

# The Beaches

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# Leader

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

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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-tha Keefe, Sunil Davidson and Shraddha 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

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## 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.

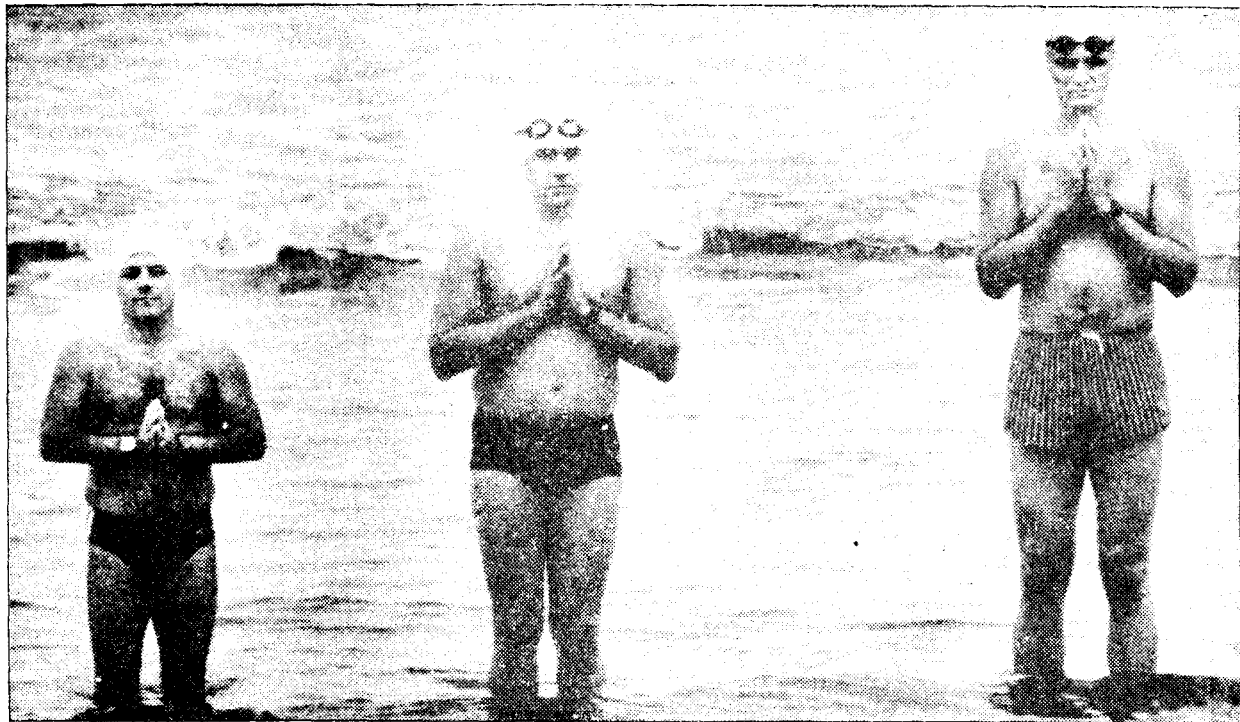
Under an overcast sky, the three swimmers stood for a moment with their palms together in silent prayer, then headed out about noon for a 32-minute swim as a few people, wrapped snugly in their jackets, watched from the shore.

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 Shraddha 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

Shraddha 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

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 Peach 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.

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

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

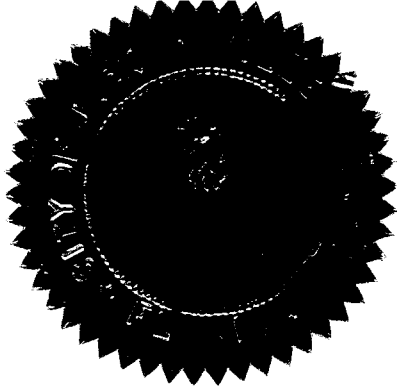
ILLINOIS  
December 3, 1818

ALABAMA  
December 14, 1819

MAINE  
March 15, 1820

MISSOURI  
August 10, 1821

ARKANSAS  
June 16, 1836



*Robert W. O'Neill*  
Robert W. O'Neill, MAYOR

OKLAHOMA  
November 16, 1907

NEW MEXICO  
January 6, 1912

ARIZONA  
February 14, 1912

ALASKA  
January 3, 1959

HAWAII  
August 21, 1959

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH