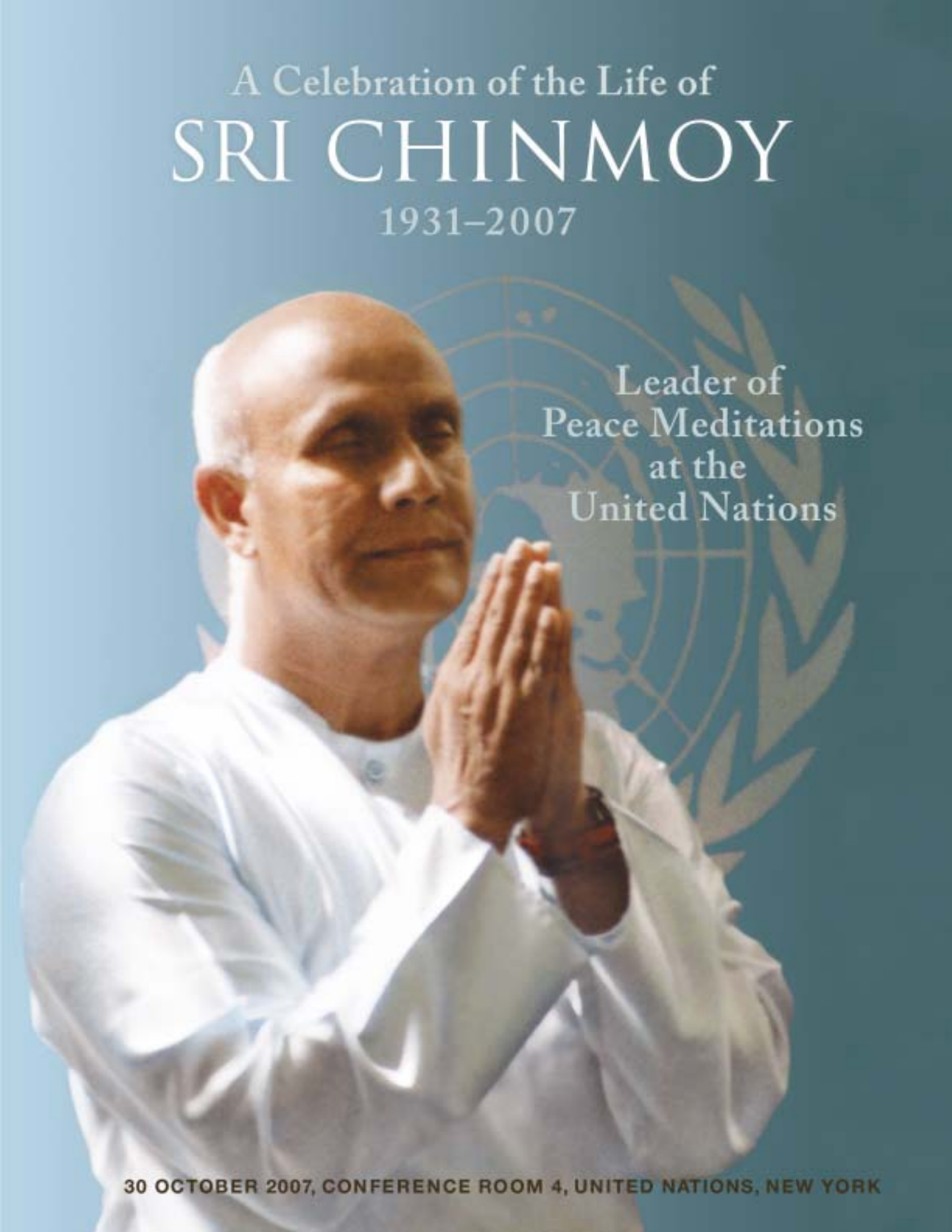


A Celebration of the Life of
SRI CHINMOY
1931–2007



Leader of
Peace Meditations
at the
United Nations

30 OCTOBER 2007, CONFERENCE ROOM 4, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

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Introduction

In the spring of 1970, at the invitation of then Secretary-General U Thant, Sri Chinmoy began conducting twice-weekly non-denominational meditations for peace for United Nations staff members, delegates, NGO representatives and affiliates. Since then, *Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations*, as the group is known, has continued its meditations and has sponsored an ongoing series of programmes, lectures and concerts to promote world harmony. These have often been in cooperation with UN Member States as well as with organizations which support the ideals and goals of the United Nations.

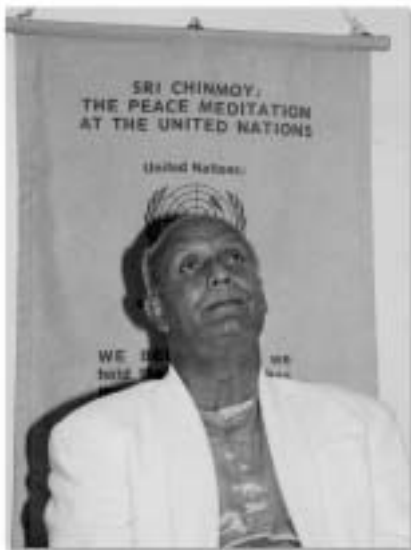
Sri Chinmoy also led a DPI-affiliated non-governmental organization, the Sri Chinmoy Centre, (www.srichinmoy.org) which conducts a myriad of activities and strives to promote harmony and humanitarian aid across the globe. Prominent among these activities are: The World Harmony Run (www.worldharmonyrun.org), a global relay that seeks to create good will among peoples of all nations through sport. Participants annually carry a flaming torch and pass it from hand to hand as it travels through more than 80 nations; and The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles worldwide humanitarian service (www.oneness-heart.org), a global community

of medical and health-care professionals, private volunteers and concerned individuals from five continents who dedicate their lives to providing food, clothing, medical supplies and other essentials to those in need, including victims of poverty and natural disasters.

For 43 years Sri Chinmoy dedicated his life to the service of world peace and to the fulfilment of the unlimited potential of the human spirit. Also a prolific poet, essayist, artist and musician, and an avid athlete, he inspired citizens worldwide through his creative endeavours, through innovative peace initiatives and through the example of his own life. For 37 years he brought his multifaceted inspiration to the United Nations family in the spirit of selfless offering, encouraging individuals of all faiths, races and nationalities to seek peace in their lives and to bring this peace to their United Nations work.

We, the members of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations, offer this book of selected tributes as well as excerpts from Sri Chinmoy's writings, in gratitude for his dedicated service to the vision of the United Nations.

For additional information about the Peace Meditation at the United Nations, please call 212-844-9235 or 718-291-0364.



U Thant *Secretary-General 1961–1971*

SRI CHINMOY OFFERED U THANT A BOUQUET of flowers at a meeting with the Secretary-General on 29 February 1972, when U Thant said:

“Whoever speaks to me about you is all appreciation and admiration, and I personally feel that you have been doing a most significant task for the United Nations. Please feel my sincere respect and sincere concern for what you are doing for mankind.”

In a letter dated 10 April 1972, U Thant commented:

“You have indeed instilled in the minds of hundreds of people here the moral and spiritual values which both of us cherish very dearly. I shall always cherish the memorable occasion of our meeting at the United Nations.”

The following year, on 25 May 1973, U Thant was guest of honour at the premiere of Sri Chinmoy’s play about the life of the Buddha. Below are excerpts from U Thant’s remarks:

“Revered and highly esteemed Sri Chinmoy, and brothers and sisters, it is a great privilege to be able to participate in this spiritually rewarding experience. And for this I am most grateful to our esteemed teacher, Sri Chinmoy, for this innovative undertaking. I also feel particularly moved and touched by his very gracious blessing bestowed on me.

“Sri Chinmoy very kindly sent me a copy of the play *Siddhartha Becomes the Buddha*. I have read it with great interest and with great admiration and profit. Of course, it is extremely difficult to depict the important episodes of the life of the Buddha in the course of a few minutes or an hour or so. But I found that Sri Chinmoy has done a most remarkable job in presenting the play in simple language, understandable even to the uninitiated. His stress on the basic characteristics of Buddhism—on compassion, love, renunciation, peace—should stimulate the thoughts of leaders of men and leaders of thought everywhere. As you all are aware,



I was brought up as a Buddhist by tradition, by faith and by practice; and I find myself in complete agreement with Sri Chinmoy in his enunciation of the ethical and moral aspects of Buddhism, which in my view should be the basis for each of us in our search for inner light, in our search for truth.

“Sri Chinmoy in his play also has drawn a very vivid picture of the identity between God and Truth, soul and inner Light, which I very much hope will create an abiding interest in these two great religions—Hinduism and Buddhism—which in many ways constitute the key to all great religions. I feel very strongly, as some of my friends know, that only by the practical application of the teachings of great religious leaders, particularly the development of the moral and the spiritual aspects of life as Sri Chinmoy has stressed in the play—love, compassion, tolerance, and the philosophy of live-and-let-live, modesty and even humility—that only with this approach, only with this method, will we all be able to fashion the kind of society we want, a truly moral society, a decent society, a livable society, which is the goal of all great religions.

“I want to thank particularly those friends who are participating in this play. I wish all of you peace of mind and eternal joy, and particularly the inner joy. Thank you very much, Sri Chinmoy.”

Kurt Waldheim *Secretary-General 1972–1981*



AT A MEETING ON 16 JULY 1976, SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM presented Sri Chinmoy with a silver medallion in appreciation of his work at the United Nations. The two met again at the United Nations on 7 March 1977 and on 24 October 1978.

On 16 July 1976, Mr. Waldheim remarked: “We want only peace, peace. You are praying for peace. I know what you and the group are doing for us. I know it, I can feel it.”

In a letter to Sri Chinmoy dated 23 March 1988, sent in Mr. Waldheim’s capacity as President of Austria, the former Secretary-General wrote: “In the course of time, experience has shown that after each war, life begins anew, but this does not hold true anymore in our nuclear age. To hope that even after a world war a time will come when culture and economy will flourish again may have been meaningful in the past; there is no place for such hope in this nuclear age. We must therefore become determined, and commit ourselves, to exert all our efforts to ban the scourge of war from this world. This goal is not an illusion. Yet it is a goal whose attainment will demand our utmost.

One very important way of reaching this goal seems to be the process of preparing mankind for a life in peace. This is a long-term objective, whose accomplishment will surely take two to three generations. We are all called upon to stop being selfish, quarrelsome and unjust, and instead turn to, and strive for peace.

“As head of the weekly peace meditations at the UN, Sri Chinmoy has for the last 18 years contributed to this process of change and relearning. For this activity

in the interest of world peace, I would like to express my sincere thanks to him.”

During a private meeting on 7 June 1991, President Waldheim joined Sri Chinmoy in holding the peace torch that travels around the world during a biennial international torch relay run through over 80 countries. His comments about the Peace Run follow: “Work for peace is no longer the monopoly of politics and diplomacy—it needs everyone to be a torch-carrier. Therefore, I welcome the initiative of the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run.”

In a letter dated 26 June 2001, Dr. Waldheim wrote: “In a lifelong effort, you have made important contributions to a better understanding for peace and the need for international cooperation which I highly appreciate.”

In a letter dated 11 June 2004, Dr. Waldheim commented on Sri Chinmoy’s humanitarian work: “You have been very helpful in furthering assistance to the suffering people of the world. Your contribution to humanitarian help has been warmly appreciated. May the future bring you good health and further success in your humanitarian work.”

Upon receiving the U Thant Peace Award from Sri Chinmoy in Vienna on 30 September 2004, Dr. Waldheim commented:

“I have known you now for so many years—it is decades since we have known each other—and I know how much you have contributed to our efforts in the United Nations to work for peace, to work for understanding, to bridge the gap between rich and poor people in the world, to try to improve the lives of so many people, to improve the human rights situation, which is not that good, and we have to work very hard for that.

“All this we have discussed together in the United Nations, and we continue in our functions in different fields, but you should know that we are very grateful for your efforts, not only in the field of peace and cooperation, but also in bridging the gap between the rich and the poor. This is the great challenge. We have to make every effort in order to create better living conditions for the suffering people all over the world.

“I wish you, Sri Chinmoy, all the best for your efforts. You know how much we appreciate your contribution to peace and your contribution to international understanding. We wish you good health and further success in this important work for peace and cooperation.”

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar *Secretary-General 1982–1991*



SECRETARY-GENERAL PEREZ DE CUELLAR MEDITATED in his private office with Sri Chinmoy on 13 January 1983, remarking later in the meeting:

“I am indeed touched by your sincere expression of support for my efforts in the cause of peace and international understanding.

“In your meditation you see beyond the superficial distinctions of race, sex, language or religion, as the Charter encourages us to do. You concentrate on the truths and the ideals which unite all mankind: the longing for peace, the need for compassion, the search for tolerance and understanding among men and women of all nations.

“We must never forget that all our activities here are aimed at fulfilling the lofty principles of the Charter. We must not lose sight of these objectives despite the frequent difficulties we encounter along the way. In recalling the fundamental goals which inspire our work, you are helping to reaffirm our commitment to the Organization and its purposes.”

Following is a statement by Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar on the occasion of the 1986 U Thant Peace Award ceremony:

“The promotion of mutual human respect across religious, ideological, political and economic boundaries is at the very root of the United Nations

and imbued the life’s work of my distinguished predecessor, U Thant. As we remember him, therefore, we should also bear in mind that the ideals of tolerance and mutual accommodation, which he espoused so dearly, retain today all their power and relevance. They should inspire all our endeavours.”

The following message was offered by Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar on the occasion of the 1987 Oneness-Home Peace Run, a global relay for peace inspired by Sri Chinmoy:

“It is my pleasure to greet the organizers and participants in this remarkable event.

“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 much more to unite and bond us together. Nothing could be more in consonance with the essential purpose of the United Nations Organization.

“Accordingly, as United Nations Secretary-General, I wish you every success in this endeavour, for you are all ambassadors in the cause of peace.”

In a letter dated 11 December 1995, Dr. Pérez de Cuéllar commented on Sri Chinmoy’s worldwide series of 50 concerts dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the United Nations:

“On the momentous occasion of your final Peace Concert celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, I would like to hail once again your invaluable contributions to world peace and human togetherness, which are a source of pride and inspiration for political action worldwide. Please accept my sincere thanks for what you are doing for the betterment of mankind.”

continued on next page

Pérez de Cuéllar *continued*

In a letter dated 3 February 2001, sent in his capacity as Prime Minister of Peru, Dr. Pérez de Cuéllar wrote:

“Towards the goals of human togetherness and world peace, you have dedicated your life and made invaluable contributions. Through the global Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, which you initiated while I was serving as Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as through the Sri Chinmoy Peace-Blossoms family in which 123 nations, including Peru, are now participating, and also with your International Peace Concert series, you are helping to foster a new and vibrant culture of peace which our planet Earth so urgently and critically requires. May you continue to serve humanity’s upward and forward flight towards world oneness and peace.”

On 26 May 2005, during a visit to Paris, Sri Chinmoy presented the U Thant Peace Award to Dr. Pérez de Cuéllar. Sri Chinmoy also offered the “Lifting Up the World with a Oneness-Heart” Award to the Secretary-General and his wife, Mme. Marcela Pérez de Cuéllar. Excerpts from Dr. Pérez de Cuéllar’s remarks follow:

“I am deeply honoured to receive this Award from Sri Chinmoy, a very distinguished and loved friend for many, many years. What is happening to me now is that I am receiving the inspiration of Sri Chinmoy, who is actually, I would say, the heart of the United Nations—because in all the years I was Secretary-General, and even before I was Secretary-General, he was always with us. Even if he was not present, his message was with us, and we were, as I said before, being inspired by him.

“Let us all pray in our respective religions, because one of the characteristics of Sri Chinmoy is that he respects all religions. And in my own religion, and in all of our Christian religions, we have the same aim, the same, I would say, obsession he has: peace for everybody in the world.

“Thank you, Sri Chinmoy—to have seen you after so many years and to receive from you this great honour. I am not a man who can bless anybody, but if I were entitled to bless, my blessings would be for you. Then allow me, a Christian, to tell you, ‘God, our God, bless you.’”

Boutros Boutros-Ghali

Secretary-General 1992–1996



On 21 November 1996, Sri Chinmoy offered a moment of silence at an Interfaith Ceremony presenting the 1996 Declaration of World Thanksgiving to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. After the ceremony, Sri Chinmoy presented the Secretary-General with a book of his dedicated to the United Nations.

Kofi Annan *Secretary-General 1997–2006*

On 25 April 1997, Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Mrs. Nane Annan (right, in front of flags) were honoured at a Solemn Interfaith Service of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations held at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City. Some twenty-five religious and spiritual leaders participated in the service. Sri Chinmoy (foreground), leader of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations, is giving the silent invocation. Shown right, below: Secretary-General Annan is being greeted by Sri Chinmoy.



ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations, Secretary-General Annan sent the following message on 18 April 2000:

“The Peace Meditation at the United Nations spans three decades, crosses multiple frontiers and motivates many people. In this house dedicated to duty and debate in the service of peace, meditation serves the same cause in silence and in stillness. On this 30th anniversary, please accept my best wishes on behalf of the United Nations along with the hope that the cause of peace will become a reality in the new millennium.”

On 22 September 2000, Secretary-General Annan wrote to Sri Chinmoy:

“...Let me also take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your 30 years of dedication to the United Nations. Through your prayers, meditations, concerts and global ‘Peace Run’, your work has linked peace-lovers in more than 100 countries and complemented that of the world Organization....”

On 10 July 2001, Secretary-General Annan wrote:

“Thank you for your very kind letter and good wishes on my re-appointment as Secretary-General.

“I am heartened to note your commitment to the ideals of the United Nations. Such expressions of support always come as a source of encouragement, reassurance and inspiration to me personally, and



to all of us who work in the Organization. It is ultimately the faith of people like you that gives us strength to pursue our work.

“Please think of the United Nations as your Organization. With your help, and that of millions like you, we will succeed in building peace and better lives for people all over the world.”

On 5 June 2002, Mr. Annan wrote a letter of thanks to Sri Chinmoy for his book dedicated to the Secretary-General:

“I wish to thank you for the book *Kofi Annan: Cynosure-Eyes*. Your beautiful quotations and generous words are inspiring to me, and your selection of photos very evocative of the many roles of the Secretary-General. I appreciate your dedication to the United Nations and its goals over many years.”

Tributes to Sri Chinmoy



President Mikhail Gorbachev

With deep regret I have learned that my long-term close friend, the friend of my family and of our Foundation, Sri Chinmoy, passed away yesterday.... This is a loss for the whole world. Through many years of his selfless work for the sake of peace, Sri Chinmoy has gained recognition and love in the farthest corners of our planet.... In our hearts he will forever remain a man who dedicated his whole life to peace.... We shall remember Sri Chinmoy forever!



President Bill Clinton

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of Sri Chinmoy's death, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the many people who loved him.... Throughout his many years, he enriched the lives of countless others and served as a model of generosity and discipline to those he met, fostering an atmosphere of compassion, harmony, and unity. Sri Chinmoy was a leader, humanitarian, artist, athlete, and public servant who will be sorely missed. His legacy of kindness, reflection, and resolve will endure for many years to come.



President Nelson Mandela

It is with great sadness that I learnt of the passing of my dear friend, Sri Chinmoy. Today, the world is a lesser place as I recall his lifetime of service to humanity in the great cause of world peace. I will remember always the time we spent together and treasure his support and encouragement over the years.



Vice President Al Gore

Sri Chinmoy was a once-in-a-lifetime spiritual leader who touched the lives of millions of people through his teachings, art, athletics, and music. He was a student of peace and he embodied peace. Sri Chinmoy was a great man and his life's work significantly helped to build world harmony and will continue to do so.

Tributes to Sri Chinmoy



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Sri Chinmoy was a great man. God is smiling to know the immense good he has accomplished and encouraged in others. In a world of suspicion, hostility and conflict, he worked tirelessly to bring the different faiths together and inspired many to emulate.



H.E. Mr. Vijay Nambiar

UN Chef de Cabinet and
Under-Secretary-General

At the United Nations, we were specially blessed because of his weekly visits there, when we received his regular benedictions. His followers in the UN family have always been both proud and grateful for this magnanimity on his part.

I am sure I represent the Secretary-General when I express my profound respect and gratitude to Sri Chinmoy for his contribution to the building up of inner peace in the United Nations as in the world at large.



Professor Ibrahim Gambari

Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to Iraq and Myanmar

I have lost a dear friend and beloved brother. The world has lost a truly selfless human being who is a

healer and a unifier. The world has lost a very great leader. I know Sri Chinmoy will continue to look over us and guide us.



H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim

President of the UN General Assembly
for the current 62nd Session

It is with profound sadness that I learned that the great humanitarian, meditation teacher and advocate of the boundless potential of the human spirit, Sri Chinmoy, is no longer with us. Sri Chinmoy loved and supported the ideals of the United Nations over his long career, and his life's dedication to working for peace and the betterment of humanity was unmatched. We shall always remember, follow and treasure the value in his words:

The outer message of the United Nations is peace.

The inner message of the United Nations is love.

The inmost message of the United Nations is oneness.



H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson

President of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly,
Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to Darfur

It is a great loss. Sri Chinmoy was a man of compassion and tolerance, representing the very best in humanity.

Tributes to Sri Chinmoy



H.E. Mr. Alexandre Gorelik

Director, UN Information Centre – Moscow

We will remember him as an original thinker, a visionary and a spiritual leader dedicated to fostering peace and understanding on Earth.

Let me express my deepest condolences to all of you whom I am joining in a moment of silence in his memory.



H.E. Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury

Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN

We have lost a great soul, a dedicated humanitarian, a champion of the neediest and, above all, a man of peace and a friend of the United Nations.



H.E. Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky

UN Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva (1992-2002)

Sri Chinmoy will always be remembered as a spiritual leader who advocated harmony, non-violence and inner peace. His ideals have always been accompa-

nied by practical action. Sri Chinmoy will always remain in our hearts, as will his work for world peace and the oneness of humanity.



President Jorge E. Illueca

Former President of Panama and President of the 38th Session of the UN General Assembly

It is beyond words to express to our sisters and brothers of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations my commotion and feelings of sadness for the passing away of our dearest friend and spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy, which is a real loss to the whole of mankind. I feel really moved in joining my sorrow to the sorrow of my beloved friends of the UN Meditation Group and to many friends, students, and peoples from around the world who revere the memory of Sri Chinmoy for his lifetime of devoted service for world harmony and spiritual oneness, world peace and self-understanding.



H.E. Mr. Lakhan L. Mehrotra

Former Secretary of the Government of India, and Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to Cambodia and Indonesia

He was a shining star in the firmament with words of wisdom and streams of love flowing from him all the time.

I had the great good fortune of knowing him from soon after he arrived in the United States, and he became my valuable colleague in the Consulate General of India.

I will never forget the ocean of affection which he

Tributes to Sri Chinmoy

showered on me and my family for all these years. We benefited a good deal from his spiritual beatitude, and we will miss him every moment of our life.



The Rt. Hon. Lord Malloch Brown

Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom; former UN Deputy Secretary-General

Sri Chinmoy reached out to so many in the UN. In the UN we felt the force of his love for us. However difficult the moment, he never lost faith in the UN and those who worked in it. He brought courage and support to so many individuals in our organisation but also his voice and prayer to those who led it. A man of the spiritual life, he understood the need for the UN in the material world if the two were ever to find justice and harmony.



Mr. Shashi Tharoor

Former UN Under-Secretary-General

I grieve for the loss of this great spirit, who gave so much of himself to the world. His legacy lives on in the lessons he taught, and in the faith, courage and idealism of his followers who will continue his life's work in the UN and beyond.



H.E. Ambassador Crispin Grégoire

Permanent Representative of Dominica to the UN

I am greatly honoured today to be associated with this celebration of the life of Sri Chinmoy, a great man I have the honour to call a messenger for peace in the world.



H.E. Ambassador Hjálmar Hannesson

Permanent Representative of Iceland to the UN

We keep saying that the work towards peace does not rely on the might of the military, but the might of words, the might of ideas. And what an idea-builder and a man of the word, of the good word of love and peaceful togetherness, we are celebrating today.

His spirit lives on. We are grateful and joyful for what he has given the world, and what he dedicated his life to.

Tributes to Sri Chinmoy



H.E. Ambassador Marcello Spatafora

Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN

He will be missed and maybe only the memories of his tireless and dedicated work will help us fill the emptiness he has left to all those, like me, who appreciated and cherished the breadth of his teachings and inspiration.



H.E. Ambassador Nirupam Sen

Permanent Representative of India to the UN

It is with great sorrow that we received the tragic news of the sudden and untimely passing away of Sri Chinmoy on October 11.

We will greatly miss Sri Chinmoy's tranquil presence in the United Nations. The world is a lesser place for the loss of his service to the larger cause of peace, understanding and non-denominational spirituality. Sri Chinmoy's sponsorship of efforts to make our world a better place, including through the extension of humanitarian aid, truly made him more than an international personage: it made him an embodiment of the larger purpose of all humankind.

Sri Chinmoy and his work will be missed by all those who believe in the noble ideals for which the United Nations stands. I am confident that the force of his message and the importance of his tasks will continue to inspire us well after his passing.

We join the members of the United Nations family in praying for peace for the departed soul.



Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala

Prime Minister of Nepal

His life itself was an expression of the unlimited potential that the soul of a human being harbors. Through his various exemplary peace activities, Sri Chinmoy was successful in his bid for creating a perfect ambience of harmony, oneness, brotherhood and friendship in the International Community.



President Michal Kovac

Former President of the Slovak Republic

His message is alive and I believe that it will continue to grow. I hope his idea of brotherhood, friendship and partnership of all the people of various opinions and from different backgrounds will continue to spread.



President Sam Nujoma

Founding President of Namibia

Sri Chinmoy through his noble activities has contributed immensely towards the benefit of world peace. Sri Chinmoy has offered his peace service to

Tributes to Sri Chinmoy

millions of people from different nationalities, faiths and cultures. His poems and essays, music and paintings offer deep insight into those universal values that form the very basis of our human culture. His peace programmes and his work at the United Nations have brought citizens from difference countries and different cultural backgrounds together in a bond of friendship, goodwill and understanding.



Ms. Jane Goodall

Renowned Primatologist, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute, and UN Messenger of Peace

I am deeply grieved and saddened to learn of the passing of Sri Chinmoy. He was a true teacher and symbolized the path of peace. He combined spiritual strength and human wisdom. He was an enchanting artist with a real sense of humour. I shall miss him—but his personality, so vivid, will live on.



Pir Zia Inayat Khan

Son of Pir Vilayat Khan and head of the Sufi Order in the West

His power is not less at this moment, but more than ever before. And he is more closely united with each one of us in our hearts, and ever will be, until Eternity.

He was a visionary of the one planetary civilisation of the spirit, and it is for us now to serve that vision with all of our hearts, all of our minds and all of our souls.



Bishop Carlos Belo, East Timor

Nobel Peace Laureate, 1996

The Lord of Life and of Death receives his most blessed son who during his life sleeplessly worked for the peace and harmony between peoples of religion.



Ms. Susan Sarandon

Academy Award-winning actress and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador

I was in Los Angeles and learned about Sri Chinmoy's passing in the paper. His loss is so great, but his influence greater. He shall be in our hearts forever.



Mr. Hans Janitschek

President of the United Nations SRC Society of Writers

Sri Chinmoy was unique—his will and strength, his imagination and his love were unmatched and inspired us all to follow him in his quest for higher knowledge, insight and understanding. We are not alone in mourning Sri Chinmoy. And we are united in our resolve to move on in his name with the strength he has given us and out of love for his heart and mind that will stay with us forever.

Tributes to Sri Chinmoy



Congressman Gary Ackerman

United States Member of Congress for the congressional district in which Sri Chinmoy lived

Each and every one of us has been privileged, because we have been touched by a great master-teacher, a great inspirer, who has given us a message, a message to live by.... Death in itself is confusing. It is even more confusing when somebody who has exhibited such unbelievable dynamism, such strength, such humility, such power...somehow seems gone from our lives. But that is not the truth. It may be the reality, but it is not the truth. Because what is a visionary, but for his vision? The visionary may be gone, but the vision is here.



Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman

Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on International Relations from the 104th through the 106th Congresses

Yes, Sri Chinmoy, has left to all of us, and to the world, a legacy of peace, love, devotion and spirituality, his love of God through prayer and devotion and his moving philosophy of self-transcendence.

We will long remember Sri Chinmoy's advice "to challenge ourselves in being the best we can be." God bless our friend Sri Chinmoy who has blessed us all in his life of peace.



Councilman James Gennaro

New York City Councilman for the district in which Sri Chinmoy lived

When we think of how much we love him and how much we want to be with him and hold him in our hearts, the way to hold him in our hearts is to give what he gave to us, to give it away to other people. This is how it will continue, because we have to think of those who never had the opportunity to see him as we saw him, never had the opportunity to know him, to meditate with him, to be inspired by him, never had the opportunity to be touched by him. But they're still out there, and they need what he is, and they need his love. So it falls to us to do it.



Hon. Sverre Kristiansen

Mayor of Oslo, Norway

You will forever remain inside our hearts. May your light continue to spread throughout the length and breadth of the entire world.

Tributes to Sri Chinmoy



Ravi Shankar

Legendary sitar virtuoso

It is such a shock and I cannot believe that brother Chinmoy is gone and that we would not see or hear him anymore. He had so much love for everyone. I am going to miss him always. I wish his soul to find ultimate peace in Heaven.



Purushottama Boris Grebenshikov & Bhuvaneshwari Grebenshikova

Legendary Russian singer, musician and songwriter

Guru was speaking the language of light to our uncertain hearts; like a bird from God's own garden, following the law of the Sun in the world of twilight.



Narada Michael Walden

Multiple Grammy Award winner, producer, drummer, singer and songwriter

He will be missed; his energy phenomenal; his promise of love, devotion and surrender the best.



Mokshagun Clarence Clemons

Numero uno saxophonist and hit recording artist

Goodbye Guru from this earth. Thank you for being with me always and forever.



Roberta Flack

Six-time Grammy Award winner

I loved Sri Chinmoy. I love Sri Chinmoy. My whole life changed when I met him and I thank the whole world for that.



Philip Glass

Renowned American composer

The passing of Sri Chinmoy represents the loss of one of the last of the great spiritual teachers who brought the tradition of Indian spirituality to the West.

He had a very special connection to music. In his performances, with clarity, simplicity and directness, he was able to move his listeners in a very immediate and deeply emotional way.

Tributes to Sri Chinmoy



Quincy Jones

Legendary music producer and humanitarian

Men like Sri Chinmoy were all too rare in this world. In fact, Sri Chinmoy was truly one-of-a-kind. I was, am and will always be his biggest fan, for he understood what truly matters most in life: and that is love. His love could fill an ocean. I join the many people touched by this man and pray that his message will touch many more. Sri, we love you, and we miss you.



Mahavishnu John McLaughlin

Legendary guitarist and creator
of the Mahavishnu Orchestra

There are but a few real and true human beings to whom I will never ever be able to repay my debt of gratitude. The principle reason for this is that they have transcended the merely human and attained the All. Sri Chinmoy is one of these human beings. My gratitude to him will remain forever endless.



Sudhahota Carl Lewis

Nine-time Olympic gold medal winner, and spokesman
for the World Harmony Run founded by Sri Chinmoy

Sri Chinmoy always inspired me. He used to call me his outer coach in running, but say he was my inner coach. I may have lost my student, but, though he has passed on physically, I know I have not lost my coach spiritually.... His life was all about challenging yourself and being the best you can be. He told his disciples to go out and meet a challenge you don't think you can do. He's the reason I plan on running the New York Marathon when I'm 50.



Sarbottama Tatyana Lebedeva

Olympic champion in long jump, world champion and
European champion in triple jump and in long jump

We are grateful to the Supreme that in the course of life we met this man. Sri Chinmoy taught us to take correct decisions by listening to our hearts; he made us more spiritual. He is and will always be for us an inspirer, a wise Teacher, a worthy example. The intellectual and spiritual inheritance that Sri Chinmoy has left us gives us an opportunity to continue perfecting ourselves endlessly.

Tributes to Sri Chinmoy



Nikolay Valuyev

Former world heavyweight boxing champion

We are addressing everyone who knew, learned about and will learn about this Great man of Kindness, Sri Chinmoy. On Earth one more of her sons is no more, the one who embodied Kindness and Peace for humanity. We immensely grieve over this great loss, and the grief that our hearts experience cannot be expressed in words. As wise men have said, nothing and nobody is eternal under the Moon, but how would we wish that people like respected Sri Chinmoy would live and give us joy as long as possible...



Tegla Loroupe

Two-time marathon world record-holder and two-time New York City Marathon winner, UN Ambassador for Sport and Peace, President of the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation

It was very sad to hear that Sri Chinmoy has passed away. Because Sri Chinmoy was man of peace and man of harmony among all the people of this world. We have really lost a great man. My condolences to all of you. But remember, we all have to carry on Sri Chinmoy's work for the betterment of the world.



Alison Streeter

Holder of the record for the most swims across the English Channel—43 times

We have lost a great spiritual leader. The world is a poorer place without Sri Chinmoy. I am grateful he has left such a legacy of work and teachings with us and I am sure his spirit will continue to work through many of us.



Jesper Olsen

First person to run around the world

My big big condolences to all in the Sri Chinmoy community.... I was fortunate to meet them and Sri Chinmoy during different occasions at World Run One...it always made a deep impression to carry your warmth with me forward on the endless roads.



Khaliah Ali

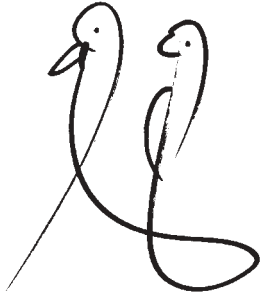
Daughter of Muhammad Ali

I thought that knowing him in the physical being was an amazing experience. Witnessing him in his transitioning has been absolutely immense and transforming.

Excerpts from Sri Chinmoy's Writings

In honour of Sri Chinmoy's 37 years of dedicated service to the United Nations, following are 37 excerpts from Sri Chinmoy's writings, expressing his vision for the United Nations and a peaceful oneness-world. The bird drawings are also by Sri Chinmoy.

The outer message of the United Nations is peace.
The inner message of the United Nations is love.
The inmost message of the United Nations is oneness.



The most important thing to remember while working at the United Nations is the vision of the United Nations.

The inner heart of the United Nations is flooded with peace.
The outer heart of the United Nations is trying to spread peace all over the world.



World peace can be achieved when, in each person, the power of love replaces the love of power.

The United Nations is the morning.
World union is the day.

The ancient dream of cooperation is not just a human dream that has nothing to do with reality. This ancient dream is not a dream at all, but a faultless and divine vision – an unhorizoned vision that is slowly, steadily and unerringly shaping our individual and collective destiny as humanity marches towards its supreme goal of universal oneness and transcendental newness.



The real worth of the United Nations lies
in the united principles of its members.
It is in these united principles that one can see
the fruit of true inner oneness
and divine perfection.



Peace does not mean the absence of war.
Peace means the presence of harmony,
love, satisfaction and oneness.

Be a genuine ambassador of good will to all nations.
You will immediately win the universal love
and the transcendental blessings from above.



To create a perfect world,
we must become a song of interdependence.

The greatest mistake in life
is to remain indifferent
to the world situation.



Do not stop dreaming!
One day your world-peace-dream
will inundate the entire world.

The greatness of each nation lies
in its deep love for other nations
and in its self-giving to other nations.





Problems are everywhere.
Each country has hundreds of problems.
Each individual has hundreds of problems.
But problems can be solved, should be solved
and must be solved by individuals first.
If each individual dives deep into his own countless problems,
he comes to realise that there is only one problem,
and that problem is lack of oneness.

World unity is of paramount importance.
If all the countries join together for a positive common goal,
the very act of their being together is something laudable.
Only this approach will eventually save the world and the planet.

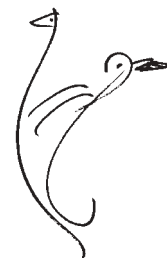


To me, the United Nations is great.
Why? Because it has high principles.
To me, the United Nations is good.
Why? Because it leaves no stone unturned
to transform these principles into living realities.

The United Nations sings one song:
the song that says it is love-power
that will conquer the world.
No other power can conquer the world.

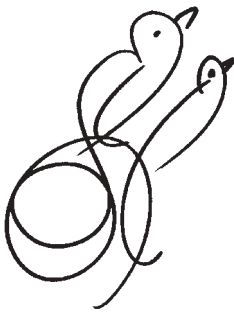
The United Nations is like the ocean.
Each Mission is a flowing river
entering into the ocean with hope,
with eagerness and with a willingness
to become part and parcel of the ocean.

The United Nations is not a mere building.
It is not a mere concept.
It is a reality which is growing,
glowing and manifesting its radiance
here, there and all-where.



One day the world will not only treasure and cherish the soul of the United Nations, but will also claim the soul of the United Nations as its very own with enormous pride, for this soul is all-loving, all-nourishing and all-fulfilling.

First there was the League of Nations.
Now we see the United Nations.
From the United Nations we shall see a Oneness-World,
and inside this Oneness-World we shall see
the song of self-transcendence, world-transcendence,
universal transcendence.



The United Nations unmistakably has the soul-peace and the heart-dedication to be the first and foremost instrument of human unification.

A heart of peace
is the dearest member
of the oneness-family.



One can best serve the United Nations
by keeping in one's heart the main principles
of the United Nations:
world peace, world harmony,
world transformation and world oneness.



Lasting peace must begin
within the depths of the individual,
and from there spread
in ever-widening circles
as a dynamic force for world change.



The United Nations is humanity's home.
The lofty vision of the United Nations
is that we all belong to a peace-loving
oneness-world-family.
This vision will eventually transform
the face and fate of the world.

The world is constantly evolving towards a higher standard of life.
It is not moving in a straight line, but rather in a spiral.
Therefore, at times this progress is not immediately noticeable.
To our human mind it may seem confusing and baffling.
But on the strength of our inner oneness
with the world situation and world evolution,
we can see unmistakably the world's slow and steady progress.



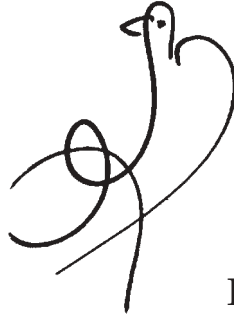
The inner vision of
the United Nations
is the gift supreme.
A day will dawn when
the vision of the United Nations
will save the world.

What the United Nations brings to the world
are the vision of peace and the promise of total perfection
and total satisfaction in the oneness-world-family.



World acceptance, world concern,
world patience, world sympathy
and world oneness
give my life a peace-fountain-heart.

Mine is the wisdom-light
that tells me
to ask not
for a lighter burden,
but for a stronger heart.

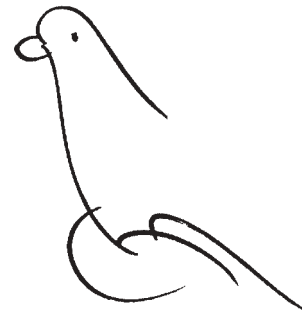


I do not give up, I never give up –
for there is nothing in this entire world
that is irrevocably unchangeable.

I acquire peace not from solitude
but from my world-servitude.

Here in the United Nations
is where the vision of oneness took birth
and sent its illumining light
to the four corners of the globe.

The role of the United Nations
will not come to an end
after the establishment of peace on earth.
To have world peace is just the beginning;
it is not and cannot be the end of human achievement.
The earth also has to grow into a new light
and achieve a new harmony and a new fulfilment.



When the reality of the United Nations starts bearing fruit,
then the breath of Immortality will be a living reality on earth.



There will come a time
when this world of ours
will be flooded with peace.
Who will bring about this radical change?
It will be you –
you and your sisters and brothers.
You and your oneness-heart
will spread peace
throughout the length
and breadth of the world.



