

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. KENNEDY



"Let no man of peace and freedom despair—for he does not stand alone. My fellow inhabitants of this planet: let us take our stand here in this assembly of nations. And let us see if we, in our own time, can move the world towards a just and lasting peace."

—John F. Kennedy at his visit
to the United Nations

Please join us for a special tribute to John F. Kennedy as part of the many remembrances of him, twenty years after his tragic assassination.

We wish to honour at the United Nations the man who so powerfully embodied and worked for the greatest ideals of humanity: world unity and world peace.

- Opening prayer
- Speakers
- Short film on JFK
- Songs dedicated to JFK

Monday 21 November
Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium
12:15 — 1:15 P.M.

Sponsored by Sri Chinmoy: The Peace-Meditation at the United Nations



FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*Ryckoff's
Marriage name*

Mrs. Haberl's Third Grade Class
Robert A. Wakelee School
Hemple Drive
Wolcott 16, Connecticut

concern to us that there are still countries today where those inherent rights of the individual are cruelly and shamefully vitiated and violated.

26. I would therefore ask that the Assembly should, by resolution, instruct the Commission on Human Rights to submit an open report annually on any violations of the guarantees inherent to human life and dignity on the part of States Members of the United Nations. The conscience of the civilized world cannot rest in peace so long as this Assembly has not taken proper steps to lay down sanctions against Governments which until now have been offending against human rights with impunity—those human rights respect for which is generally regarded, within the international system under which we are living, as essential for the maintenance of peace.

27. I now want to focus my remarks on the subject among those before the Assembly that is of most vital and general interest. My purpose is to reiterate the fervent appeal of my Government and people to the great Powers asking them to make once again a sincere, a supreme effort to reach agreement on the banning of nuclear weapons and on world disarmament.

28. The President of Venezuela, as "Head of State of a small Latin-American country", desired at his first meeting with the diplomatic corps at Caracas, to put on record that Venezuela stands for disarmament. On that occasion, President Betancourt said: "No people of any continent can be free from the fear that unresolved problems may lead to the holocaust of a third world war, which in this atomic era will be a war between continents rather than peoples and whose consequences for mankind no one can foresee."

29. At every session of this Assembly, the Venezuelan delegation has pressed this petition in defence of the survival of mankind, and will go on pressing it, with the utmost strength and persistence. My country is ready to unite its efforts with those of other peace-loving countries for the purpose of seeking a positive settlement of the problem of general disarmament, under effective international control.

30. Needless to say, our appeal implies that the atomic Powers should at the earliest date come to terms for the conclusion of an agreement on the immediate cessation of nuclear testing for war purposes. Mankind has the right to demand that it should at least be guaranteed against contamination of the air it breathes.

31. Nowadays, no one in his right mind can look on war as a means of settling a serious current problem. Negotiation is the only answer and it is the United Nations itself, where the voice of the peoples can be heard and the weight of world public opinion can make itself felt, that is the body best suited to establish the requisite climate and bases for negotiation.

32. There is another matter of grave concern to all States Members of the United Nations, because of the possible danger it presents to world peace, and that is the Berlin question, which is one part only of the more general problem of the reunification of Germany. My delegation is of the opinion that this matter should be settled by negotiation, bearing in mind, however, that in the final analysis the right to determine its fate lies with the German people itself, in accordance with the principle of self-determination of peoples expressly written into the Charter of the United Nations.

33. Before concluding, I should like once again to reaffirm my country's steadfast and unequivocal posi-

tion on the colonial problem and the question of racial segregation. Venezuela, whose policy is rooted in its own attainment of independence, will continue in this world Organization to defend the right of the peoples still living under colonial or semi-colonial rule to full political and economic self-government. Likewise, we once more go on record as opposing all forms of racial discrimination.

34. In conclusion, I wish this Assembly the fullest measure of success, for the sake of the peoples represented here and for the sake of all mankind.

35. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The next speaker is the President of the United States of America. Would members of the General Assembly kindly remain seated while I go out to meet the President and escort him to the rostrum.

The meeting was suspended at 11.15 a.m. and resumed at 11.25 a.m.

36. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): It is an honour for me to welcome Mr. John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America. He may be assured that we shall listen with the greatest attention to what he is kind enough to say to us in these early days of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly. Nowadays, whatever may be said by the Head of a great State takes on a particular significance; I would therefore express the hope that the words of the President of the United States of America will be helpful in furthering our work, bringing about the much-desired slackening of tension in international relations, paving the way to an era of effective co-operation, and further strengthening the adherence of our Organization to the lofty principles enunciated in its Charter, with a view to the attainment of both its immediate and its long-range goals.

37. I call on the President of the United States.

ADDRESS BY MR. JOHN F. KENNEDY, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

38. Mr. John F. KENNEDY, President of the United States of America: We meet in an hour of grief and challenge: Dag Hammarskjold is dead. But the United Nations lives. His tragedy is deep in our hearts, but the tasks for which he died are at the top of our agenda. A noble servant of peace is gone. But the quest for peace lies before us.

39. The problem is not the death of one man—the problem is the life of this Organization. It will either grow to meet the challenges of our age, or it will be gone with the wind, without influence, without force, without respect. Were we to let it die—to enfeeble its vigour—to cripple its powers—we would condemn our future.

40. For in the development of this Organization rests the only true alternative to war: and war appeals no longer as a rational alternative. Unconditional war can no longer lead to unconditional victory. It can no longer serve to settle disputes. It can no longer concern the great Powers alone. For a nuclear disaster, spread by winds and water and fear, could well engulf the great and the small, the rich and the poor, the committed and the uncommitted alike. Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind.

41. So let us here resolve that Dag Hammarskjold did not live—or die—in vain. Let us call a truce to terror. Let us invoke the blessing of peace. And, as

24. The expansion of trade is another highly important subject. Japan is in favour of promoting closer co-operation with the advanced countries to the end of assuring stable export incomes for the developing countries. We are also in principle in favour of the gradual lessening and removal of various trade barriers against the primary products of these countries. Happily, the climate for such efforts is already growing internationally, particularly in the councils of the GATT. At the same time, there is need for the developing countries to continue with greater vigour their efforts to exploit and develop exportable goods. For this purpose the most important thing, aside from the economic and technical co-operation of the developed countries, is for the developing countries themselves to find the most promising export industries and to develop them systematically. The cumulation of efforts on three fronts—independent formulation of sound plans, economic and technical assistance and promotion of trade—by the industrial countries and the developing countries, the exporting countries and the importing countries, will make possible a more systematized basis of international co-operation. In these efforts lies, I believe, the key to the solution of the North-South problem.
25. The United Nations has problems of its own to resolve. One of them has arisen from the growth in membership. Japan has been advocating that this growth should be reflected in the organizational structure and that for this purpose action should especially be taken to enlarge the membership of the Economic and Social Council and of the Security Council. Since most of the new Members are the newly independent countries of Asia and Africa and since one of the foremost problems now before the United Nations is the economic and social development of these countries, the question of enlarging the membership of the Economic and Social Council is, I submit, one of great urgency.
26. Another problem of paramount importance relates to the finances of the United Nations, especially with regard to its peace-keeping operations and the responsibility thereto of the Member States. The United Nations these several years has had a financial crisis on its hands due to the refusal by some of the Members to share the costs of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the operations in the Congo; and while this situation has troubled our minds, it is gratifying that at the special session last May a formula was found for sharing these costs for the latter half of this year in accordance with the spirit of mutual concession and co-operation. While Japan hopes that conditions will soon materialize which will no longer require the presence of the United Nations forces in the Congo, we want to stress at this time that the principle of collective responsibility should be consistently maintained with regard to the peace-keeping operations of the United Nations. This Organization cannot exist apart from its Members, but neither is it simply a gathering of individual members. The United Nations has a function and status of its own. And because it does, it has in trust the great mission of maintaining the peace and security of the world; and because of it, all the Members shoulder a heavy responsibility which transcends the national interests of each. The same responsibility also rests with those countries which are in arrears in the payment of their allotted shares in the maintenance of this Organization. Whether the United Nations can truly function effectively depends upon whether its financial base is sound and secure.
27. We are in search of peace, a peace that is secure and permanent, a peace that serves all mankind. For this purpose we must rid the world of fear and insecurity. Even this alone would be a great advance. But our search for peace should not be limited only to such negative aspects; it should be vigorously pursued in the positive fields of human action, the lifting of the world, where poverty, oppression and stagnation still exist, to a healthier and more decent condition. In such efforts lies progress, and in progress lies the positive pursuit of peace.
28. The United Nations, above all, is an indispensable instrument of progress, and as such it can carry out its lofty mission to maintain the peace and security of the world. It is for us to strengthen the functions and enhance the authority of the United Nations as our own Organization.
29. The world situation appears now to be at a turning point. It is an important moment for us who want international tensions relaxed and the cold war ended. Without being optimistic or pessimistic, we must face reality as it exists and continue our day-to-day efforts with patience and perseverance, for in such an approach lies, I believe, the surest and shortest way to peace. For this purpose we must enhance the authority of the United Nations as our best instrument for international conciliation and co-operation, founded upon good will, and devote our highest efforts to this end.
30. Mr. President, I hope and trust that at this important moment in history this Assembly will, under your leadership, accomplish fruitful results and further pave the way to a true world peace, and, I assure you, Sir, that the Japanese delegation will contribute its utmost efforts toward this end.
- Address by Mr. John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America
31. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): On behalf of the General Assembly, I have the honour to welcome Mr. John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America, and to invite him to address the General Assembly.
32. Mr. KENNEDY (President of the United States of America): As one who has taken some interest in the election of Presidents, I should like to congratulate the President of the General Assembly on his election to this high office.
33. Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, representatives of the United Nations, ladies and gentlemen: We meet again in the quest for peace. Twenty-four months ago, when I last had the honour of addressing this body, the shadow of fear lay darkly across the world. The freedom of West Berlin was in immediate peril. Agreement on a neutral Laos seemed remote. The mandate of the United Nations in the Congo was under fire. The financial outlook for this Organization was in doubt. Dag Hammarskjöld was dead. The doctrine of "troika" was being pressed in his place and atmospheric nuclear tests had been resumed by the Soviet Union.
34. Those were anxious days for mankind—and some men wondered aloud whether this Organization could survive. But the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the General Assembly achieved not only survival



(Photo credit: United Nations)

Words of inspiration as offered by President Kennedy to the United Nations General Assembly, 20 September 1963:

“Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures. And, however undramatic the pursuit of peace, that pursuit must go on.”

KENNEDY: The Universal Heart



(Photo credit: United Nations)

A commemorative programme presented by
the United Nations Meditation Group

A CALL FOR COMMEMORATION:

Recalling that tragic day in Dallas, 22 November 1963

Remembering the inspiration and confidence President Kennedy instilled in the hearts and minds of the world

Assured that his work and memory will continue to inspire the highest within us

The United Nations Meditation Group most respectfully invites you, your family and friends to a simple evening of meditation and music, offered by Sri Chinmoy and the United Nations Meditation Group, in soulful remembrance of the late President of the United States, John F. Kennedy.

Tuesday, 22 November 1977

United Nations, New York
Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium
(entrance on 42nd Street and 1st Avenue)
6:00 P.M.

PROGRAMME

Opening Meditation

Sri Chinmoy

Director, United Nations Meditation Group

Tributes to John F. Kennedy

H.E. Dr. Eamonn Kennedy

*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Ireland
to the United Nations*

H.E. Mr. Zenon Rossides

*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations*

Ms. Patricia Reilly

*(Former Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia,
West Africa) representing ACTION*

Mr. Jeff Kamen

WPIX-TV News

Recitations from *Kennedy: The Universal Heart* by Sri Chinmoy

United Nations Meditation Group

Five Songs

United Nations Meditation Group Singers

INTERMISSION

Musical Tributes to President John F. Kennedy