

MURLI NOTICEBOARD 23/08/03

☪ UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE: SEPTEMBER 21 ☪

21st September has now been declared as a fixed date for the *International Day of Peace (IDP)* by the United Nations General Assembly. Previously IDP was not on a fixed date, but was observed on the day the UN General Assembly opens.

IDP is an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities during the Day and observe a day of global ceasefire and non-violence. The day can be observed in appropriate ways to co-operate with the United Nations in establishing a global ceasefire.

BKWSU has been involved in celebrating the International Day of Peace since its creation in 1981 and are now represented on the NGO Committee for the International Day of Peace, which co-ordinates preparations for the day and encourages NGO activities around the world.

This year September 21 is on the third Sunday of the month, which is our World Meditation Hour. We are asking all centres to dedicate this hour and any other activity you plan on this day to the International Day of Peace.

Please invite regular students, contacts and the general public to observe IDP by reflecting on the significance of the spiritual power of peace. You may also organise activities that give diverse expression to the value of peace, eg an event, peace workshop, or other activity – leading up to an hour's meditation for world peace. One idea, using the theme "Peace by Peace" is to create a jigsaw puzzle made up of people's written or artistic expressions of their personal contribution towards world peace.

We would like to keep a record of BK events to mark IDP. Please contact the BK UN Office at bkun@bkwsu.com

To give you the flavor:

- See what other organisations and individuals are planning: www.internationaldayofpeace.org
- You may find out about the NGO that campaigned for the day on: www.peaceday.org
- An official UN website is in the process of being created: <http://www.un.org/events/peaceday/2003/>
- There is a group organizing an International Day of Peace Vigil: www.idpvigil.com – a 24-hour observation of peace and non-violence in every house of worship and place of spiritual practice, by all religious and spiritually based groups and individuals. One of these vigils will be held at UN headquarters in New York, at which the BKs will take part. You may wish to register your meditation hour on their website, as part of that vigil.

For your information a concept paper has been prepared for the observance of this Day by Thailand, which you may find helpful to plan your day, as well as for media purposes.

www.bkwsu.com/bkun/peoples/idp/paper.html

When people around the world reflect on peace, they are focusing on the inherent goodness of every human being and on the fundamental unity of the human spirit.