

SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS
GPO 20-Room 1837 • United Nations • New York, N.Y. • 10163



UNITED NATIONS:



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

We believe and we hold that each man has the potentiality of reaching the Ultimate Truth. We also believe that man cannot and will not remain imperfect forever. Each man is an instrument of God. When the hour strikes, each individual soul listens to the inner dictates of God. When man listens to God, his imperfections are turned into perfections, his ignorance into knowledge, his searching mind into revealing light and his uncertain reality into all-fulfilling Divinity.

16 August 1983

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your recent notes on the Declaration Against Religious Intolerance and The Declaration of World Thanksgiving-1983. I spoke with Sri Chinmoy and showed him the material. He inquired more than once while looking at your notes about what it is that you would like from us. Thinking of you, I remembered that after our last meeting, Sri Chinmoy made reference to your "exceptionally fine soul". I told Sri Chinmoy that I felt you wanted his advice and blessings for the 1983 Thanksgiving Declaration. At that point, Guru said, "Thanksgiving is a good idea. However, I feel that the word gratitude has more power. Gratitude to God and gratitude to man. Everyday we use the word 'thanks' but it ceases to have value. We don't use 'gratitude' so often. Gratitude is something that we feel rarely, no matter what we do, and it has so much power."

He said the above as he was leaving the meeting at the United Nations. I immediately thought of the words and music to his song, "World-Gratitude":

"O World Gratitude-Day!
I pray for you I pray.
Man's feeble climbing ray
Is one with God's Vision-Play.

Compassion: highest gift.
Gratitude: fastest lift.
Only satisfaction-seed
Can feed man and God's need."

In this song, expressions of union between man and God, compassion, gratitude, and mutual satisfaction are presented for the listener

Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations is an association of United Nations delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents holding bi-weekly peace meditations and other programmes at the United Nations Headquarters.

SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS
GPO 20-Room 1837 • United Nations • New York, N.Y. • 10163

- 2 -

UNITED NATIONS:



the Heart-Home
of the World-Body

with such simplicity and beauty that I wonder if the song might be used to support your Declaration. From our association over the years, I know the feeling that you are trying to bring forward, in the deepest sense, is united with the feeling of Gratitude. Can we say, Thanksgiving is the thought of the mind expressed in words, and gratitude is the feeling of the heart expressed in silence.

Another quote of Sri Chinmoy's comes to mind from one of the programmes at Thanks-Giving Square:

"Purity is to the body,
What clarity is to the mind.
Gratitude is to the heart,
What infinity is to the soul."

Best wishes, "exceptionally fine soul". I hope the above is useful.

Your Brother-Friend,

Adhiratha

P.S. I have legally changed my name to Adhiratha Keefe. I have had the name for eight years and it has been used to varying degrees by family, colleagues and friends. In order to simplify matters and to express my preference, I had the legal documents processed this spring. My new office phone number is on the attached card. My home address is still:
85-42 160 Street
Jamaica Hills, N.Y. 11432;
however, I do have a new telephone number at home:
(212) 523-0289.

Mr. Peter Stewart
President
Thanks-Giving Square
P.O. Box 1777
Dallas
TEXAS 75221



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
"DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF INTOLERANCE
AND OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF"

Adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 November 1981

Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including the right to manifest religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.

No one shall be subject to discrimination by any State, institution, group of persons, or person on grounds of religion or other beliefs.

Discrimination between human beings on grounds of religion or belief constitutes an affront to human dignity and a disavowal of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

All States shall take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief.

Every child shall enjoy the right to have access to education in the matter of religion or belief in accordance with the wishes of his parents or legal guardians.

The right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief shall include the following freedoms:

WORSHIP AND PLACES OF WORSHIP — to worship or assemble and to establish and maintain places for these purposes;

ARTICLES OF WORSHIP — to make, acquire and use the necessary articles and materials related to the rites or customs of a religion or belief;

PUBLICATIONS — to write, issue and disseminate publications;

TEACHING — to teach a religion or belief in places suitable for these purposes;

LEADERS — to train, appoint, elect or designate by succession appropriate leaders;

CELEBRATE DAYS — to observe days of rest and to celebrate holidays and ceremonies;

COMMUNICATE NATIONALLY AND WORLDWIDE — to establish and maintain communications with individuals and communities nationally and internationally.

The full text of the Declaration in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish can be obtained from the United Nations Information Centre, 2101 L Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20037.

Peter Stewart

Dear Kevin,

Parallel with the letter to the World Council of Churches, the same distinguished religious leaders have signed a letter to the United Nations backing up their actions.

What are your thoughts on future actions to support the progress of religious liberty?

Peter

7/20/83

*God bless you
Every day
has
much
power*

John M. Allin

The Right Reverend John M. Allin
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church, USA

Archbishop Iakovos

His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos
Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church
in North and South America

M. H. Siddiqi

Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi
Former Director
Islamic Center, Washington, D. C.

Cynthia C. Wedel

Dr. Cynthia C. Wedel
President
World Council of Churches, U. S.

THANKS GIVING DUARE

July 15, 1983

World Thanksgiving

Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian,
Thanksgiving for the great blessing of
unanimously by the General Assembly
many years of hard work as "The
intolerance".

Best endorsement of the noble
of religious freedom set forth.
Thanks to the hundreds of staff
lives who labored so long and

in our prayer that the noble
Declaration is based will be
international conventions and
lives of all who are deprived
religious freedom, and of all

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Hoye

Monsignor Daniel F. Hoye
General Secretary
Council of Catholic Bishops, USA

K. L. Seshagiri Rao

Dr. K. L. Seshagiri Rao
Professor of Religious Studies
University of Virginia, USA

Kenryu T. Tsuji

The Reverend Kenryu T. Tsuji
Former Bishop
Buddhist Churches of America

Walter S. Wurzburger

Rabbi Walter S. Wurzburger
Honorary President
Synagogue Council of America

*No
Crested
Not so
after
Porely we
feel NO
water
how
much
we
do*

THANKS
GIVING
SQUARE

July 15, 1983

No volume
Gratitude
Mail so
after
Borely we
fell NO
written
how
much
we
do

Center for World Thanksgiving

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

As leaders in world faiths, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, we unite in high thanksgiving for the great blessing of religious freedom adopted unanimously by the General Assembly of the United Nations after twenty years of hard work as "The Declaration Against Religious Intolerance".

- Please accept our heartiest endorsement of the noble principles and practices of religious freedom set forth. We send our profound thanks to the hundreds of staff and national representatives who labored so long and so wisely.
- Know that we are united in our prayer that the noble precepts upon which the Declaration is based will be ratified and codified in international conventions and become a reality in the lives of all who are deprived of the blessings of religious freedom, and of all human beings.

Sincerely,

John M. Allin

The Right Reverend John M. Allin
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church, USA

Daniel F. Hoyer

Monsignor Daniel F. Hoyer
General Secretary
Council of Catholic Bishops, USA

Archbishop Iakovos

His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos
Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church
in North and South America

K. L. Seshagiri Rao

Dr. K. L. Seshagiri Rao
Professor of Religious Studies
University of Virginia, USA

M. H. Siddiqi

Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi
Former Director
Islamic Center, Washington, D. C.

Kenryu T. Tsuji

The Reverend Kenryu T. Tsuji
Former Bishop
Buddhist Churches of America

Cynthia C. Wedel

Dr. Cynthia C. Wedel
President
World Council of Churches, U. S.

Walter S. Wurzburger

Rabbi Walter S. Wurzburger
Honorary President
Synagogue Council of America

Peter Stewart

Dear Kevin,

Your thoughts on this rough draft of the 1983 Declaration of World Thanksgiving would be greatly appreciated.

The 1982 Declaration was well accepted and each year we may be able to make another step forward.

Sincerely,



7/22/83

WORLD THANKSGIVING-1983

PEOPLE OF ANCIENT FAITHS

D'S TRAGIC SPIRITUAL HUNGER

OF THE HOLY MYSTERY OF LIFE.

ING IN, AND TAKE NOTHING OUT

LIFE AS GIFT, RARE AND PRECIOUS.

IGHTENMENT ONLY GRANTED HUMANS,

ERSON, A NATION OR A WORLD

- TO FORGET THE GIFT OF LIFE

BERATELY GIVE OUR JOYFUL THANKS

FTS - HUMANITY'S HIGHEST ACT.

CHANGED, HURTS TRANSFORMED

ME BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

FAITH AND REACHING OUT TO OTHER FAITHS,

INSPIRED TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES.

COME JOIN HANDS WITH ALL THE HUMAN FAMILY AS TOGETHER WE

GIVE GRATEFUL PRAISE.

WE REJOICE THAT SINCE HUMANITY IS ONE IN THE SPIRIT,

WE CAN SHARE OUR OWN DEEPEST THANKSGIVINGS

AND OPEN OURSELVES TO THE PRECIOUS THANKSGIVINGS OF OTHERS.

BY THIS EXCHANGE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

THE WHOLE FAMILY OF MANKIND IS ENRICHED.

WE PERFECT OUR PRAISE IN ACTION

BY INTENTIONALLY THANKING OTHER PEOPLE AND OTHER FAITHS

BEGINNING TO HEAL THE WORLD'S RELIGIOUS HATREDS

SO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OF ALL BELIEVERS CAN WORK TOGETHER AS FRIENDS.

DRAFT

DECLARATION OF WORLD THANKSGIVING-1983

IN THESE TIMES, PEOPLE OF ANCIENT FAITHS

KNOW BOTH THE WORLD'S TRAGIC SPIRITUAL HUNGER
AND THE BLESSED FOOD OF THE HOLY MYSTERY OF LIFE.

SINCE WE BRING NOTHING IN, AND TAKE NOTHING OUT
- WE SUDDENLY SEE ALL LIFE AS GIFT, RARE AND PRECIOUS.

THIS INSIGHT, AN ENLIGHTENMENT ONLY GRANTED HUMANS,
DEMANDS FROM A PERSON, A NATION OR A WORLD
A CONSCIOUS CHOICE - TO FORGET THE GIFT OF LIFE
OR TO TURN - AND DELIBERATELY GIVE OUR JOYFUL THANKS
TO THE GIVER OF GIFTS - HUMANITY'S HIGHEST ACT.

THEN HEARTS ARE CHANGED, HURTS TRANSFORMED

AND WE BECOME BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

STANDING STRONG IN OUR OWN FAITH AND REACHING OUT TO OTHER FAITHS,

INSPIRED TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES.

COME JOIN HANDS WITH ALL THE HUMAN FAMILY AS TOGETHER WE

GIVE GRATEFUL PRAISE.

WE REJOICE THAT SINCE HUMANITY IS ONE IN THE SPIRIT,

WE CAN SHARE OUR OWN DEEPEST THANKSGIVINGS

AND OPEN OURSELVES TO THE PRECIOUS THANKSGIVINGS OF OTHERS.

BY THIS EXCHANGE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

THE WHOLE FAMILY OF MANKIND IS ENRICHED.

WE PERFECT OUR PRAISE IN ACTION

BY INTENTIONALLY THANKING OTHER PEOPLE AND OTHER FAITHS

BEGINNING TO HEAL THE WORLD'S RELIGIOUS HATREDS

SO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OF ALL BELIEVERS CAN WORK TOGETHER AS FRIENDS.

KNOWING THAT TODAY THE SPIRIT WIND IS BLOWING

MAY WE BE LIFTED IN OUR PILGRIMAGE INTO THAT ASCENSION

THAT IS THE ONLY WAY LEFT - FOR THE HUMAN RACE,

REJOICING IN THE PROMISE OF GOD'S PEACE AND FREEDOM.

7/18/83