

WORLD PEACE ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 17-19, 1982

For three days in September, 1982, the Providence Zen Center in Cumberland, Rhode Island, was host to the Great Masters World Peace Assembly in celebration of ten years of Korean Buddhism in America. Buddhist teachers from many traditions, as well as representatives from other religions and hundreds of guests,

gathered together to focus on creating world peace. Over 400 guests came to the rural Zen Center that early autumn weekend, many from Europe and the Far East.

The weekend unfolded through lectures, panel discussions and workshops, and many informal get togethers. During the World Sangha peace ceremony, gifts were

exchanged, Dharma speeches given, and a World Peace Message was sent to the heads of governments and religions in many countries. Everyone present joined in chanting and meditation. A third day of live art performances and a Zen art exhibit was hosted by the Shim Gum Do Zen Sword Center in Brighton, Massachusetts, whose founding

master, Chang Sik Kim, is a student of Zen Master Seung Sahn.

In this issue PRIMARY POINT presents the full text of the World Peace Message and some of the key lectures from the Assembly.

A Cambodian Prayer

Ven. Maha Ghosananda is one of the few surviving Theravadin Buddhist monks from Cambodia. In 1980 he was invited to the United Nations to represent the nation of the Khmers in exile, as well as to gain support for the Cambodian peace movement and to teach Buddhism. In his U.N. work he travels throughout the United States and Europe, to reach Cambodian refugee communities.

He was trained in his native Cambodia to become a disciple of the internationally acclaimed Japanese monk Nichidatsu Fujii (who was 99 years old), founder of the Nihonzan Myohoji sect devoted to the establishment of world peace.

After 15 years in India at Fujii Ashram in Rajgir, Maha Ghosananda traveled to Buddhist centers throughout Southeast Asia and Ceylon. He was in Thailand during the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia in which most of his Buddhist colleagues were killed. Meeting the first influx of refugees, he distributed 40,000 leaflets on the Buddha's discourse on the power of metta (loving kindness), helped establish schools and temples in the camps, and became a major figure for the refugees as well as the international community.

There is a steady flow of visitors to his temple in Providence, RI. An accomplished linguist, he speaks Cambodian, Thai, French, and English. Last December he met with Pope John Paul II in Rome, to discuss the plight of the many thousands of Cambodian refugees stranded in Thailand. He recently left for a peace mission to Thailand and possibly Cambodia, with hopes that the Pope would also visit the refugee camps in Thailand this spring.

Brothers and sisters, my name is Maha Ghosananda and I am a Buddhist monk from Cambodia. For more than a decade, the people of Cambodia have known the great suffering of warfare, persecution, and famine. I pray that like millions of peaceful Khmer people, all people will find strength and compassion in their hearts and guidance in these words of the Buddha.

"In those who harbor thoughts of blame and vengeance towards others, hatred will never cease. In those who do not harbor such thoughts, hatred will surely cease."

For hatred is never appeased by hatred. It is appeased by love. This is an eternal law. Just as a mother would protect her only child, even at the risk of her own life, even so let one cultivate a boundless heart towards all beings. Let one's thoughts of boundless love pervade the whole world above, below, and across, without any obstruction, without any hatred, without any enmity. Whether one stands, walks, sits, or lies down, as long as one is awake, one should maintain this mindfulness. This, they say, is to attain the blessed state in this very life.

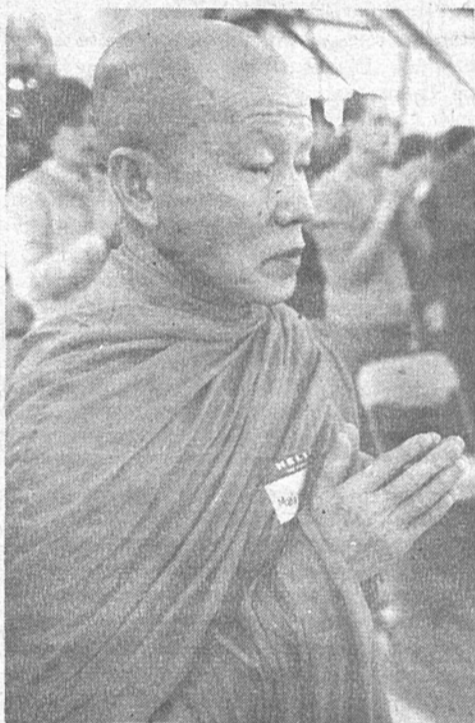
May all beings exist in happiness and peace. Then no problem!

The suffering of Cambodia has been deep.

From this suffering comes great compassion.

Great compassion makes a peaceful heart.

A peaceful heart makes a peaceful person.



Norman Grant, Jr. / Woonsocket Call

A peaceful person makes a peaceful family.

A peaceful family makes a peaceful community.

A peaceful community makes a peaceful nation.

A peaceful nation makes a peaceful world.

Amen.

Seeing Suffering Directly

Jack Kornfield, a teacher of Vipassana meditation, has been a student of Buddhism for fifteen years. His training includes six years in Southeast Asia, studying as a layman and as a monk in Theravada monasteries. His main teachers are Achaan Chaa and U Asabha Thera for the Mahasi Sayadaw. He has also studied with many other teachers, as well as with two Zen Masters. He graduated from Dartmouth College with a degree in Asian Studies and also holds a Masters and a Ph.D. degree in Western psychology.

Currently he teaches with his colleague Joseph Goldstein at the Insight Meditation Society in Barre, Massachusetts, at the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado, and at intensive meditation retreats held throughout the United States and Canada.

He is the author of "Living Buddhist Masters" (Praja Press, Boulder, CO, 1983) which presents the variety of Buddhist teachings through the words of contemporary masters.

(Chanting in Pali):

Buddhang saranam gacchami.
Dhammag saranam gacchami.
Sanghang saranam gacchami.

(Homage to the Buddha.
Homage to the Dharma.
Homage to the Sangha.)

I have come here today to join with so many people to speak about different aspects of world peace. I wonder from my heart what I can say that will make a difference for myself and all of us together? "What can we actually do?" may be the first question. There are different kinds of

answers. There's one that says "Don't just sit there, do something." We must see that there's something immediate that must be done in this world to make world peace happen. Then there's the other answer, which is especially relevant to those of you who are involved in meditation practice. "Don't just do something, sit there." This second answer is based on the fact that, whatever our action might be, to be truly effective it has to come from a deep inner understanding, not just an emotional reaction to the situation of the world today. So in the very beginning, to look at the problem of world peace it seems important for us to look at its source.

There's a story of a teacher in the Middle East, Mulla Nasrudin. Some of you may have heard of him. He's a fool, a wise man, and a kind of mythical figure. One day he was out in his garden, sprinkling bread crumbs around. One of his neighbors came up to him and said, "Mulla, what are you

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ZEN IN THE SPIRIT OF MARTIAL ARTS: THE WAY OF THE IMPECCABLE WARRIOR

A ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

JUNE 16, 1984

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Miguel Palavecino, Aiki Kempo Karate School, Toronto

David Mott, Cold Mountain Dojo, Toronto

Maria Kim, Shim Gum Do Zen Sword Center, Brighton, MA

and others

For Information & Registration, please contact

PROVIDENCE ZEN CENTER

528 POUND ROAD
CUMBERLAND, RI 02864
401-769-6464

COST: \$15 PER PERSON (includes Vegetarian lunch)



In Our Next Issue:

On the weekend of April 7 and 8 the Providence Zen Center and the Kwan Um Zen School hosted an ecumenical conference on world peace, initiated by Zen Master Seung Sahn, and entitled "Prayer and Meditation in the Nuclear Age." Some 250 visitors came to rural Cumberland, RI, to meet 20 religious leaders representing Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and other traditions in a series of lectures, workshops and panel discussions. The conference ended Sunday afternoon with a moving candlelight service before an interfaith altar, marked by prayers, chants and readings by the religious leaders from many faiths, including Rt. Rev. George Hunt, Episcopal Bishop of Rhode Island, Ven. Maha Ghosananda, Srimata Gayatri Devi, Chagdud Tulku Rinpoche, among many others. The next issue of PRIMARY POINT will be devoted to a detailed report of the conference and will include photographs of the many highlights of the weekend.