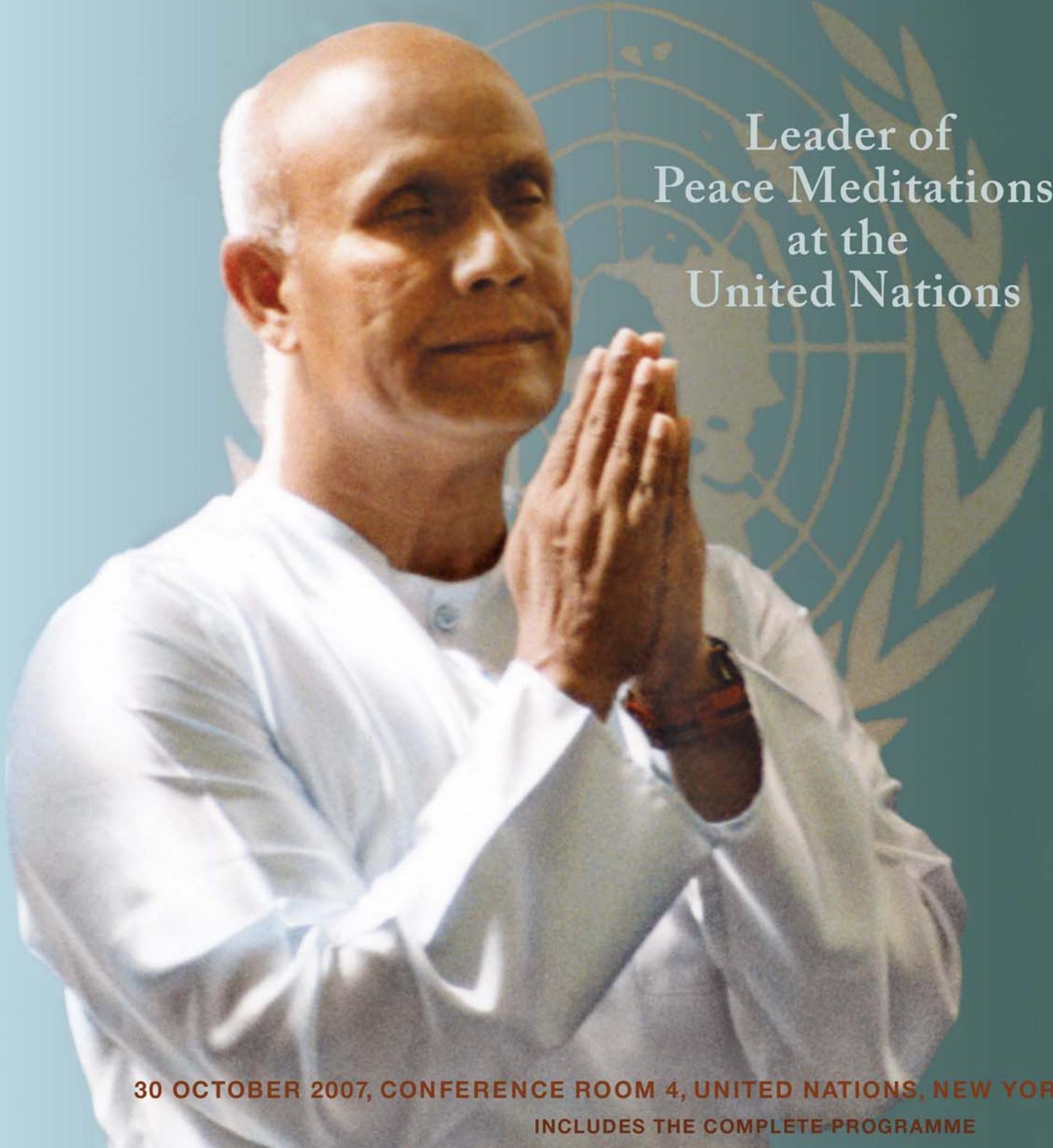


A Celebration of the Life of
SRI CHINMOY

1931–2007



Leader of
Peace Meditations
at the
United Nations

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

INCLUDES THE COMPLETE PROGRAMME

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PHOTOGRAPHERS: ADARINI, BHASHWAR, DHANU, JOWAN, PULAK, SHRADDHA

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, non-governmental organizations (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.

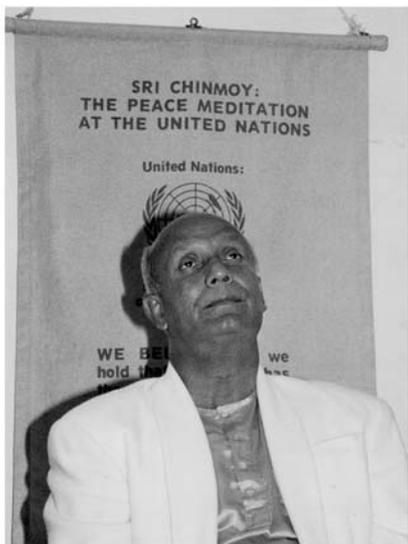
Sri Chinmoy also led a DPI-affiliated non-governmental organization, the Sri Chinmoy Centre, (www.srichinmoy.org) which conducts a myriad of activities and strives to promote harmony and humanitarian aid across the globe. Prominent among these activities are: The World Harmony Run (www.worldharmonyrun.org), 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.

This book contains the full programme of the Celebration of the Life of Sri Chinmoy, held at the United Nations on 30 October 2007, as well as selected tributes and excerpts from Sri Chinmoy's writings. Also included are accounts of Sri Chinmoy's meetings and correspondence over the years with the Secretaries-General 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:

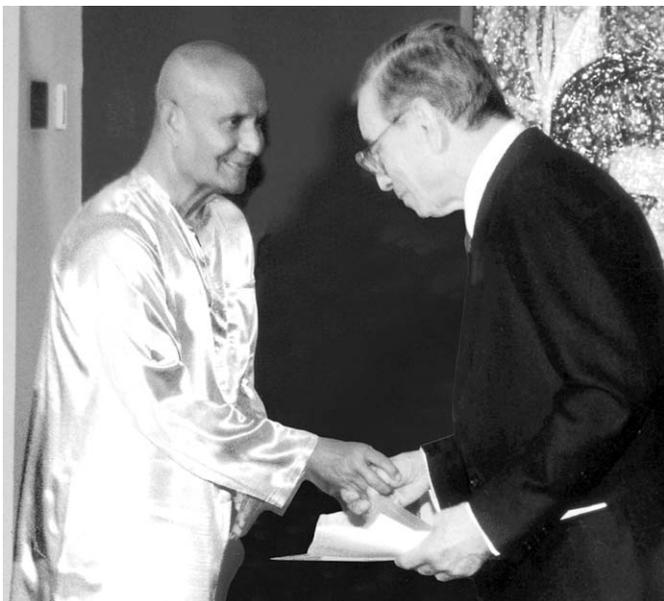
“I am deeply honoured to receive this Award from Sri Chinmoy, a very distinguished and loved friend for many, many years. What is happening to me now is that I am receiving the inspiration of Sri Chinmoy, who is actually, I would say, the heart of the United Nations—because in all the years I was Secretary-General, 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.”

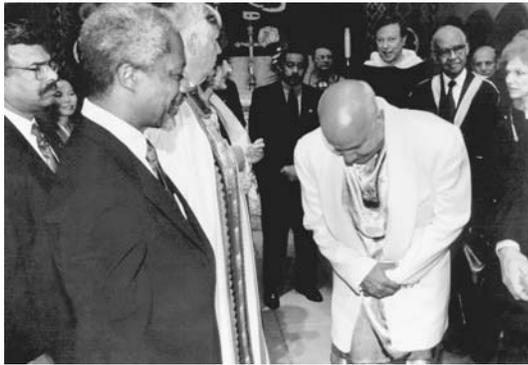
On 22 September 2000, Secretary-General Annan wrote to Sri Chinmoy:

“...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.”

A Celebration of the Life of Sri Chinmoy, held at the United Nations



Leaders from six different religions—Buddhism, Christianity, Indigenous religious traditions, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism—offer the opening moment of silence at the Celebration of the Life of Sri Chinmoy. Participants in the opening moment of silence, from left to right are: The Ven. Ashin Indaka, Chief Monk of the Mahasi Meditation Retreat Center Association; The Very Rev. James Parks Morton, Founder of the Interfaith Center of New York and Dean Emeritus of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine; Nana Boakyewa Yiadom I, Queen of Adamorobe, Aburi-Akuapem (Ghana); Swami Amarnathananda, Head Monk of the Bharat Sevashram Sangha of North America; Pir Zia Inayat-Khan, President of the Sufi Order International; and Maggid Yitzhak Buxbaum, Director, Jewish Spirit.

Following are excerpts taken from a Celebration of the Life of Sri Chinmoy, held at the United Nations on 30 October 2007, attended by over 700 members of the international community and friends and admirers of Sri Chinmoy. As people filled the room, the programme began with a few minutes of Sri Chinmoy's music, performed on flute by Mr. Premik Russell Tubbs, Musician/Producer, and on harmonium by Mr. Surashri Paradis, UN Secretariat Staff Member.

Ms. Catherine Vijaya Claxton

Programme Coordinator for
Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations



On behalf of the members of the Meditation Group and of our sponsors today—the Permanent Missions of Iceland, the Republic of Angola, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and the Commonwealth of Dominica, as well as the non-governmental organization, the Sri Chinmoy Centre—we welcome you sincerely and thank you for coming to share this very special day to celebrate the life of Sri Chinmoy.

In 1970, at the invitation of then Secretary-General U Thant, Sri Chinmoy began conducting twice-weekly meditations at the United Nations. These meditations were for staff and members of delegations and non-governmental organizations. Under his guidance for the past 37 years, he brought through the Meditation Group an ongoing series of programmes, concerts and lectures in furtherance of the vision of the United Nations to promote world harmony. These regular meditations continue to be held.

Sri Chinmoy also initiated and participated in a number of interfaith services, including the one held each year at St. Bartholomew's Church at the time of the opening of the General Assembly. Sri Chinmoy's contribution to these services had always been a moment of silent meditation—not unlike the moment of silence at the beginning of each General Assembly session. To honour Sri Chinmoy's belief in the strength of silence, and his personal commitment to interfaith unity, we would like to begin our programme by requesting the distinguished representatives of different faiths to lead us in a moment of silence.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

His Excellency Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury

Former Under-Secretary-General
and High Representative of the United Nations

In Sri Chinmoy, the world has lost a great man of peace. President Nelson Mandela wrote in his

tribute, "Today, the world is a lesser place as I recall his lifetime of service to humanity in the great cause of world peace." The outpouring of messages from all parts of the globe reflects this loss so sincerely.

When I joined many UN officials, religious leaders of all faiths, political figures, humanitarian workers, renowned musicians and world-class athletes from all around the world, along with thousands of his followers, to pay our final tribute as his body lay in wake, I saw a halo and a resplendent smile of *nirvana* on Sri Chinmoy's face.

As has been very aptly described, this sudden demise ended 76 years of a life brimming with both the inner vision and the dynamism to bring that vision to fruition. Forty-three years of his life were spent in the West, where he brought into being a path of spirituality that combined all the poise and inner searching of the East with the newness and enthusiasm of the West.

In the years since his arrival in the West, Sri Chinmoy became a model of the potential of humankind, opening meditation centres throughout the world for peace and harmony. He tirelessly travelled the globe to share his inspiration and good will.

I have known Sri Chinmoy for two decades while representing Bangladesh at the United Nations and also while serving in the world body. My family, my wife—who is present here—and I have always received his unending love and affection. I was deeply touched by his continuing prayer and hope for the progress of Bangladesh, the country in which his birthplace is located. I have joined Sri Chinmoy in many of his inspirational activities. I have been in his presence during his meditation sessions, when he encouraged inner and outer silence, and I have felt his own sincerity and peace within. His vision of a "oneness-world of peace" within each individual and for humanity at large has been most enriching and empowering for me.

From our first meeting till he left us, Sri Chinmoy and I have kept in close touch, supporting each other's endeavours for global peace. I recall with immense humility when, upon the United Nations General Assembly's adoption in 1999 of the *Declaration and Programme of Action for the Culture of Peace*, Sri Chinmoy wrote to me in his unique style that "The world-peace-dreamers, world-peace-lovers and world-peace-servers shall treasure your

unique offering to the world at large.”

He is a man of the highest spiritual stature, and internationally recognised as the true global Ambassador of Peace. As has been succinctly said in one of the eminent tributes which poured forth since his demise, “Throughout his many years, Sri Chinmoy 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.” (President Bill Clinton).

Respected and loved worldwide, Sri Chinmoy’s philosophy for world peace was manifested through a wide array of activities, ranging from literature to art to sports to music. The universal nature of his philosophy embraced and encouraged people of all backgrounds, faiths and nationalities to work together for peace. He is the finest example of a person who has a true vision of peace and one who has untiringly and selflessly inspired peace all over the world. He worked tirelessly to bring the different faiths together, and inspired many to emulate his example.

An ardent supporter of the United Nations, Sri Chinmoy reminded all of us time and again not to lose sight of the soul of the United Nations. In the early ’80s he had earned the admiration of the international community for leading the regular peace meditations at the United Nations, founded under the aegis of our most respected United Nations Secretary-General U Thant.

Hailed as a modern-day renaissance man, Sri Chinmoy wrote over 1,600 books of prose and poetry, mostly on spirituality; composed nearly 21,000 pieces of music; and performed more than 770 peace concerts worldwide, all offered free of charge, in the most prestigious halls of the world’s mega-cities.

Sri Chinmoy’s language speaks directly to the heart of his readers. He has a unique ability to convey abstract philosophical concepts simply, powerfully and meaningfully, and this is an aspect of Sri Chinmoy and his teachings that appeals greatly to his followers. Sri Chinmoy has written on many spiritual qualities, such as gratitude, tolerance and patience, and how to deal with problems such as depression, ego and jealousy.

Sri Chinmoy believed in a perfect harmony between the inner life and the outer life, and emphasised that men and women should go togeth-

er in their spiritual quest.

His astounding feats of weightlifting he was able to accomplish because of the inner peace and the strength he held within himself. “The physical and the spiritual must go together,” said Sri Chinmoy. “They cannot be separated.”

Sri Chinmoy’s life is an expression of boundless creativity. His paintings and 16 million “Dream-Freedom-Peace-Birds” drawings have given joy and inspiration to countless people.

A dedicated humanitarian, Sri Chinmoy’s service organization, *The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles*, collected and distributed worldwide millions of dollars of medical supplies throughout Asia and Africa. Devoted to easing pain and alleviating suffering, this initiative began in 1991 as part of Sri Chinmoy’s humanitarian endeavours. This organization is currently active in over 125 nations, a number of which are served by the United Nations Office of the High Representative, the last few years under my humble guidance and supervision.

Over 7,000 people drawn from different races and cultures, from all religions, forming a true global family, continue to follow his philosophy through more than 300 Sri Chinmoy Centres worldwide. Today, Sri Chinmoy serves as spiritual guide to students in some 60 countries around the world, encouraging a balanced lifestyle that incorporates the inner disciplines of prayer and meditation with the dynamism of contemporary life.

He said so emphatically something which is specially relevant to the work of the United Nations: “The power that dominates cannot solve world problems. The power that loves can solve world problems.”

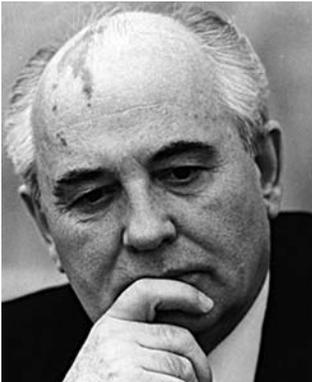
It has been an honour for me to know him. I believe his Himalayan dedication and commitment to peace deserve to remain with us forever in the life of each one of us, inspiring us to work for creating the culture of peace that is so much the need of our time. That would be the international community’s everlasting recognition of his dedicated service for humanity. He would live in our hearts and in our endeavours for a peaceful world.

I still cannot reconcile myself to the reality that my loved and respected brother-friend Sri Chinmoy is no more. Maybe he wrote his own eulogy when he said, “My physical death is not the end of my life—I am an eternal journey.”



Ms. Ranjana Ghose

Ms. Ranjana Ghose, Curator of the Sri Chinmoy Jharna-Kala Art Foundation and Main NGO Representative of the Sri Chinmoy Centre, read a letter from President Mikhail Gorbachev.



President Mikhail Gorbachev

Letter from President Mikhael Gorbachev, dated 12 October 2007:

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 heavy loss not only for all his dear ones, friends, numerous disciples—this is a loss for the whole world.

For 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. Many people—politicians, state figures and social figures

from various countries (including myself)—appealed to the Nobel Peace Committee nominating Sri Chinmoy for the honorary degree of the Nobel Laureate. Unfortunately, Sri Chinmoy did not live to this day...but in our hearts he will forever remain a man who dedicated his whole life to peace.

A few times I visited the Sri Chinmoy Centre in New York. I met his disciples. What wonderful, soulful people were surrounding him! I am sure that the Centre will become a worthy successor of the noblest work their outstanding Teacher has dedicated his whole life to.

Dear friends, in these sorrowful days, Irina and I and the girls mourn together with you.

We shall remember Sri Chinmoy forever!



His Excellency Ambassador Hjálmar Hannesson

Permanent Representative of Iceland to the UN

Dear friends, on a very beautiful day in August this year, my wife and I visited Sri Chinmoy and friends in his Centre in Queens. We were welcomed most warmly, and it was an uplifting experience we shall not forget. We talked with him about meeting again in the New Year, and even an idea of his visiting Iceland once more was discussed.

He has, however, in the meantime embarked on a longer and more unexpected journey. The second time we visited was at the tribute to him where his body lay in wake.

I am reminded of what we are always taught in our youth in Iceland, a nation of fishermen—that life is but a journey with two certainties: our birth and our death. But what matters is what we do on that journey between these two points. And we celebrate today, with joy, the life of Sri Chinmoy.

For he embodies the best in humankind: love, and working towards peace and understanding between peoples and different cultures.

As the leader of the Peace Meditations at the UN, and through his many statements and writings, there is ample evidence of his deep belief in what the UN stands for. One short example you see in this beautiful brochure here in front of you, where he writes, “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.”

He made many journeys to Iceland, and found a great affinity with the people there. We are a country without a military. We keep saying that the work towards peace does not rely on the might of the military, but the might of the words and the quality of the ideas. And what an idea-builder and a man of the word, of the good words of love and peaceful togetherness, we are celebrating here today.

Over 70 per cent of the Parliamentarians of the Icelandic Althingi—which is the oldest living Parliament in the world, established in 930—were among those who asked the Nobel Prize Committee in Oslo to give the Peace Prize to Sri Chinmoy, the one that ex-Vice President Al Gore received. This is an indication of the effect Sri Chinmoy had and the high esteem with which we, in Iceland, hold him.

His spirit lives on. We are grateful and joyful for what he has given the world, and what he dedicated his life to. It was, indeed, a great journey.



Her Excellency Ambassador Ismat Jahan

Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic
of Bangladesh to the UN

Speaking at a memorial is without doubt one of the hardest things one could ever be asked to do. And yet, it is a privilege, an honour and a unique opportunity for me when asked to say a few words in honour of the memory of Sri Chinmoy. Born in 1931 at Chittagong in Bangladesh, Sri Chinmoy, a man of compassion and tolerance, dedicated his life to the cause of global peace, harmony and tolerance, touching and enriching the hearts and minds of many whom he had come across in this noble mission.

Sri Chinmoy’s philosophy, practices and teachings have reached the farthest corners of the world, and have now become a common heritage of people from different religions, faiths, beliefs and cultures.

Needless to say, Sri Chinmoy will live in our hearts forever. His teachings will remain a constant source of spiritual force for many to draw inspiration and courage from in the cause of peace, discipline and tolerance.

Let me not repeat what is known to everybody here about Sri Chinmoy’s life and works. In short, his life is one of perfect manifestation of ingenuity, be it in the field of music, poetry, literature, painting or sports, or in the domain of meditation, which he practised and taught as a source-force for all accomplishments. I recall with profound reverence his 37 years of service to the United Nations and its extended global family, which earned him the respect and recognition of

many all across the world.

As a Bangladeshi, I take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to Sri Chinmoy for his constant endeavour in making *Bangla* music, poetry and literature a significant part of his practices and teachings.

It is a matter of personal regret for me that I did not have the opportunity to know Sri Chinmoy directly, as I joined my position in New York recently. Yet today, on behalf of the members of the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, I offer sincere tribute to the memory of Sri Chinmoy, a noble and selfless son of Bangladesh, for his invaluable services to humanity.

Let me end by quoting Sri Chinmoy: “Our goal is to go from bright to brighter to the brightest, from high to higher to the highest. And even in the highest, there is no end to our progress.”

I do hope that the light of peace which Sri Chinmoy has lit and handed over to us will be carried forward to enlighten humanity.

May Sri Chinmoy’s great soul rest in eternal peace.



His Excellency Ambassador Crispin Grégoire

Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the UN

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. It is an honour and a privilege to be part of this well-deserved celebration at the UN of the life of Sri Chinmoy, a messenger of peace.

I did not know Sri Chinmoy very long ago, but I became familiar with his name when I was in high school in the '70s. The reason for that was that I was a fan of John McLaughlin and the Mahavishnu Orchestra, which he was associated with, as well with the music of Carlos Santana, who was also influenced by the Guru.

Since coming to the UN in 2002, I did get the opportunity to meet him on several occasions, and the last time I saw him was when he had a very moving exhibit of bird drawings in the Secretariat Lobby. I was one of the lucky people that he lifted on more than one occasion. So, I was able to touch the man, and just having the opportunity to touch him gave me the feeling that he was a great man, and he, indeed, was a great man.

He will be remembered as a man who committed his life to the universal pursuit of peace. He saw in the UN—and it is very fitting that we have this celebration here, because he spent so much time here—he saw in the UN the focal point in the world for the promotion of peace. And that is why I believe that he made the UN a base for his peace meditations.

Ladies and gentlemen, I was always struck by the tremendous ingenuity and talent he possessed as an athlete, writer, musician and artist. Clearly his creativity had no boundaries.

His love for marginalised people around the world was ably demonstrated through his foundation, the *Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles* foundation, which has done quite a bit of work promoting peace and also helping poor people around the world.

Finally, I would like to say that he has left the world, but his philosophy promoting the culture of peace lives on. Long live his memory and his teachings of love, devotion and surrender.



His Excellency Ambassador Milton Nathaniel Barnes

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Liberia to the UN
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” Peace be with you.

My dear friends, when a friend, a loved one, a Sri Chinmoy dies, it gives us the opportunity to

reflect. We reflect on his life and the legacy of his life: his legacy of creativity, his legacy of peace, his legacy of leadership. And it establishes the example that we all must aspire to, especially those of us here at this institution that pursues peace.

But more importantly and more realistically, it gives us the opportunity to reflect on our own death—something that at times can be very difficult. May his death be an example that the bell now tolls. May we not ask for whom the bell tolls; may we aspire to the objective that when we no longer hear the bell, others may say of us as we say in celebrating Sri Chinmoy today.

May his soul rest in peace.



Mr. Adhiratha Keefe

Mr. Adhiratha Keefe, Programme Coordinator for the Meditation Group and UNFPA Staff Member, read a statement from H.E. Ambassador Vladimir Petrovsky.



His Excellency Ambassador Vladimir Petrovsky

Statement from H.E. Ambassador Vladimir Petrovsky, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union (1986-1991); UN Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva (1992-2002); and Chairman, Comprehensive Dialogue among Civilizations; dated 27 October 2007:

It is difficult for me to find adequate words today to pay tribute to Sri Chinmoy, a very, very dear brother-friend of mine, a great visionary and spiritual leader of our time, a profound inspirer and true example for humankind.

I have known Sri Chinmoy for more than 15

years and I have followed his life and work with growing interest, based on personal meetings and his involvement with the United Nations.

Where could one find such an ardent supporter of the UN as in Sri Chinmoy? His vision and faith in the UN, in the role of the UN as a common home of humanity, as a safeguard of the united principles of its members and as a beacon of hope and bridge-builder in our turbulent and troubled times, were sleepless and unwavering. For more than 37 years he regularly offered his inner peace and tranquility at the UN headquarters in New York through his silent meditations, concerts, exhibitions, publications and other programmes. Here at the core of humanity, in the heart of the human family, his love for the world and his fellow human beings could be tangibly felt.

Sri Chinmoy was convinced that true outer peace had to start with the inner peace of the individual. He has expressed this philosophy of peace in countless books, songs and paintings. His creative works, together with his multifarious peace-initiatives like the humanitarian relief operations, the Peace Concerts and the World Harmony Run represent an immense source of inspiration, wisdom, strength and practical guidance to people of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds. I regard Sri Chinmoy's work as one of the real treasures of the 20th and 21st centuries, probably the most powerful pillar of a culture of peace that currently exists.

In combining creativity, community activities and humanitarian projects, Sri Chinmoy leads the way to a new universal and at the same time practical approach in addressing the world's acute problems. Strongly anchored in humanity's essential moral and ethical values, he stands as a real example of responsible human behaviour in a time of rapidly developing changes on our planet.

On a more personal note, I wish to say that I feel very privileged to have been able to meet personally with Sri Chinmoy on many occasions over the last 15 years. I have always felt his generous affection, sincere interest and concern in my and my wife Mira's personal lives as well as my professional activities. For this we are both very grateful.

Today we feel a terrible loss, an emptiness and sadness not to be able to see him face to face again. But we also feel very strongly that his spirit and work will continue to guide and inspire us all.

I would like to express my deepest sympathy

with all of Sri Chinmoy's students and friends.

May we continue together to explore pathways to a better and more perfect world!



Ms. Nilima Silver

Ms. Nilima Silver, Programme Coordinator for the Meditation Group and UN Secretariat Staff Member, read a letter from Indian President Pratibha Devisingh Patil.



President Pratibha Devisingh Patil

Letter from President Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the President of the Republic of India, dated 27 October 2007:

I am saddened to learn about the passing away of Sri Chinmoy on October 11, 2007 at New York.

The passing away of Sri Chinmoy is a loss of a famous spiritual teacher and scholar. His life was dedicated to working for peace and harmony. Having deep faith in the potential of the human spirit, he drew from India's spiritual past to bring out the best of the East and the West and the old and the new.

Kindly convey my condolences to all the members of Sri Chinmoy Centres International.



Daw Aye Aye Thant

Daughter of Secretary-General U Thant; Founder and President of the U Thant Institute; and recipient of the U Thant Peace Award from Sri Chinmoy

I am greatly honoured to have this opportunity to pay my respect and offer solemn tribute to Sri Chinmoy as we celebrate his life.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sorrow and condolences to all the members of the Meditation Group and the Centre for their great loss.

As life and death are beyond our control, we have to believe that he will always be with us, and his memory will keep on giving strength and comfort throughout our lives. In the truest sense, his life represented the best thought, most far-reaching vision and outstanding artistic and practical accomplishments.

I met Sri Chinmoy some 35 years ago in the spring of 1973 at the premiere of the play *Siddhartha Becomes the Buddha*, written by Sri Chinmoy, in Harrison, New York, with my father attending. The evening was damp and cold, with some sprinkles of rain. It was a raw evening. But we were embraced by the spiritual energy of the play and the presence and serenity of two people who practised loving kindness towards all human beings throughout their lives. We were warmed by the spirit of compassion and love. We were in harmony with our surroundings.

Later we were together taking a boat ride to the dedication of U Thant Island. Again, it was a rainy day, damp and raw. But our spirit was joyous and fulfilled. Rain, in fact, does bring new life and new awakenings.

When we were in Bangkok, Thailand, the members of the Meditation Group were visiting

there. We met again by coincidence—that is, if you believe in coincidence. Sri Chinmoy lifted our whole family there. My children would never forget that experience! They were lucky.

In a letter to Sri Chinmoy in April 1972, my father wrote, “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 meetings at the United Nations.”

It was my father’s and Sri Chinmoy’s shared vision for world peace based on the ideals of tolerance and compassion that had brought mutual respect and admiration between them.

I feel fortunate to have known Sri Chinmoy and to have been in his presence many times, and to have known many members of the Group. Thank you so much for asking me to take part in celebrating this wonderful spiritual life.



Congressman Benjamin Arthur Gilman

United States Representative from New York from 1973 to 2003; and Chairman of the U.S. Congressional House International Relations Committee, 1995-2000

Thank you very much, Madam Chairman. And I want to welcome Your Excellency Ambassador Chowdhury and Your Excellencies, our religious leaders, our distinguished guests, all of you, ladies and gentlemen, and all of our disciples of our spiritual leader and our dear friend, Sri Chinmoy Kumar Ghose. My wife Georgia and I consider it an honour and privilege to be able to participate with all of you on this occasion, celebrating the life of this great leader—the outstanding achievements and inspirational leadership of Sri Chinmoy’s devotion to peace, his

continual building of bridges for a world free of hostility and for world progress, and his staunch support of our United Nations.

It was Sri Chinmoy who poetically praised this international body thus: “High in Heaven the United Nations is most lovingly and fondly cradled by the cosmic gods and goddesses and by the Absolute Lord Supreme.” He was quite a poet and quite an artist and quite an author. He went on to say, “The United Nations, the hidden heart-treasure of God, shall be found at the Golden Shore of the Beyond for the world to appreciate, admire and finally become the beauty and fragrance of God’s supremely unparalleled treasure here on earth.”

That was the poet Sri Chinmoy.

It was Sri Chinmoy who, at the request of Secretary-General U Thant, the third UN Secretary-General—and we appreciated the comments of Ms. Thant—offered his prayerful service to the United Nations. On every Tuesday and Friday he went to the UN to offer his prayers and meditations to all of our UN diplomats, our delegates and staff in the Meditation Group, which he continued for some 37 years until his passing.

It was Sri Chinmoy who taught his students working at the UN to sing his song of dedication: “UN, UN, with you began a fulness-cry in oneness-sky. For you I see a flood-ecstasy.”

When I first met our spiritual leader, Sri Chinmoy, it was many years ago when he visited our House of Representatives in Washington and amazingly lifted my colleague Congressman Gary Ackerman and myself. And we were no lightweights, by any means! That was an amazing feat.

I thank Sri Chinmoy’s assistant Chandini Bachman for reminding me that it was back in November of 1995 that I wrote this note to our dear friend Sri Chinmoy: “Congratulations on your world tour of this year’s 50 peace concerts celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. I was informed that your tour began with a concert in Burma, the birthplace of U Thant, the Secretary-General of our United Nations, and will conclude in December with concerts in South Africa and then in Zimbabwe. I support this noble cause and salute your efforts to create inclusive events around the world, free and open to all who dream of peace in their lives and among so

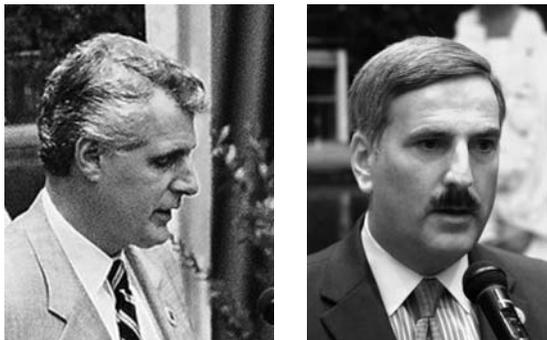
many peoples. I was impressed when I learned of the turnouts in October: concerts of 15,000 music-lovers in Prague, and 13,000 at your concert in Montreal. This kind of popular response is encouraging, because it indicates the emergence of a collective aspiration for peace.”

And that is what Sri Chinmoy always wanted us to be in mind of.

We were all astounded by Sri Chinmoy’s prowess and were moved by his message, a message of inner peace and of world harmony, and his urging, his important message: to challenge ourselves by being the best we can.

We will long remember our good friend and our spiritual leader. Yes, he has enriched all of our lives. May God bless Sri Chinmoy’s memory and his legacy for world peace and harmony.

So, peace be with you, and God bless.



New York City Councilmen Mr. James Gennaro and Mr. David Weprin

MR. GENNARO: I would like to call up my colleague in the Council, David Weprin, as David and I serve side by side at the Council.

Honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is a privilege and an honour to be here before everyone today. Today we celebrate the life of Sri Chinmoy, and I have put a little bit of thought into what would be the best way to do that. I wanted to think about what Sri Chinmoy loved. He loved God, certainly. He loved the world. He loved the mission of the United Nations. And most importantly, he loved people. He loved us. And so we celebrate him, I think, by dedicating ourselves to that which he loved. We must commit ourselves to serving God in the world. He would like that. We must dedicate

ourselves to loving the world and each other. He would love that. But most importantly, we must, if we can, love each other as he loved us. This, I think, would make him most happy and proud.

We are very special, all of us; we are very special and fortunate for having known him, for having loved him, and to have been loved by him. And we can do so much. We can do so much with the love that he so abundantly showered upon us. So, let us commit ourselves to spending the rest of our days giving to others the love that he gave to us. This is the way to truly celebrate Sri Chinmoy’s life and to show our gratitude for all that he did for us, and for so many.

Let me just take a moment to talk about the power of Sri Chinmoy reaching people and the effect that he had on people, and his ability to reach other people through us. That is our job now.

This is an e-mail from my sister Barbara, and it was very inspiring. I thought I would share it with you, if I can get through it.

“Thank you so much for sharing your comments about the life and spiritual path of Sri Chinmoy, and the immense impact he has had on your life and that of countless others. Truly he completed his mission in this world and God took him home. How bittersweet to lose the dearest of friends and yet know that he is with God, his hard-earned eternal reward.

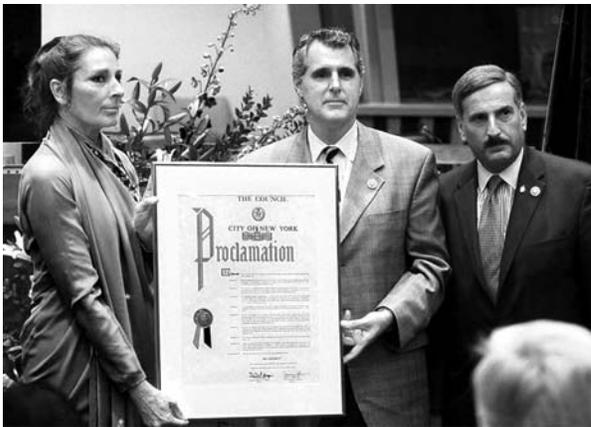
“We can’t keep people; we borrow and enjoy them only for a brief time. We keep the memory of them and what we become for having known and loved them. As you said so beautifully, you are forever changed for having known and loved Sri Chinmoy, and for having been loved by him. And so he continues to live in you, and he always will. How lucky you are to have been loved, and been loved so deeply, by such a great man, who will always live in your heart. Surely that must give you great comfort. How lucky you are to be surrounded by so many people who share the love and greatness of such a man.

“To have known Sri Chinmoy is to have known grace. To know grace is to know God’s loving Presence in this world. This is what Sri Chinmoy brought to you and to others: God’s loving Presence in this world. And that is what he leaves behind.”

My sister Barbara saw Guru one time; one time, and she got all that. Good for her; good for her.

MR. WEPRIN: Councilman Gennaro and I represent the area of Queens where Sri Chinmoy made his home here in New York. And I think it was really appropriate that he had made such a tremendous presence in Queens County. Queens County, of course, was one of the first locations of the United Nations, in Flushing Meadow Park, before they moved to this location. It is also probably one of the most diverse counties in the world. We have over two million people and we have over 200 countries of origin and over 200 different languages and dialects spoken in Queens County.

In a quiet way, he had a tremendous following, obviously throughout the world. I was at the funeral services and the wake after his passing, and people came to Queens County from all over the world to pay their respects. I just think it was appropriate that his home was a small, little place in Briarwood, Queens, but he made such a tremendous impact on the world.



Ms. Ranjana Ghose receives a City Council Proclamation on behalf of the Sri Chinmoy Centre, from New York City Councilmen James Gennaro and David Weprin.

TEXT OF PROCLAMATION:

The Council of the City of New York is pleased and proud in paying tribute to and honoring the life of Sri Chinmoy; and

WHEREAS: It is the tradition and custom of the New York City Council to honor its most distinguished citizens, and today we are pleased to recognize Sri Chinmoy for his outstanding service to the community, to our city and to the World; and

WHEREAS: Sri Chinmoy exemplified all that is most noteworthy and admirable in our citizens. His abundant generosity and compassion toward others as well as selfless dedication to nurturing world harmony through creative expression of the limitless potential of the human spirit; and

WHEREAS: Sri Chinmoy's many contributions to American life and culture have been expressed through teaching, athletics, art, music, poetry and literature, of which, he has written over 1,550 books of essays, 112,000 poems, short stories, and 20,000 songs, taught 300 university lectures, and penned over 16 million bird drawings; and

WHEREAS: A devoted leader in promoting global harmony, Sri Chinmoy led twice-weekly meditation sessions to encourage personal spiritual growth at the United Nations for over 37 years; and

WHEREAS: In 1976, he inspired The Liberty Torch 8,800-mile non-stop relay run through all 50 states to celebrate the American Bicentennial, during which a flaming torch was passed from runner to runner symbolizing and rekindling the deeper spiritual values and ideals upon which this nation was founded; and

WHEREAS: In 1977, he founded the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team and in 1987, he gave birth to the World Harmony Run and his inspiration and guidance will continue to be a driving force behind the event; the World Harmony Run contributes to world education and has become a venue for Americans to work together with team members from more than 70 other countries to develop international friendships and advance world harmony; and

WHEREAS: Sri Chinmoy dedicated his life to inspiring and serving all those trying to make the world a better place; and

WHEREAS: Today, we honor the life and teachings of Sri Chinmoy, a man whose dedication to and concern for world peace and harmony is exemplary. In his devotion to ensuring the transmission and preservation of

global harmony, he served as a fine example of maintaining and strengthening one's spiritual life; now, therefore

BE IT KNOWN: That the Council of the City of New York most gratefully honors **SRI CHINMOY** for his outstanding service to the City, the community and the World.

Signed this 30th day of October in the year Two Thousand Seven

DAVID I. WEPRIN JAMES F. GENNARO

Council Member, 23rd District, Queens

Council Member, 24th District, Queens



Ms. Tegla Loroupe

UN Ambassador for Sport and Peace; President of the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation; and two-time marathon world record holder

Our brother was ambassador of peace and harmony. The world lost a great man. Our sports family will miss him.

I met Sri Chinmoy here in the United Nations when I was given the Abebe Bikila Award. He was the one who handed the award to me. And since then, he became my close father and friend.

Dear friends, God has taken His son. He has finished his mission in this world. But he left something for us; he left the work for us; we have to continue and to carry the work that he started. The world today is full of many bad things. We need to bring peace and harmony. Our brother started, and many others will follow.

He invited me also to Queens, and I was among those who were given the honour to be lifted up. When he heard that my weight was 39 kilos, he

started to laugh! But when I came down, he told me, "My daughter, I did not lift your weight; I lifted your spirit." And I felt it.

He also told me: Tegla, I know the work that you are doing. It is not an easy job, but do not forget that God is always there for us. The world needs us to do good.

I was also honoured last year to run a leg in Lisbon for his marathon relay, the World Harmony Run. I ran through the city of Lisbon with the local kids and the students of Sri Chinmoy, carrying the torch for peace and harmony. I also organised peace races through sports; I know what it means. It brings people together; people come and share.

Last year, after he finished talking to me, he gave me a watch. And then he told me: I hope this watch will remind you not to sleep, and not to forget your work.

I made a sign that I have my work and I know my work is special; it was a sign of peace, I know.

This year, three months ago, I was flying from my home, going to Nairobi. It was one day before going to Sudan. Our plane had an accident in Nairobi. In the plane there was the European Ambassador to Kenya and his Deputy, who had come to see the project that I am doing in the field that I had just come back from. On our return back, our plane ran into trouble; we thought that we were going to die. I said, "God, do not let us die like this."

Then we landed in the forest and nobody was hurt, although the wings were completely destroyed. I went home and then I called the Ambassador. I said, "I am sorry that you and your Deputy came to my home." I felt like I was responsible for them; he was silent.

I sat down, and I picked up the book I had been given by Sri Chinmoy, and I read: do not forget to bring peace. In my heart I was feeling I should cancel the trip to Darfur. Within five minutes I got a call from the Ambassador again. He called me and asked, "Tegla, are you still planning to go to Darfur?"

I was quiet. And then he told me, "You do not have to apologise. You have to go. The world still needs us. Why did God not kill us? We still have unfinished work." I told my brother, "I am going to Darfur."

My mother called me in the evening and said, "Oh, did you see that plane this morning?" I said, "Yes, I saw it; the person who was in it was me."

She asked: "Are you still going to Darfur?" I said, "I am going." She said, "You go in peace and bring peace."

I want to say today that we have so much to do. May God bless you. I want to express my condolences to the family and the friends of Sri Chinmoy. God bless you, and let us hold onto our friend. Our friend left, but he has done good things, and these good things will last. God bless you.



Mr. Lowell Flanders

Former President of the United Nations Staff Union and Assistant Director of the Division for Sustainable Development

I really appreciate being invited to rejoice with you in the life of Sri Chinmoy, somebody who has touched each and every one of you here, I know, and around the world.

Sri Chinmoy, by the example of his life, provided a vision and hope for a better, more peaceful world, a world sustained by a community of nations and peoples dedicated to the equality and well-being of all, not only in a physical sense, but in a spiritual sense as well. That inner peace could radiate and transform the world around us was an article of faith for Sri Chinmoy. At a time when the world is increasingly racked by violence and strife, the message and example of Sri Chinmoy provide a wellspring of inspiration. His commitment to the United Nations and the ideal of international cooperation and friendship between nations must be shared and built upon by all of us, since, as he believed, world peace must start in the hearts of each and every one of us.

In closing, just a short verse by Lord Bacon:

"Action is transitory—a step, a blow,
The motion of a muscle—this way or that—
'Tis done; and in the after-vacancy
We wonder at ourselves like men betrayed:
Suffering is permanent, obscure and dark,
And has the nature of infinity.
Yet through that darkness, gracious openings lie,
By which the soul—with patient steps of thought
Now toiling, waked now on wings of prayer—
May pass in hope, and, though from mortal bonds
Yet undelivered, rise with sure ascent
Even to the fountain-head of peace divine."



Ms. Muriel Frohman

Former Chief of Protocol of the New York Road Runners Club, and Liaison with the UN for the International Friendship Run

It is an honour to be here for my friend and yours, Sri Chinmoy. Unlike many of you, I was not a student of Sri Chinmoy. During the more than 25 years we knew each other, we developed a kinship. He called me Sister Muriel. Our ages were only one month apart, and each year we exchanged birthday greetings. And we shared a belief in the goodness of people.

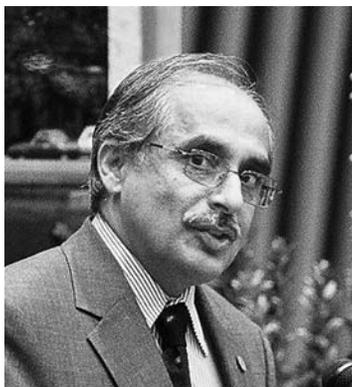
But I came to learn that his concept of goodness was much broader than mine. Whereas I thought in terms of the Golden Rule—that is, treat each person I encountered with the same degree of kindness as I would expect to be treated—he thought in terms of one world, or a universal oneness of the sacredness of all people. He cast his blessings upon all cultures and all societies. Yes, he treated each person with his notable gentleness, but his heart and mind acted on a global level.

He believed the day would come when nations shall speak peace unto nations. He knew and walked with the high and mighty, yet he never flaunted these acquaintances to demonstrate his

own importance. He had greater mental and physical discipline and strength than most people, yet through his paintings he manifested his caring and kindness for small and vulnerable creatures. Today his birds are crying, for who is left to draw them with such love?

I weep not only for the loss of a dear friend, but I weep for the loss of a man who offered our world an opportunity to achieve peace among all its inhabitants. Sri Chinmoy showed many the way to inner peace and to a high sense of humanity. Imagine if such peace and humanity could be experienced manifold by people at all levels of all governments, so that someday international discourse would be conducted only by humane and peaceful people. What a wonderful world that would be! That was his dream that must never die.

It has been said that one life ends with one death. But in his single death, he did not take with him all of his virtues. His good has not been interred with his bones. It remains here on earth, not only with you who have knelt at his feet, but it will live as well in the minds and hearts of men and women everywhere, and in children yet unborn, forever.



His Excellency Mr. Vijay Nambiar

Under-Secretary-General and Chef de Cabinet
of the United Nations

I am honoured to be here this afternoon at what is both the mourning at the passing away and a celebration of the life of Guru Sri Chinmoy.

I do not think I can speak with as much authority as many of you of your own personal relationship with Sri Chinmoy. I had a very brief, passing relationship with him, but that has remained etched

in my mind and my memory.

I would like to read out what I said on the 14th of October at the Memorial in Queens:

Guru-ji Sri Chinmoy was far greater than an enlightened individual. He has been and remains an extraordinary phenomenon that has touched the daily lives of his devotees in many unusual ways. He has inspired us to change the way we look at ourselves and at the world. With his mild manner and incredible physical and mental strength, he literally uplifted us and brought steadfastness and stability to our daily lives.

At the United Nations, we were specially blessed because of his weekly visits, 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 Guru-ji Sri Chinmoy for his contribution to the building up of an inner peace and harmony in this organization as well as in the world at large.

Personally, I wish to express my special gratitude for the attention and grace he has showered on me during my own very brief association with him. His sudden passing away has been a shock to us, but as he himself said recently, his physical death did not mean the end of his life. He continues to represent an eternal journey, and your presence here is a clear indication that you also are with him on that journey. You, his devotees, represent the strength and courage he counts on to carry the torch of his spiritual legacy ahead.

*The Meditation Group Choir sang two songs
composed by Sri Chinmoy.*

MS. CLAXTON: No matter what our individual personal beliefs are, today we share in common our collective loss. This loss is tempered with the joy we all share, the very personal joy of having known this remarkable man. We hope that each of you can find solace in the words of Sri Chinmoy himself. The evening before he died, Sri Chinmoy said that he considered himself above all a Student of Peace. We honour him in carrying that legacy forward. And the last poem, which has affected so many of us so clearly, published just before his passing, reads: "My physical death is not the end of my life—I am an eternal journey."



The Meditation Group Choir sang two songs composed by Sri Chinmoy: one song in his native Bengali, *Tomare Rakhibo*, and one song in English, *UN: Sun-Vision-Plan*, dedicated to the United Nations.



Mr. Premik Russell Tubbs, Musician/Producer, on flute and Mr. Surashri Paradis, UN Secretariat Staff Member, on harmonium opened the programme with a selection of Sri Chinmoy's music.





H.E. Ambassador
Anwarul Chowdhury
delivers the keynote
address to an audience
of over 700.



Selected 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.



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. Dr. Srgjan Kerim

President of the United Nations 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.

I had the privilege of knowing him personally and the good fortune to have been lifted physically, not by the force of his muscles, but by the power of the spirit.



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.



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.

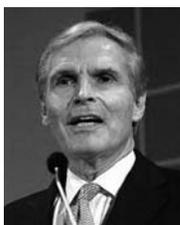


Mr. Ted Turner

Chairman of the Board, United Nations Foundation; and Chairman, Turner Enterprises, Inc.

I had the great pleasure of being honoured by Sri Chinmoy several years ago with the U Thant Peace Award, and was moved by his ideas and love for humanity. He was a man of tremendous spirit and compassion, and his lifelong dedication to promoting peace around the world will continue to inspire many. His tireless efforts to bring people and cultures together to foster a greater understanding of each other should encourage all to carry on his message of universal accord.

The world has lost a truly great spiritual leader.



Mr. Ray Chambers

Chairman, Millennium Promise; Chairman, Amerlior Foundation; and Co-chairman, Malaria No More

Now that you have decided to leave your physical body, you will be missed greatly, but we all applaud your newfound freedom. I am so grateful that I had the chance to meet you last month, be with you and experience the extraordinary and peaceful energy you exuded. I came away from my encounter with you feeling much lighter and with more hope for the world.

I am also grateful for the millions of lives you saved or enhanced. Your peaceful intentions were as strong as the physical strength you demonstrated so many times. Those intentions and messages of peace will live on forever and reverberate through many generations to come.

Thank you for your thousands of poems, books and songs through which we will have the opportunity to so vividly remember you. As your spirit remains with us, you will continue to inspire the world toward the achievable goal of global peace. Thank you from all the people of the earth for the time you spent with us.



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.



Mr. Kul C. Gautam

Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF

Sri Chinmoy dedicated 37 years of his life to the service of world peace and to the fulfilment of the unlimited potential of the human spirit. Through leadership by example, he inspired and encouraged millions of people through his innovative peace initiatives and humanitarian endeavours.

Sri Chinmoy once composed a beautiful and inspiring song for UNICEF, which touched all of our hearts. I especially recall a line of a poem by Sri Chinmoy that UNICEF's former Executive Director Mr. James P. Grant often quoted: "The heart's simplicity always succeeds when and where the mind's complexity fails."



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.



H.E. Ambassador Nirupam Sen

Permanent Representative of India to the UN

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.



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.

Also, know my conviction that the strength of character and beliefs of Sri Chinmoy will live on to enlighten the generations to come. With you, and your selfless dedication to his legacy, we are in good hands.



H.E. Ambassador Andrei Dapkiunas

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus to the UN

On behalf of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations, I wish to convey sincere condolences to his followers and associates. I extend my deepest sympathy to the family and pay tribute to the late Sri Chinmoy for his dedicated service to the United Nations and the international community, to the needy and suffering people worldwide.

H.E. Ambassador Henry L. Mac-Donald

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Suriname to the UN

On behalf of myself and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Suriname, I would like to offer my condolences on the passing of Sri Chinmoy.

Although he is no more in his human body, Sri Chinmoy still lives in his spiritual legacy, which he has left behind for mankind.

Dr. Marcelo Suárez Salvia

Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Argentina to the UN

I express my deep condolences to his community. I had the opportunity to meet him in New York and felt very touched by his wisdom and in particular by all his work in favour of peace.



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.



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.



President Jorge Illueca

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

I believe that one of the most important parts of my spiritual life was to meet Sri Chinmoy and to meet all the members, all our friends, of the Meditation Group, and this was since I started my service as Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations. Since then, we were so close. We were together.

We have now to live with the teachings, the sayings, the way that Sri Chinmoy was able to guide all of us for meditation, for harmony, for understanding, for this feeling of being generous; and to feel the happiness that we may give, not only receive but also give—perhaps material things, but something more important: that is love, that is understanding that has the sense of unity, of a word that he used, “oneness.”

I feel some consolation in uniting, in joining my soul to the soul of the Meditation Group, and to know that we will always remember Sri Chinmoy, not with pain, not with sadness, but with a sense of happiness. To see his face—that was like a blessing to all of us.



President Guido de Marco

President of Malta, 1999-2004; President of the 45th session of the UN General Assembly

He was a man who loved people. He was a man who wanted to transmit the message of love to all. I remember him when I was President of the United Nations General Assembly, and even after, for his kindness and his global sense of belonging. We will all miss him. We remember him in the teachings which he gave us and in the acts of love which he made for humanity. We all will remain mindful of his

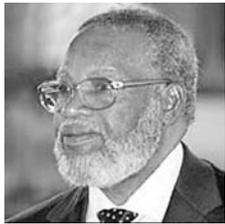
message. Thanks from us all, Sri Chinmoy. The Eternal will look after you.



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 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.



Hon. Lokendra Bahadur Chand

Former Prime Minister of Nepal;
Leader of the National Democratic Party

Through his various peace activities like harmony concerts and relay runs, Sri Chinmoy reminded people throughout the world that the greatest need of our time is to communicate across international boundaries and to bring the globe together in a common threshold of peace and brotherhood. The contributions of Sri Chinmoy to the world are unparalleled and most significant.

With fond memories of Sri Chinmoy as a man who loved the world and served humanity in so many ways, now as he joins his heavenly Father, I pray to the Almighty to give strength to his students and friends all over the world to endure this loss of their loved one.



Hon. Kirti Nidhi Bista

Former Prime Minister of Nepal

Sri Chinmoy reminded people of the need to strive for peace and harmony, and how each individual can contribute to this effort. He tirelessly worked for peace in the world we live in and call our home. The contributions of Sri Chinmoy to the world are immortal. He shall forever be remembered as a man who was a living entity of love, compassion and concern for others.



Hon. Rafael Hernández Colón

Governor of Puerto Rico, 1973-1976; 1985-1992

Our friendship extended for almost 30 years and I was looking forward to our next opportunity to meet when the unexpected news arrived.

Sri Chinmoy was an enlightened soul, who devoted his heart to the fellowship of mankind and to the cause of peace around the world. His spirituality blessed hundreds of disciples spread out in many countries, including Puerto Rico. There was love in all his actions, in his music and in his paintings.

He was much beloved here in Puerto Rico. We shall miss him so very much because he was deep in our hearts, where he shall forever remain.



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 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.



Dr. Ananda Guruge

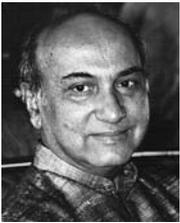
Professor; former Ambassador of Sri Lanka to France, UNESCO and the USA; and former Senior Special Adviser to the Director-General of UNESCO

No other spiritual teacher that I know in the history of the whole world has had the versatility to convey

his message through physical prowess, through sports, through music, through art, through his great creativity, and through bringing together all the talent in the world—to express his dedication to the inner peace and the world peace that could be achieved.

He called himself always a peace-dreamer. It is one point on which I would disagree with him. He was not only a peace-dreamer; he was a peace-achiever. He achieved peace by bringing peace into us. His achievement of peace is represented by having Peace-Blossoms in every corner of this Planet Earth. These Peace-Blossoms have inspired national leaders to solve problems through peaceful resolution of conflicts as well as removing obstacles to peace. And the humanitarian services that he has quietly set in motion have made a great change in this world.

All this will be remembered by us, and it will inspire us, because it is through his work that he will continue to live and give his message.



H.E. Ambassador Alan Nazareth

Ambassador of India (Retd); and Managing Trustee,
Sarvodaya International Trust

In my extensive travels throughout the world since 1960, I have met many important and accomplished persons but none as gentle, modest, cultured, loving, lovable and spiritually evolved as Sri Chinmoy. He was the best example of the unconditional love of all humanity and enormous physical energy possessed by those who have attained great spiritual heights.

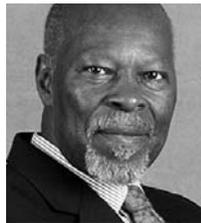
All of us who were privileged to know Sri Chinmoy and experience his love and radiant energies are indeed very, very fortunate. In our intense sorrows we can console ourselves with the assurance that though Sri Chinmoy has left us physically, he continues to abide with us spiritually and always will. He is now our hotline to the Eternal Divinity.



Hon. Karan Singh

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, India;
Former Ambassador of India to the United States

In his passing we have lost a truly remarkable and in many ways unique human being. He combined physical strength with great moral commitment and spiritual power. I had the privilege of meeting with him several times, including receiving his “Lifting Up the World Award.” My deep sympathy to all of you. His spirit will continue to inspire for generations to come.



H.E. Ambassador Davidson L. Hepburn

Former Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth
of the Bahamas to the UN; and member of the Executive
Board of UNESCO

I am still numb, but I am consoled by his words and the personal time I spent in his presence.

May these lines from Longfellow’s “A Psalm of Life” bring peace and oneness:

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.



H.E. Ambassador Lamuel Stanislaus

Former Permanent Representative of Grenada to the UN

No words, no matter how eloquently spoken, no tribute, no matter how grandiloquently given, can do justice to the life and contribution of Sri Chinmoy, whose sad and irreparable loss we mourn this day. For before the dust returneth into the earth whence it was and the spirit returneth to God who gave it, Sri Chinmoy by the quality of his life and the contents of his character, had written his own epitaph, erected by his own monument, a thousand times superior to what we can say or do for him this day.

He was a good and decent man who loved humankind with every fiber of his being and gave expression thereof, by using his time, talent, art and literary skills to promote peace and love among people the world over, regardless of race, colour, creed or class. To his immediate and extended family, my wife and I send profound sympathy and the consolation that he is not dead who lives in the memory of those who love him dearly.



H.E. Ambassador David M. Thomas

Former Permanent Representative of Liberia to the UN

Sri Chinmoy was the embodiment of peace and goodwill toward men, and he had great reverence for our creator. His departure from us is a colossal loss. May he rest in peace!



Mr. Robert Muller

Former UN Assistant Secretary-General

What a deep, sad, world-wide loss with the passing of my beloved friend Sri Chinmoy, especially for the United Nations and for me, his friend for so many years. His life was an unforgettable masterpiece. I will always cherish our co-authored books, also the Wisdom of Sri Chinmoy and all the writings which I have in my home and will share with my children. I share my favorite passage from him below, written in 1977, that mirrors my hope for the world, which will deeply miss Sri Chinmoy:

“The awakened consciousness of man is evolving towards the Divine Existence. This is a most hopeful streak of light amidst the obscurities of the present-day world. This is a moment when human beings do not only join hands, but also join minds, hearts and souls. All physical, vital and mental barriers between East and West will dissolve; and high above national standards, above even individual standards, we shall see the supreme banner of divine Oneness.”



Mr. Uner Kirdar

Former Senior Adviser to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and Director of UNDP's Development Study Programme

Today it is with great sorrow that I learned here in Istanbul, Turkey, of the passing of my very valuable and old friend Sri Chinmoy. For more than half a century, Sri Chinmoy was a tireless great leader of the spiritual world who supported strongly and wholeheartedly the noble ideals and goals of the United Nations. In this area, he was a true global citizen and a sleepless oneness-pathfinder. I am sure that his ideals, commitments and lessons will always be pursued by his followers and members of the Peace Meditation Group, at the United Nations as well as all over the world.



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.



Senator Charles E. Schumer

United States Senator from New York

His life was a testament to family and public service. His devotion to his family and steadfast commitment to the quality of life of countless individuals was beyond admirable. He led by example and accomplished much success by working hard and having such a great humanitarian spirit. He will be sorely missed.

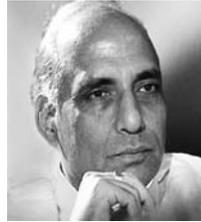
I know how difficult it is to lose someone, but take comfort in knowing that fond memories of his spirit, dedication and courage will remain. His legacy will be made eternal through all of you.



Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy

United States Member of Congress for Rhode Island

Sri Chinmoy was a great man who devoted his entire life to the betterment of the entire human race, and for that, his absence will be a great loss for humanity. His message of peace, love and oneness has luckily been passed down to his many devoted followers and students, hopefully ensuring that one day, Sri Chinmoy's dream of a united and peaceful world will become a reality.



Hon. Rajnath Singh

Member of the Parliament of India,
and President, Bharatiya Janata Party

In his lifework and a span of four decades, he has served the entire humanity through his inspiring and compassionate leadership.

Sri Chinmoy will not only be remembered through his immense writings and speeches around the world, he will be remembered more for bringing conflicting faiths together, propelling a desire for peace and harmony on earth.

For all those who knew him, Sri Chinmoy will remain as exalted as he was in his lifetime, even after his departure from this earth for his heavenly abode.



Hon. S. K. Singh

Governor of Rajasthan, India

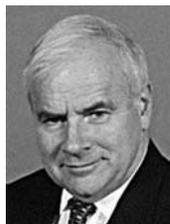
He gave us all a message of harmony and peace, for all the peoples of the world, especially to his own people in his beloved India.

Through millennia and centuries, India has produced saints, savants, poets and cultural and religious teachers, reformers and philosophers. Sri Chinmoy was in this line, with Buddha, Mahaveer, Tulsi, Surdas, Kabir, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Swami Dayanand, Gandhiji, Aurobindo and the two Sai Babas of Shirdi and Puttaparthi.

We should consider ourselves fortunate that we have lived in the times of Sri Chinmoy. Even those of us who were not fortunate and never were in his presence, had the good fortune of listening to his teachings, or at least reading them.

We need to celebrate his life and work, and not just mourn his departure from our midst. He has left his body and attained Moksha, and that should make us rejoice that we lived on this earth at the same time as this great Meditator and Teacher of all humanity.

The message of his life and love for humanity must live through our capacity to be creative and compassionate, which is what he taught us. Let us rejoice that Sri Chinmoy was our teacher for so many years of our lives.



Hon. Peter Milliken, M.P.

Speaker, House of Commons of Canada

Sri Chinmoy was an exceptional spiritual leader, an exemplary man whose universal message of love and peace was an inspiration to all people, whatever their faiths and beliefs. Along with my colleagues in the House of Commons in Canada, I mourn his passing and am grateful for his time among us.

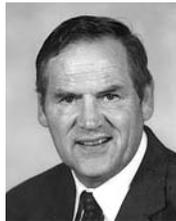


Hon. Senator Mac Harb

Member of the Senate of Canada

It is with the greatest sorrow that I received the news that Sri Chinmoy, a man whose life was dedicated to making the world a better place for each of us, has passed away. His death is a profound loss to the world and to all who loved this great humanitarian.

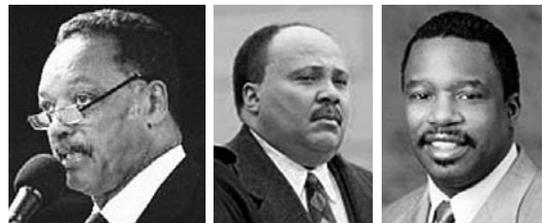
Even in the midst of our sadness, we can find joy in the message of Sri Chinmoy and his good works around the world. From world leaders to the poorest of the poor, he spread the message of peace and love through his art, his athleticism and his spirit. His teachings will live on in perpetuity. We can pay him tribute, and remember him best by living each day embracing our differences and working together to create the world Sri Chinmoy envisioned, a world in which all nations live together in peace and harmony.



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.



From a Proclamation issued by the

Rainbow PUSH Coalition

Whereas, Mr. Chinmoy has completed his charge on this Earth and gone to be with God in eternal peace,

he has “fought a good fight, finished his course, and kept the faith,” his love will endure forever through you, whom he leaves behind...

Respectfully, and prayerfully submitted this 30th day of October, in the year of our Lord, 2007,

[Signed]

REVEREND JESSE L. JACKSON, SR.

Founder and President

MARTIN L. KING

Chairman of the Board

REVEREND JAMES T. MEEKS

Executive Vice President



Mr. Adrian Benepe

New York City Parks Commissioner

A spiritual leader for many, his emphasis on fitness of the body and endurance made for a natural partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. We are honoured to host the annual Sri Chinmoy Run in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

A few years ago, I had the privilege to take a personal tour with Sri Chinmoy of the Queens Centre. I was honoured to join the distinguished company of people who were lifted into the sky by Sri Chinmoy on behalf of world peace. That significant effect on people is evidenced by the outpouring of support you see today, and the reason he was nominated this year for the Nobel Peace Prize.

In Flushing Meadows Corona Park, there is now a “Sri Chinmoy Street.” Fittingly, the street circles the northern edge of Meadow Lake—a peaceful and beautiful place to remember a great leader.



Mairead Maguire

Nobel Peace Laureate, 1977

It is with sadness that I read of the death of our dear friend, Sri Chinmoy. I had the joy of meeting with Sri

Chinmoy and was moved by the love and kindness shown, not only to myself, but to everyone with whom he came in contact. He was a truly compassionate, loving and serving human being. He will be missed by everyone. I join you all in spirit at his memorial service and give thanks to God for his great life of love and service. Deo Gracias.



Professor James G. Basker

Richard Gilder Professor of Literary History, Barnard College, Columbia University; President, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

We as a family are saddened by the death of Sri Chinmoy. With his passing, the world is poorer. But his spirit of peace, beauty, and creativity lives on. Angela and the girls and I will never forget our time with him and with all of you. We are forever grateful, and feel blessed to have known him. We pray that the peace and fulfillment he nurtured and spread among so many people across the world will continue to grow and flourish. Our hearts are with you.



Professor Anita Bose Pfaff & Professor Martin Pfaff

University of Augsburg. Daughter and son-in-law of Indian freedom fighter and nationalist leader Subhas Chandra Bose

Throughout his active life, Sri Chinmoy was a voice of sanity, reason and peace in a troubled world. The impact of his efforts towards world peace will be remembered in the years to come. It is a legacy which will stay with his disciples for the rest of their lives. We have been grateful for his continued love and affection expressed for our father-in-law/father Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.



Mr. Roger Mandle

President of the Rhode Island School of Design

He was a wonderful, thoughtful man who graced our world with his kindly messages of peace and understanding. His paintings of birds, his poetry and music, and his inspirational teachings have left a legacy to humanity.

I will never forget the feeling of being in his presence, and will always cherish the experience of his supreme humanity.



Mr. Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya

Director and Founder, Department of Physical Education, Sri Aurobindo Ashram

In his formative years, he was with us for his education. He was a brilliant boy, and he gave his life to uplift youth. We are proud of him. He was very close to me. He was a very nice boy. We pray to the Divine for the peace of his soul.



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.



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.



Sister M. Nirmala

Superior General, Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity

Though Sri Chinmoy has left this earth physically, he is in peace with God, and is spiritually present among us through his prayer, his message of peace and the example of the life he has lived in the service of humanity promoting peace.... We commend Sri Chinmoy and all of you to the prayer of our Mother –Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, who knew Sri Chinmoy very well and appreciated his works of peace, for she knew that “Works of love are works of peace.”



The Very Reverend James Parks Morton

Dean Emeritus of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine; Founder and Chair Emeritus of the Interfaith Center of New York

Sri Chinmoy’s physical presence was always a physical joy for me to behold, whether his sense of humour, his smile, or indeed his physical lifting me up twice above the earth, via his fabulous lifting machine. His personal physical friendship was extraordinary.

But now, I look forward with great expectation to his continued spiritual presence and friendship in the years ahead. I am his senior by one year! So, much love to my younger brother and to our new spiritual communion.



Rabbi Jack Bemporad

Director, Center for Interreligious Understanding

Sri Chinmoy was one of the very few enlightened spiritual masters in our time. Anyone who was in his presence immediately felt a sense of peace, hope and joy. His writings, meditations and talks, as well as his art, offered spiritual nourishment to thousands. He will continue to inspire those who knew him and who continue to be transformed by his words. We have profound gratitude for all that he has given us.



The Reverend Mpho A. Tutu

Executive Director, The Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage

I give thanks for the life, work and witness of Sri Chinmoy. He created an oasis of peace and loving kindness wherever he went. I pray for the community that mourns his passing that it may continue to grow in love and deepen in peace.



Monsignor Thomas Hartman

Former director of television and radio for the Diocese of Rockville Center

Sri Chinmoy and I spoke the same language and we did not need any words. I hope now to continue our conversation—only on a much deeper level. We loved each other very much. We love each other very much!



Reverend Dr. Marcus Braybrooke

President of the World Congress of Faiths

Sri Chinmoy embodied the spirit of peace which the world so badly needs. He did this through his poetry, his paintings, his teaching, but above all through his

life and spiritual presence. Through the World Harmony Run he helped people make friends across the differences of religion, race, language, colour and culture. He enabled many of us to see these differences not as barriers but as enriching for us all. His dedicated service to the Oneness of humanity should be lifted up and remembered as an example to us all.

I treasure the inspiring memory of meeting him and share the sadness of so many people that he is no longer with us in body, although still present in spirit. I also express the sympathy and good wishes of members of the World Congress of Faiths.



Paramacharya Palaniswami

Editor-in-chief of *Hinduism Today* magazine

This tribute is offered on behalf of the Monks of Kauai's Hindu Monastery in Hawaii founded in 1970 by Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami (1927-2001)

Sri Chinmoy was a unique inspiration, living proof of the Divine possibilities within mankind. He was one of the few who spoke of God-Realisation from his own experience in much the same profound manner as our Gurudeva. How he exuded love. How he showed the way of goodness and gentleness. How he lived so we might all live more perfectly, serve more selflessly. Our several encounters with him both in Kauai and New York were precious moments of joy.



Ms. Rory Kennedy

Award-winning documentary filmmaker and producer

My heart and prayers go out to you and everyone he touched. He was such a special person and seemed to move through the world with a great sense of love, dignity and purpose. I have fond memories of him lifting me in the air, when I was nine months pregnant! I know he was not competitive, but I do not

think Arnold could have done the same! I send you best wishes during this difficult time.



Mr. Joe Franklin

Legendary American television and radio personality

Sri Chinmoy was on my TV show many, many times on TV. First of all, I'm proud and very honoured to have been a disciple and student of this great man. And as long as I've got a camera or a microphone at my disposal, I'll be talking to the whole world about him. Anytime he'd walk into my studio, the whole atmosphere was just drowned in peace and love and understanding. He was just a great man. He wrote a song in my honour! After the show he gave me a videotape of it.

As I've got those memories, as long as I've got a TV camera and I've got good friends like you, I'll be honouring and remembering the man I really and truly loved and adored and admired. Please keep listening to me on Bloomberg Radio. I'll be doing my tribute this week to Sri Chinmoy and to the friends and fans and admirers of this great, great man.

I used to always ask my guests for some little maxim, something inspirational. One day he said something to me that I never forgot. He said to me, "It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice." He was nice; he was important. God bless you.



Mr. Bill McCreary

Emmy Award-winning journalist

A friend who left on a long journey before us. We will some day take the same journey and we will meet again, so our parting is temporary!

Sri Chinmoy, the disciple of global peace. One of the strategies he used was the credo of my journalist mentor, Alma John, and I believe if it's practiced by

all humanity, the Guru would truly rest in peace!

The credo is, "If you know, you should teach. If you don't know, you should learn! Each one should reach one and teach one."

Mr. Syed-ur-Raub

President, *Thikana* newspaper

Even though Peace Ambassador Sri Chinmoy has left the body, the torch of idealism that he lit will continue to burn forever. It will show the entire world the road to peace, the road to truth, beauty and light. For sportsmen he was a fount of enthusiasm. We will forever owe him a debt of gratitude for the love and tenderness he had for the language and people of Bengal. Even though his passing is a source of great sorrow to peace-loving people all over the world, we have to transform that sorrow to strength and go forward. I pray for the peace of his soul.

Mr. Mohammad Fazlur-Rahman

Editor, *Thikana*

People like Sri Chinmoy do not die. The work and message that he has left behind will make him immortal. His disciples and devotees will carry his teachings and ideals forward. I believe that they will complete the work that he has started. With this, I offer him my deepest respects.

Mr. M.M. Shahin

Former Member of Parliament of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; and Chairman, *Thikana*

Sri Chinmoy should have lived longer. He had the dream of awakening all of mankind with the message of peace, to build a new world. His passing is a great loss to entire humanity. The flame that he lit will continue to burn until peace is completely established on earth. Our pride in him as a man from Bangladesh is limitless. I pray for his happiness in his heavenly abode.

Mr. Alimuddin and Mr. Khursedul Islam

Secretary and Convenor of the Progressive Forum, USA, respectively

A believer in the limitless potential of the human spirit, Sri Chinmoy was a great source of inspiration

to us with his unbelievable achievements in so many different fields of endeavour. He did not accept the limitations of human life or the impediment from any obstacle. He did not merely preach, but himself created many new and unique paths of art, literature, culture and creativity. He inspired people from all faiths, nationalities and races to protest against weakness, war and violence. His ideals will continue to illumine our future.



Ms. Madhurima Judith Light

Emmy Award-winning actress; and

Mr. Robert Desiderio, Mr. Herb Hamsher and Mr. Jonathan Stoller

Guru taught us that there are no limits to what we can achieve, and the arms of our hearts embrace you from our coast and are with you in his blessed environment, the soothing embrace of which we can feel even now. Guru's spirit soars now like the beautiful birds of peace that he drew. We know in our hearts that he will never leave us and will continue to move humanity toward the place of peace that he knew we all so long for, and which he now is able to experience even more.

It was an exhilarating and transformative joy to be lifted by Guru. We feel at this time that he continues to lift us. We feel deeply that he has left all of us the challenge and the opportunity to follow his example and work to lift all of humanity to become the peaceful and loving people we were created to become. Know that we are with you still in making real the vision of our Guru and manifesting the loving energy he so powerfully anchored in all of us.



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 and 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.



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.



Mr. Paul Horn,

Grammy Award-winning flutist; and

Ms. Ann Horn

Sri Chinmoy gifted us all with his tireless energy, unconditional love and unlimited creative gifts of

poetry, music, writing and painting. Through it all, he was helping us to realise the power that lies within each of us. He demonstrated this by performing impossible deeds, with the strength of his body, the power of his mind and the devotion of his spirit.

On a personal level, Guruji always made me feel very special and honoured whenever I came for a visit. He blessed me in so many ways...through his generous physical gifts, his kind words, the personal time we spent together and most of all the wisdom and knowledge he shared with me. I always looked forward to the concerts for the community, and to the great joy of joining him in the occasional musical duet. I will deeply miss our times together.

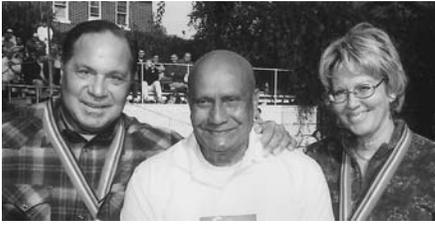
I am so very grateful that he had a chance to meet and bless my wife, Ann, and to hear her recite his own words while I played on the flute. Ann sums up our feelings this way: "Like a perfumed breeze that blew into the garden, his presence will linger with us always." We shall miss you, dear Guruji, now that you have gone to share the infinite Bliss of the Almighty.



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.



Mahasamrat Bill Pearl and Bhavatarini Judy Pearl

5-Time Mr. Universe; Best-Built Man of the 20th Century

Sri Chinmoy gave us so many lessons, so much encouragement and so much beauty. We must not let him down. We must strive for and achieve all the things he knew we were capable of. His life's example demands it of us.

Guru gave his all at every moment and with everything he did. Guru never held back even one tiny drop. He gave everything he had.

Guru did not attempt; Guru did!

Now it is up to us to carry on with what Guru gave to us. It is up to us to spread Guru's message and Guru's teachings to the world. It is in our hands.

Guru's weightlifting was extremely important to him and to the world; but it was a small part of all the things he did. Guru also had his paintings, his poetry, his music and so much more. I cannot put Guru in any one category. Guru outdid everybody in 15 different areas more than any one person had ever done in any one of those areas.

Guru, we will never forget you. We will always feel your positive force and love in our lives. But we will miss your sunlit smile very, very much. Guru, we just love you!



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 exam-

ple. The intellectual and spiritual inheritance that Sri Chinmoy has left us gives us an opportunity to continue perfecting ourselves endlessly.



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...



Ms. Billie Jean King

Legendary tennis player and athlete

My condolences to the friends, family and loved ones of our beloved Sri Chinmoy. While his passing brings us deep sorrow, his spirit will live in our memories forever. Sri Chinmoy was a caring and loving man who brought joy and peace to the world. His music, art and spirituality will carry on through all of those who loved him so much. We will follow in his footsteps to continue the journey to a peaceful world. I am grateful for the time I shared with such a wonderful and giving human being.



Frank Zane

3-Time Mr. Olympia and 3-Time Mr. Universe

In the 20 years I have known Guru, he became a role model for me. He inspired and encouraged me in music; it helped me develop my soul, he told me. His mastery of many different musical instruments motivated me to learn as many as I could as well...

Guru devoted his life to setting an example of self-transcendence for others. He gave his life to lifting up the world literally and metaphorically. His dedication and enthusiasm for his lifting was contagious—the last time we spoke, I was overwhelmed at his excitement about his lifting, always working to lift more and more over the years. It made me want to train harder.

Sri Chinmoy set the bar very high; his standard of excellence shined in all his endeavors: millions of bird drawings, mega-tons of weight lifted, thousands of books written, his musical prowess, his instruction of thousands in meditation and singing. The example he lived will not be forgotten...

Sri Chinmoy will live in my heart and mind for the rest of my life and beyond.



Mr. Ted Corbitt

Father of long-distance running and ultramarathon pioneer

Sri Chinmoy was a unique character who chose paths that had upbeat effects around the entire world. Sri Chinmoy was productive in the expression of his talents. No one matched his artistic and physical output. Sri Chinmoy and his helpers did a unique service in conducting many long distance runs, allowing many runners around the world to express themselves running. The Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team has shown the world how it is done; they are unmatched.

Sri Chinmoy exploited the hours given to him. His time on earth is unforgettable to those who knew him. We can remember and appreciate that Sri Chinmoy used his many talents around the world, to be shared by many groups of people on the globe. Sri Chinmoy chose his paths to create a way to live better. His achievements got the attention of people not otherwise likely to enjoy the fruits of his efforts in the areas of art and physical achievements. People could then try and appreciate these activities.



The Jesse Owens Family

His love of mankind and pursuit of world peace will remain with all of those who heard and learned to believe in and follow his message. We will always remember the esteem in which he was held by his followers and those who came to understand his message. It was our pleasure to honour him with the Jesse Owens Humanitarian Award for his leadership in promoting world peace. May he rest in peace, and his memory lives on.



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.



Kevin Murphy

'King of the Channel' - 34 successful swims across the English Channel; World Record Holder for Men, for most crossings of swimming the English Channel

Jane and I were once "lifted" by Sri Chinmoy. Until it happened we weren't sure whether it was going to be a spiritual or a physical experience. In the event, in a strange sort of way, it was both. He was a little Indian man who despite his age and infirmity was able to physically lift both of us...it was uplifting spiritually. It showed what could be achieved by sheer act of will.

He obviously inspired so many people to achieve feats of sporting endurance way beyond the norm and experience fulfillment through those achievements.



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.



Wayne DeMilia

Vice President, International Federation of Body Builders; Chief Judge, Mr. Olympia and Ms. Olympia, Bodybuilding's premier contests

You taught us how to live
You taught us how to love
You taught us how to listen
You taught us how to see
You taught us how to help

You touched our eyes
You touched our ears
You touched our heart
You touched our soul
You touched our mind

Your work here is done
Time for us to show what we have learned
Time for us to touch others

You are needed in another place
I will miss you, my friend...
I will miss you...



Hugo Girard

IFSA Super-series World Champion Strongman

I met Guru last year during a nice weekend in his beloved oasis. I felt like I was meeting an old friend—I realise how at ease I was in his presence and how peaceful I felt too. Of course I knew of his work and his accomplishments, but it all became clear to me that he was no ordinary person and that our meeting wasn't an accident too. Meeting him was a great experience that changed our life, helping us to see life from another perspective, and definitely made us better people.

My heart is filling with sadness today, but the seeds that you plant shall grow and help make this world a better place for all of us.



Dan Lurie

Winner of America's Most Muscular Man contest three years in a row; Trainer of Champions

Sri Chinmoy and I have been friends for over 30 years. He was a man of great strength and character.... Even as a world record-holder myself, I was constantly amazed by the strength of Sri Chinmoy.... Over the years, I always was astounded at his accomplishments.... I was touched when Sri Chinmoy wrote a song in my honour, and he sent me a videotape of his group performing it for me. It is a gift I will always treasure.

The Sri Chinmoy I have come to know was a man of peace and love, and his passing is a terrible loss to the entire world.



Mike Katz

Mr. Universe, Mr. America, Educator; Co-star of the classic bodybuilding movie, Pumping Iron

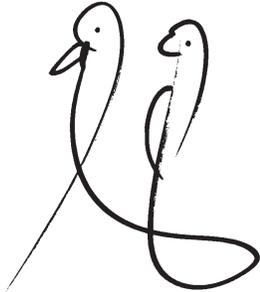
Sri Chinmoy would want us to go on and continue everything he taught us; and that is what I will continue to do. My heart and soul and prayers and the love and peace and everything that I have been taught by Guru needs to find a way to deal with this untimely loss.

I will never, ever forget him, and I will try to live up to everything that Guru stood for.

Excerpts from Sri Chinmoy's Writings

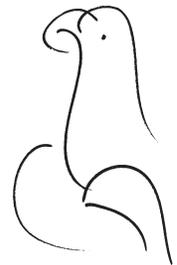
In honour of Sri Chinmoy's 37 years of dedicated service to the United Nations, following are 37 excerpts from Sri Chinmoy's writings, expressing his vision for the United Nations and a peaceful oneness-world. The bird drawings are also by Sri Chinmoy.

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.



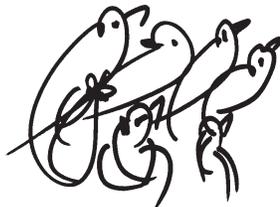
To create a perfect world,
we must become a song of interdependence.

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.

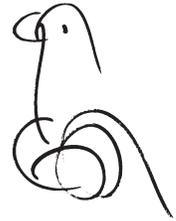
The greatness of each nation lies
in its deep love for other nations
and in its self-giving to other nations.





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.

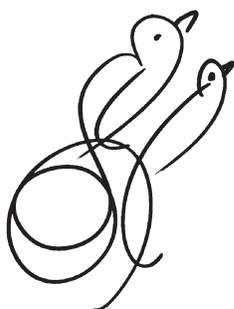
The United Nations is not a mere building.
It is not a mere concept.
It is a reality which is growing,
glowing and manifesting its radiance
here, there and all-where.



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.



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

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



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.



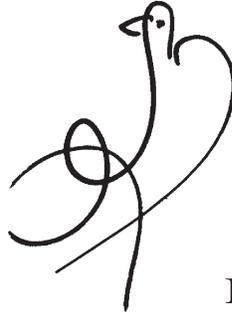
The inner vision of
the United Nations
is the gift supreme.
A day will dawn when
the vision of the United Nations
will save the world.

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.

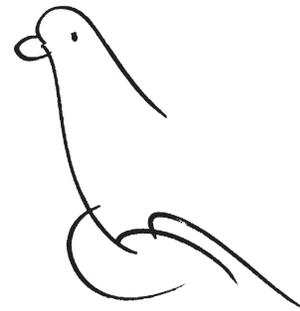


I do not give up, I never give up –
for there is nothing in this entire world
that is irrevocably unchangeable.

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.



