will be joined in the course of the Run by China, Burma, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines and Singapore.

And, without doubt, those responsible for the conducting of the Thailand 'leg' of the unique Peace Run will be the National Jogging Association of Thailand, helmed by Gen Pichit Kullavanijaya and the Thai Government.

The Global Odyssey is scheduled to begin April 21, when an inaugural Peace Torch will be lit in New York City. For the next 15 weeks, through

more than 1,000 communities in all 50 States of the United States, across Africa, Europe, Asia and South America, spanning Canada, Mexico, Central America, Australia, Japan and the Pacific, crossing mountains, jungles, deserts and cities, people will be bearing the Peace Torch.

On August 7, some 31,000 miles and 109 days later, torch bearers from around the world will return to New York for a grand finale of this historic event — a testament to the strength and determination of humanity's quest for lasting peace among the peoples of the world.

Organized by the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team, the Peace Run is an event handled by an international running organization that seeks to promote personal growth and world peace through athletics. Each year the team sponsors and coordinates hundreds of events worldwide including several world-class ultramarathons.

The phenomenal success of the first ever Peace Run last year — a 27,000 miles relay that reached a worldwide audience of 115 million people — made the second Peace Run a natural. For the 1987 event was covered by more than 1,500 newspaper, radio and TV reports, including a 30-minute PBS Special 'The Peace Run.'

and live network coverage of the Opening Ceremonies and the start on NBC's 'Today Show.'

An estimated 20,000 runners helped carry the torches during Peace Run '87, and it won the enthusiastic support and participation of people and their leaders all over the world.

By a strange coincidence, Sri Chinmoy himself happens to be in Thailand at the present time. And the Sri Chinmoy team itself was founded and is directed by the noted artist, author, athlete and the leader of the peace meditation at the United Nations.

Small wonder no less a personality such as United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had this to say about this remarkable tribute to the invincibility of the human spirit: "Your aim is to foster harmony and peaceful cooperation among nations through increased human contacts. Your essential message is that we, the members of the human family, despite our many differences, have infinitely more to unite and bond us together. Accordingly, as United Nations Secretary-General, I wish you every success in this endeavour, for you are each ambassadors in the cause of peace."

And, without any doubt, Thailand is also highly privileged to be an intrinsic part of such a unique crusade.



Holding high the Torch

BANGKOK, SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24, 1988

● Thailand's English-language newspaper

THE MAHACHULONKORAJIT



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