

**MAURICE STRONG:**  
**MOTHER NATURE'S FONDNESS-CHILD**

**PRESENTATION OF THE**  
**U THANT PEACE AWARD**  
**TO**  
**MR. MAURICE STRONG**

# MAURICE STRONG

## *Mother Nature's Fondness-Child*



SRI CHINMOY:  
THE PEACE MEDITATION  
AT THE UNITED NATIONS

United Nations:



**Photographs by Ramaniya Zealey and Dhanu Alaimo**

**MAURICE STRONG:  
MOTHER NATURE'S FONDNESS-CHILD**

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
U THANT PEACE AWARD  
TO  
MR. MAURICE STRONG**

The U Thant Peace Award is a symbolic presentation by Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations to acknowledge, appreciate and admire distinguished accomplishments toward the attainment of world peace. The Award is named for the late Secretary-General of the United Nations in honour of this contemplative world leader's exemplary devotion to peace in both his personal and his political life. The recipients are individuals or organisations reflecting U Thant's lofty spiritual ideals.

The U Thant Peace Award is offered periodically by members of Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations, who work for the international community in various capacities and have made an additional personal commitment to the highest goals of the United Nations.

The U Thant Peace Award was bestowed on Mr. Maurice Strong on 2 May 1996 in the Church Center for the United Nations. A transcript of the ceremony follows.

*Ms. Vijaya Catherine Claxton, Master of Ceremonies:* I would like to welcome you to today's programme, organised by Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations in tribute to Mr. Maurice Strong. As many of you know, Mr. Strong is currently Senior Advisor to the President of the World Bank, and previously he was Chairman of Ontario Hydro. But most of us, especially those of us in the UN community, know him for his remarkable leadership as Secretary-General of the 1992 Earth Summit. We thank you, Mr. Strong, for accepting our invitation to come here.

The purpose of our meeting today is to bestow upon you the U Thant Peace Award. The U Thant Peace Award is our symbolic way of acknowledging, appreciating and admiring your very distinguished accomplishments for the attainment of world peace. The award was named in honour of the late Secretary-General of the United Nations whose very life was the embodiment of peace. We will always cherish the highest regard for U Thant, who profoundly encouraged Sri Chinmoy's dedicated activities for the United Nations. The award is given to individuals who reflect U Thant's lofty spiritual ideals. Previous recipients include the late James Grant, former Executive Director of UNICEF, Mother Teresa, President Nelson Mandela and President Mikhail Gorbachev.

In honour of the man whose ideals you exemplify, we wish to share with you a very short video recording U Thant's presence as the guest of honour at a performance of Sri Chinmoy's play on the Lord Buddha in 1973.

*After the screening of the video, the Peace Meditation Choir performs two songs by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to Mr. Strong.*

*Dr. Amneshan Walter Dorn, Fellow, University of Toronto, and United Nations Representative, Science for Peace:* I feel very privileged to say a few words about a fellow Canadian and a fellow citizen of the world—that is, a fellow of us all: Maurice Strong. In the elevator as we were coming up, he said that his time is no more important than any other human being's on earth. That goes to show the great humility of the man and his spirit of democracy towards others, whether they are here in America or in Africa, where he has spent much time.

Maurice Strong is a man of great dreams and great deeds; a man who has brought vision to reality. He is also a man of many careers, and somehow he has managed to intermingle them in life, frankly, like no other person on the planet that I am aware of.

He is an international civil servant but, much more than that, he is an international civil leader. As an international civil servant extraordinaire, he worked with U Thant to develop the plan for

the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, of which he was subsequently the Chairman. Then he became Executive Director of the new United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya and was part of its process of growth. Maurice Strong has a deep sense of sharing with the developing world both his own resources and the resources that the developed world has.

Mr. Strong's institution-building role is not confined to international institutions. He is also the founder of the Canadian International Development Agency, CIDA, and the research branch, the IDRC. Sri Chinmoy has coined the word 'impossibility-challenger', and that term very aptly describes the personality and the courage of Maurice Strong.

As a business leader, Maurice Strong led the largest utility in North America, Ontario Hydro, with great skill. He founded Petro-Canada, and he was the President and Chief Executive Officer of that company.

Even as a businessman, Maurice Strong believes that the bottom line is not just a number on an accountant's sheet. The bottom line is world happiness, and this largely depends on human welfare—how well human beings feel about themselves and about their world. He encourages us to feel good about life. He is a very positive person. He takes an optimistic view of our world



and our international system, and he is making it even better.

I am sure I speak for all of us when I say that we would like to see Maurice Strong go on to even greater things, and have a supreme role in further charting the future of the United Nations.

We would particularly like to thank Mr. Strong for his deep awareness of the spiritual dimensions of peace and for his appreciation of Sri Chinmoy's work. Sri Chinmoy has an aphorism: "When the power of love replaces the love of power, man will have a new name: God." It is truly love of service that inspires the life of Maurice Strong.

One last thing I would like to mention about Maurice Strong is his current vision to create an Earth Charter, a document that would set the moral, ethical and indeed even spiritual standards for our behaviour and actions on the earth. We wish him all the best in his efforts to bring about such an Earth Charter and to have it adopted by the family of nations by the year 2000.

*Sri Chinmoy presents the U Thant Peace Award to Mr. Strong with the following remarks:*

Dear and esteemed Brother-Friend Maurice Strong, it is with great pride and joy that our Peace Meditation at the United Nations today offers you our U Thant Peace Award.

Dear Brother, you are indeed a chosen instrument of the United Nations and of the Mother-Earth. Even in your early childhood, we observe with admiration your love of nature, your boundless interest in this vast world and your burning aspiration to do something great and good for humanity, nurtured by your beloved mother's inspiration to achieve and to serve. A mere building could not suffice as your school; the world itself became your perfect teacher. You took birth in a tiny town in the Canadian prairies, but your global destiny blessed you with vast mental and spiritual horizons. Even in your boyhood, your natural leadership commanded the respect of your friends, while your unlimited energy perplexed and perhaps vexed your elders.

Poverty was no stranger to your early life, dear Brother, but you relished adventure and work. Scrubbing decks on a ship at age fourteen, riding the rails across western Canada, even learning the language of silence among the resourceful Inuit in their extremely harsh climate, you were perfectly preparing yourself for your life's crowning task. When you heard about the creation of the United

Nations, your imagination was immediately captivated, and you succeeded in finding a position at the UN's headquarters in Queens. While performing your humble duties as an 18-year-old staff member of the fledgling organisation, you were inspired to write in your diary, "I am most impressed with the United Nations and convinced that therein lies the key to my future."

Who could be more singularly chosen *for* the United Nations and *by* the United Nations? But the time had not yet come for you to play your highest role. For some years you had first to excel in several fields. Indeed, your astonishingly brilliant and speedy success in business and your striking leadership in the area of international development assistance multiplied your capacities many times over and commanded the attention of the needful world.

With your great mental speed and keen intuitive vision, you became the pioneer champion of the well-being of our Mother-Earth. Characteristically, your dynamic spirit seized the protection of the environment not just as a challenge, but as an opportunity. You said, "I had developed a strong conviction that the emergence of the environmental issue provided a new rationale for international cooperation." What better way to unite the human family than a concerted effort to protect its endangered earth-home? And who better to lead that effort than you, dear Brother?

Your shining achievements as Secretary-General of the two United Nations Conferences on environment, your service as the first Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, your leadership of the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa: any one of these and your many other accomplishments would measure the full capacity of another human being, but you have attained them all. What we cherish in you, dear Friend, is the tireless self-giving spirit of your service. Your outer success you have always consecrated to global goals. You convincingly manifest the powerful truth that to unite humanity in the cause of preserving our Mother-Earth is not only good, kind and necessary, but also practical, profitable and fruitful.

Dear Brother, you wisely advise us, "A mercantile society without a soul, however successful it may be in material terms, will not be sustainable." And your life's aspiration reaches its highest peak when you proclaim, "I believe the great frontier of the future is the frontier between the individual spirit and the Spirit, the cosmos."

For your vision, for your manifestation and for your inspiration, we are deeply honoured to present to you today, revered Brother-Friend Maurice Strong, our U Thant Peace Award.

Two colossal souls: U Thant and Maurice Strong. Both of you, in the soul's world, are sailing in the same boat towards the same destination: the

destination that embodies Infinity's Peace, the destination that embodies Immortality's Bliss.

Not in vain you came into a 'Strong' family! You are unimaginably strong within and without. We surrender to those whom we feel are stronger than we are. Our surrender is immediate and complete. In your case, you surrender only to the Source, to the Absolute Supreme. To fulfil God in God's own Way is your choice.

*Sri Chinmoy presents the plaque, which reads as follows:*

**The U Thant Peace Award  
is presented to  
the Honourable Maurice F. Strong,  
impossibility-dreamer and indomitability-doer,  
builder of world-oneness  
among humanity's striving peoples  
and their all-giving Earth-home,  
for his:  
flaming lifelong commitment  
to the soaring ideals of the United Nations;  
glowing reverence  
for our beautiful and bountiful Planet Earth;  
extraordinary embodiment of  
vision—the noblest,  
intellect—the keenest,  
leadership—the brightest,  
service—the fullest,  
all remarkably united  
in vibrant dedication  
to the goal of a fruitful and ever-blossoming peace  
between the self-sacrificing blue-green Earth  
and its wondrously multifarious family.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**With our deepest appreciation,  
admiration and gratitude,  
*Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation  
at the United Nations*  
2 May 1996**

*Mr. Maurice Strong:* Sri Chinmoy, friends, what can one say on an occasion like this? I am really quite overwhelmed. To receive the honour that bears the name of U Thant, to receive it from the hands of Sri Chinmoy, who has been for so many years the guardian of the spiritual roots of the United Nations—I must say that combination to me makes this one of the greatest honours that I could possibly imagine, and I am deeply grateful to all of you.

Some very generous things have been said of me. But, as you know, it is in the nature of public service that you get honoured for things which others have primarily done. Over many years I have been privileged to work with and be supported by many people who may not always have had the visibility that I have had, but who deserve, far more than I do, the honours that I have received. Occasionally, too, the other side of that coin is true as well.

But I do want to make a point: while we all draw strength, inspiration and encouragement, particularly at moments like this, from those who support and honour us, we can also learn from and must empathise with those who, for whatever reason, have concerns or dissents. We must listen and learn. It is all too easy to listen to those who would compliment you and honour you. Of course, it does not lessen one's gratitude at all to realise that you should listen even more carefully to those who have reasons to dissent, because none of us

ever—at least not I—has been able to live up to all to which we aspire.

Sri Chinmoy, you have helped us to do that. You have inspired us; you have sustained us. In the practical world of the United Nations, in its struggle for peace, in its struggle for cooperation, in its struggle to preserve and actually to exemplify the spiritual and moral values that we espouse, it is not always easy to know what is the right thing at a given moment. It is at those moments that you, Sir, with your consistent commitment to the inner peace from which world peace emanates, inspire us to continue the inner struggle to exemplify in our lives the best of what we believe. That is where the real struggle to make a more peaceful world will be won or lost. We are all engaged in that struggle. None of us can believe that we have it made. It is something we have to do every single day.

I could not help but reflect nostalgically when I saw the movie about U Thant. Although I started my career, as you were good enough to remind us, very early in the UN—I hate to tell you when!—my second career in the UN began in 1970 when U Thant invited me to head the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. He invited me to come and see him at the United Nations, and I had a tremendous regard for him. Then I had the great, great pleasure and privilege of serving under him through the Stockholm Conference and getting to know him as the



great man of peace and man of the spirit which he was. I know of his high regard for you, Sri Chinmoy, and I was very, very pleased to see you and U Thant united in the video that preceded this celebration.

Finally, I may not feel like an old man, but I do have a lot of years behind me. I cannot help but remind myself each time I receive the kind of privilege and honour that you have accorded me today—and I have never received one that I value more—that whatever work we may have done in the past is not sufficient. We cannot rest on our laurels. None of us is entitled to do that until we get to the very end of our energy.

The other day I was honoured for a different reason: just because of a birthday. My friends said to me, “Maurice, we’ve got a message for you: you’ve got to slow down.” I said, “I don’t really look at it that way. The way I look at it, my life is more than half over, and yet the things I believe I want to accomplish in it are far less than half done. So I believe I’ve got to accelerate.”

However, when I know that I have allies, when I know that none of us works alone—and certainly I have never worked alone; I have always enjoyed the support and cooperation of others—and when I see the new generation coming up, I believe it is our obligation to continue to serve, to continue to renew our commitment to the spiritual, ethical and moral values which not only have to underpin this great institution that is going through such

troubled times, but underpin the individual efforts and commitments of each of us who tries, in our own way, to serve those ideals.

This is one of the most encouraging moments in my life. I am grateful to you and I shall always remember this. To you, Sri Chinmoy, and to all of you who have shared this with me, my deep and enduring gratitude.

*Ms. Claxton:* Mr. Strong, we heard that on the 29th of April you did celebrate your very happy birthday. We hope you will indulge us and celebrate it anew today.

*Sri Chinmoy offers a birthday cake to Mr. Strong, and the choir sings a special birthday song as well as the traditional "Happy Birthday" song.*

*Mr. Strong:* Thank you very much. As a diabetic, this is the kind of sin I appreciate, and on an occasion like this, I guess I can indulge in it. Thank you very, very much, and I hope you will all share this.

*Sri Chinmoy offers Mr. Strong signed copies of three of his books: The Garland of Nations-Souls (1995), a collection of Sri Chinmoy's talks at the United Nations for the past 25 years; U Thant: Divinity's Smile, Humanity's Cry (1977); and Inspiration-Suns and Inspiration-Moons in My Aspiration-Life (1996), a book documenting meetings with world luminaries, including a meeting with Mr. Strong at the United Nations in 1992.*



Sri Chinmoy greets Mr. Maurice Strong before the programme.



Ms. Vijaya Catherine Claxton, Master of Ceremonies, welcomes Mr. Maurice Strong and the members of the audience.



Mr. Strong views with great interest the film recording U Thant's presence as the guest of honour at a performance of Sri Chinmoy's play on the Buddha in 1973.





The Peace Meditation Choir performs two songs by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to Mr. Strong.



Mr. Amneshan Walter Dorn of the University of Toronto says a few words about the guest of honour as a fellow Canadian.





Sri Chinmoy speaks about Mr. Strong as a chosen instrument of the United Nations and of Mother Earth.



Ms. Nemi Fredner reads the inscription on the U Thant Peace Award plaque.



Sri Chinmoy presents the plaque to Mr. Strong.



Mr. Strong reads the words of the songs and the dedication.

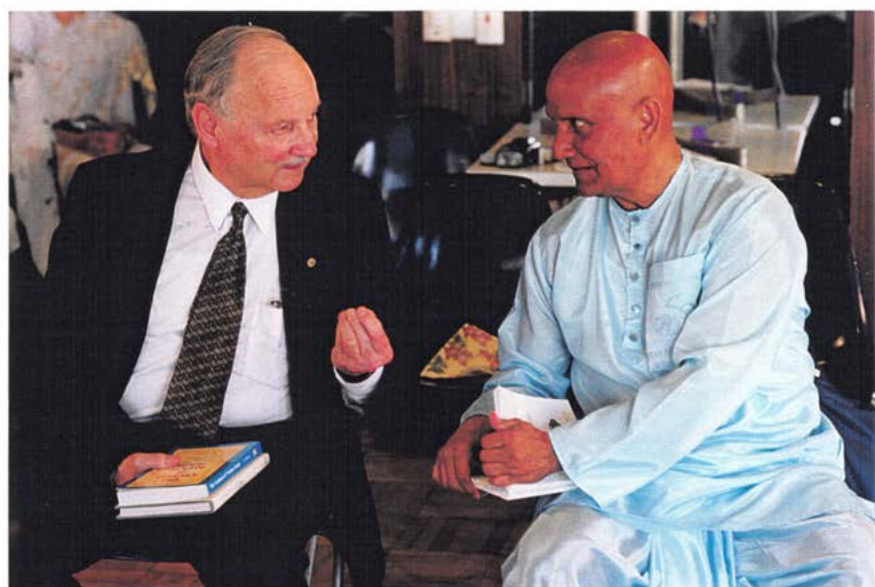
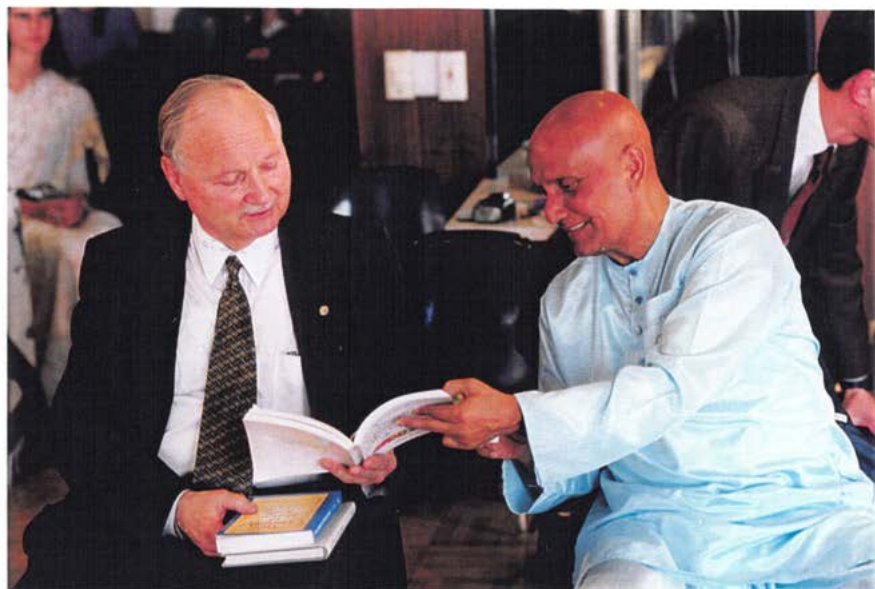


Mr. Strong thanks Sri Chinmoy and the Peace Meditation at the United Nations and speaks of his own close association with U Thant.

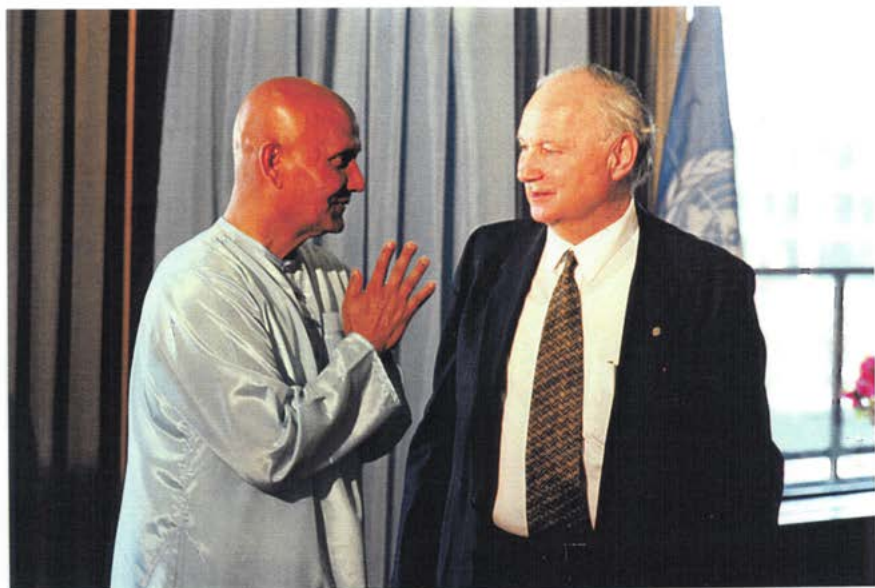


Sri Chinmoy offers a birthday cake to Mr. Strong, and the choir sings a special birthday song.





Sri Chinmoy offers Mr. Strong several of his books dedicated to the United Nations.



Sri Chinmoy offers his gratitude to Mr. Strong at the end of the ceremony.



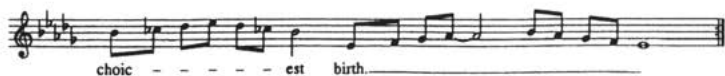


Mr. Strong and his wife, Hanne, greet Sri Chinmoy at United Nations headquarters on 25 February 1992.

*Following are songs composed by Sri Chinmoy in honour of Maurice Strong and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the first "Earth Summit"), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992.*

# MAURICE STRONG

Words and music  
by Sri Chinmoy  
6 February 1996



Sing once with repeats,  
then D.C. al fine

## **MAURICE STRONG**

**Maurice Strong, Maurice Strong, Maurice Strong!**  
**Your heart is made of a compassion-song.**  
**You are Mother Nature's fondness-child.**  
**Your streaming tears beg us to be mild.**  
**You cry to save the planet earth.**  
**In you the Supreme Lord's choicest birth.**

# EARTH IS THE ONLY HOME WE HAVE

Words by Maurice Strong  
Music by Sri Chinmoy  
18 February 1992

The musical score consists of three staves of music in a single system. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "Earth is the on-ly home we have; its fate is li-ter-al-ly in our hands." The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words split across lines. The first staff contains the first line of the melody and the first part of the lyrics. The second staff contains the second line of the melody and the second part of the lyrics. The third staff contains the third line of the melody and the final part of the lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

"Earth is the on-ly home we have;  
its fate is li-ter-al-ly in our  
hands."

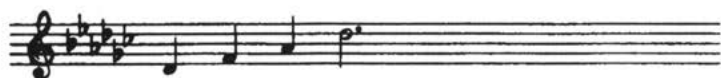
**EARTH IS THE ONLY HOME WE HAVE**

**“Earth is the only home we have;  
Its fate is literally in our hands.”**

*– Maurice Strong*

# THE EARTH SUMMIT

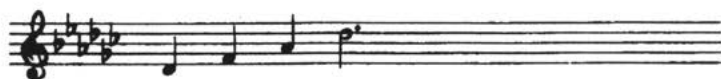
Words and music  
by Sri Chinmoy  
24 February 1992



The Earth Sum-mit,



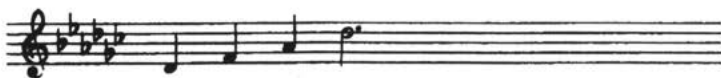
Com-pas--sion - heart-----beat.



The Earth Sum-mit,



Con-----cern, care \_\_\_\_\_ sw-----eet.



The Earth Sum-mit,



Man's du-----ty com-----plete.

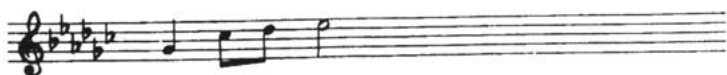
## **THE EARTH SUMMIT**

**The Earth Summit,  
Compassion-heartbeat.  
The Earth Summit,  
Concern, care sweet.  
The Earth Summit,  
Man's duty complete.**

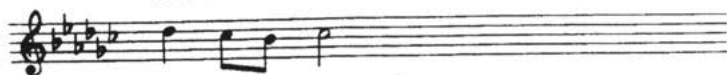


# THE PLANET EARTH

Words and music  
by Sri Chinmoy  
24 February 1992



The Pla-net Earth,



O, give her mirth.



Her heart is in tears. \_\_\_\_\_



Her bo--dy is in fears. \_\_\_\_\_



She gives us her all. \_\_\_\_\_



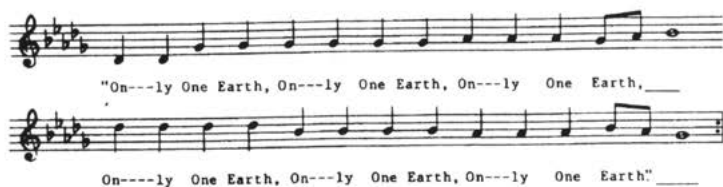
Keep her vast \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ tall. \_\_\_\_\_

## **THE PLANET EARTH**

**The Planet Earth,  
O, give her mirth.  
Her heart is in tears.  
Her body is in fears.  
She gives us her all.  
Keep her vast and tall.**

# ONLY ONE EARTH

Words: The Motto of the  
UN Environment Programme  
Music by Sri Chinmoy  
18 February 1992



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2, C2. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

"On---ly One Earth, On---ly One Earth, On---ly One Earth, \_\_\_  
On---ly One Earth, On---ly One Earth, On---ly One Earth" \_\_\_

# EARTH SUMMIT

Words and music  
by Sri Chinmoy  
18 February 1992

Earth Sum--mit:-- en--vi--ron-ment \_\_\_\_\_ and de---ve--lop--ment,  
Hu-----ma--ni-ty's heart \_\_\_\_\_ - home \_\_\_\_\_ -  
en-light--en---ment. \_\_\_\_\_

**Earth Summit: environment and development,  
Humanity's heart-home-enlightenment.**

The Canadian press responded to news of Maurice Strong receiving the U Thant Peace Award with a number of articles. These include:

<i>Calgary Herald</i>	3 May 1996
<i>The Chronicle Herald</i>	3 May 1996
<i>Le Droit</i>	3 May 1996
<i>The Daily Graphic</i>	3 May 1996
<i>The Ottawa Citizen</i>	3 May 1996
<i>Times Colonist</i>	3 May 1996
<i>The Times-Transcript</i>	3 May 1996
<i>The Toronto Sun</i>	3 May 1996
<i>The Vancouver Sun</i>	3 May 1996
<i>Winnipeg Free Press</i>	3 May 1996
<i>The Globe and Mail</i>	4 May 1996
<i>The Spectator</i>	4 May 1996
<i>The Toronto Star</i>	8 May 1996
<i>The Globe and Mail</i>	14 May 1996 (feature article)

# The Spectator

ESTABLISHED 1846 ■ SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1996 ■ LIGHT RAIN. HIGH 13 LOW 2: DETAILS A3

## HONOURED



### Strong gets UN award for international work

UNITED NATIONS - Canadian businessman and environmentalist Maurice Strong has been presented the U Thant Peace Award for his commitment to the United Nations and his efforts to promote environmental protection.

The award is presented annually by the Sri Chinmoy Centre, a non-governmental UN organization, in memory of former UN Secretary General U Thant of Burma.

Mr. Strong, who has headed a number of major Canadian corporations, including Ontario Hydro, has served as an adviser to the president of the World Bank.

# The Vancouver Sun

inland

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1996

## WORLD

### Canadian wins UN award

*Associated Press*

UNITED NATIONS — Canadian businessman and environmentalist Maurice Strong was presented the U Thant Peace Award on Thursday for his commitment to the United Nations and his efforts to promote environmental protection.

The award is presented annually by the Sri Chinmoy Centre, a non-governmental UN organization, in memory of former UN secretary-general U Thant of Burma.

Previous winners have included Mother Teresa, South African President Nelson Mandela, former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev and Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa.

"I am overwhelmed to receive the honor that bears the name of U Thant, and to receive it from the hands of Sri Chinmoy, who has been for so many years the custodian and guardian of the spiritual roots of the United Nations," Strong said.

Strong, who has headed a number of major Canadian corporations, including Ontario Hydro and Petro Canada, has served as an adviser to the president of the World Bank and was secretary-general of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro.

C A N A D A ' S N A T I O N A L N E W S P A P E R

# THE GLOBE AND MAIL

cents plus GST in Greater Toronto;  
higher outside and in boxes

Toronto, Tuesday, May 14, 1996

## Strong revels in another of his uphill battles

BY GRAHAM FRASER  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Maurice Strong has arrived in Washington with an unpopular message: those international institutions that Republicans love to hate are more necessary now than ever before.

The United Nations is getting a bad press in the U.S. capital, as are the other multilateral institutions, but Mr. Strong, now perhaps one of the most influential Canadians in Washington, is an unflinching optimist that these negative views can be transformed.

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**CANADIAN WITH CLOUT** / *From his office in World Bank, he sees some of his favourite organizations in trouble and is prepared to help.*

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"One of the reasons I'm here is because I believe in these institutions," he said in an interview at his office in the World Bank, where he is an adviser to its president. "I've been a great critic, but a friendly critic. I'm one of those who believes that these institutions need to be reformed by their friends rather than thrown to the

wolves."

At 67, the Canadian businessman, environmentalist and bureaucrat who stepped down as chairman of Ontario Hydro a few months ago might have been expected to ease into semi-retirement.

Instead, he is an adviser to World Bank president James Wolf-

ensohn and a driving force behind the World Resources Institute, the Earth Council and, recently, co-chairman (with U.S. Vice-President Al Gore) of the White House Conference on Technology.

In the past 10 days, he has been awarded the U Thant prize in New York for his international work, presented a report in Geneva to

the Swiss government on the management of its International Academy of the Environment and zipped back to the World Bank in Washington.

In his office on the 12th floor of the World Bank offices, three blocks west of the White House, Mr. Strong is intensely aware of a great irony. At a time when multilateral institutions are more unpopular than they have ever been, they are more essential than ever before.

Please see Strong / A11



CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

# THE GLOBE AND MAIL

\$1.00 plus GST at retailers  
in Greater Toronto

Toronto, Saturday, May 4, 1996

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Maurice Strong wins prize for peace

#### Canadian garners U Thant Award

BY GRAHAM FRASER  
Washington Bureau

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Maurice Strong, internationalist, administrator and environmentalist, has been awarded the U Thant Peace Award for his commitment to the United Nations and his efforts to promote environmental protection.

The prize puts Mr. Strong on a list of recipients that includes Mother Teresa, South African President Nelson Mandela, former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev and South Africa's Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu.

The award, which is made annually in the memory of the late UN secretary-general U Thant, is given by the Sri Chimnoy Center, a non-governmental organization that promotes peace.

"I am overwhelmed to receive the honour that bears the name of U Thant, and to receive it from the hands of Sri Chimnoy, who has been for so many years the custodian and guardian of the spiritual roots of the United Nations," Mr. Strong said here on Thursday.

Mr. Strong, who stepped down last year as chairman of Ontario Hydro, is now working in Washington as adviser to the president of the World Bank.

Mr. Strong was secretary-general of the UN Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio in 1992, and under-secretary of the UN from 1990-1992. He also worked as executive co-ordinator of the UN office for emergency operations in Africa in 1985 and 1986, and was secretary-general of the UN Conference on the Human Environment from 1970-72, and was executive-director of UN Environmental Program in Kenya from 1973-75.

In the private sector, he has been the president of Montreal-based Power Corp. and of the Canadian International Development Agency.

Mr. Strong is a proponent of partnerships between private and public sectors to reduce pollution, arguing that if developing countries adopt the same wasteful approach to the environment that has characterized the economies of the developed world, the result will be unsustainable.