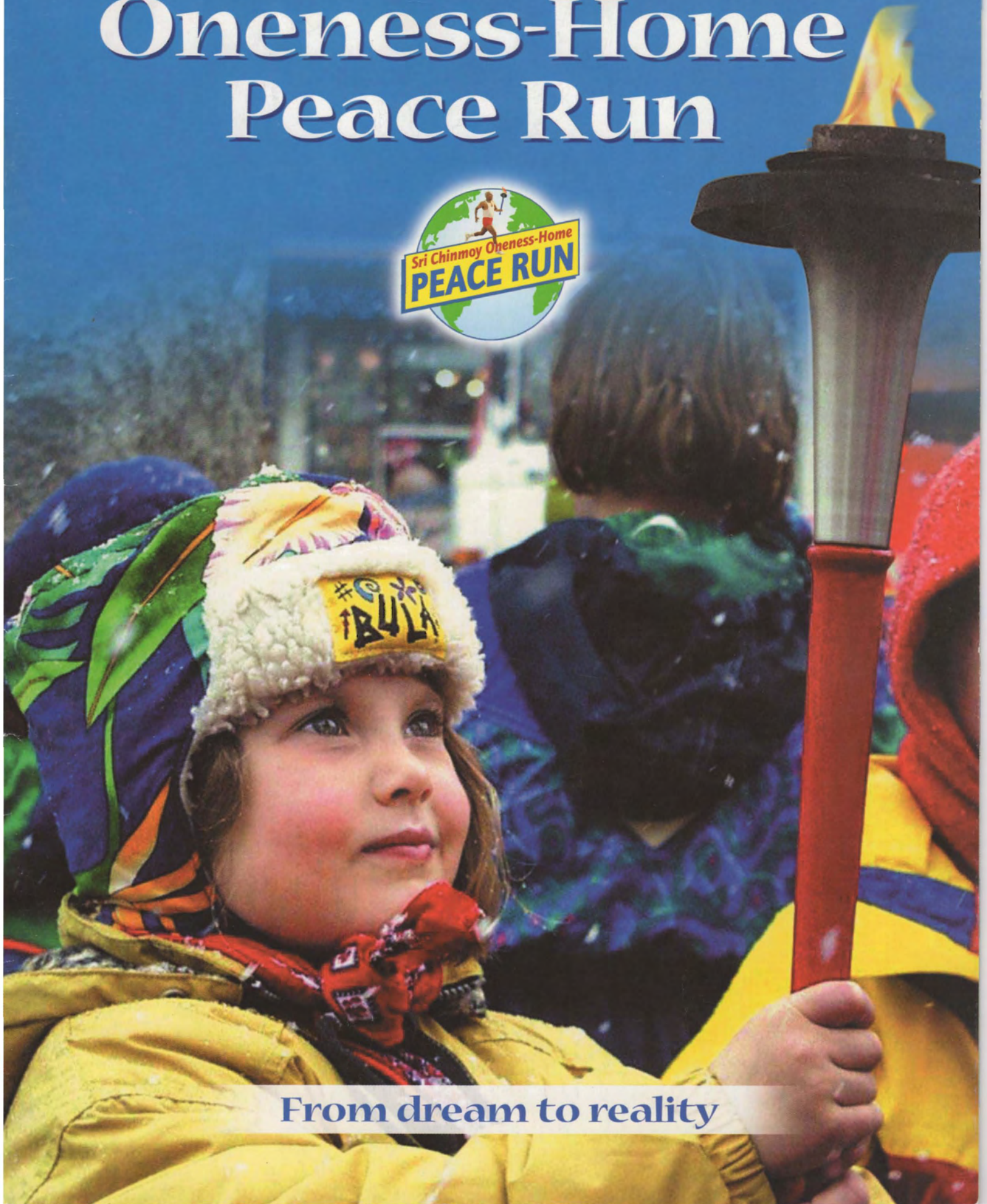


# Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run



From dream to reality





The Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Hackney celebrates the Peace Run's arrival with local school children (1999).

*"There shall come a time when this world of ours  
Will be flooded with peace.  
Who is going to bring about this radical change?  
It will be you and I and we all together.  
Our oneness-hearts will spread peace  
Throughout the length and breadth of the world."*

**SRI CHINMOY**

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# Peace

*is a dream whose  
time has come!*

*The Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run symbolises and expresses the world's age-old longing for peace. It gives the opportunity to people of all religions, cultures and social backgrounds to join peace-lovers of all nations in their common effort to transform the dream of peace into a lasting and fulfilling reality here on earth. The Peace Run spreads the message and awareness that peace begins with each individual and that the common efforts of hundreds of thousands of people will make a difference.*

#### **Concept**

The Peace Run is simple: everybody, young or old, can join and run for a few metres or more with a flaming Peace Torch and thus express his or her wish for peace in a dynamic and concrete way. The flame of peace is passed on from hand to hand, heart to heart and country to country. As the Peace Run travels from nation to nation, the feeling and understanding of oneness and unity in the world-family constantly grows. Parti-

cipation is free of charge. The Peace Run does not seek to raise money nor to promote any political or religious cause. Its single purpose is to promote peace and goodwill among people and nations. The Peace Run is entirely self-financed by the organisers.

#### **Brief history**

Since Sri Chinmoy founded the Peace Run in 1987, 3.5 million people (including 2.6 million children) have carried the Peace

Torch in 126 countries over a total distance of 490,000 km (305,000 miles) – more than the distance to the moon. The Peace Run has touched the lives of millions more who have taken part in special Peace Run programmes in cities, towns and schools, or heard about it through the media. Today the Peace Run is the largest event of its kind.

#### **Organisation**

The Peace Run is organised by the International Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team (SCMT) in close cooperation with local, national and global organisations, authorities, schools, community groups, associations, clubs and volunteers.

*The Peace Run carries  
the flame of peace into the world  
and lights it up  
in the hearts of men.*

**Peace Run '99  
arrives in Athens,  
Greece.**



# How the Peace Run works



## *The Peace Run...*

### *... creates awareness*

- that peace starts in the heart of each individual and has to be cultivated in order to grow and spread from person to person.
- that peace is a dynamic process which requires the personal effort of all.
- that we are not alone in our longing for peace.
- that everybody can take a step for peace.
- that the world is one family of nations.
- that to feel peace can deeply enrich our lives.
- that to work for peace makes us happy.

### *... inspires*

- millions of people to become active in building peace.
- schools, universities and other institutions to focus on the subject of peace and to include it in their educational programmes.
- children and adults alike to express their vision of world peace through paintings, poems, essays, etc.

### *... unites*

- people from all walks of life and from different cultures in a common effort and in a common spirit.

### *... offers*

- a long-lasting experience of peace and oneness to the millions of children and adults who carry the Peace Torch. For a child, to touch the Peace Torch, previously held by countless peace-lovers the world over, can be the experience of a lifetime.

### *... gives visibility*

- to a growing commitment and common effort of hundreds of thousands of Peace Runners, government leaders, celebrities and peace-loving citizens worldwide, nourishing the promise that peace will not remain an unfulfilled dream.

# Highlights

since 1987




3.5 million people have carried the Peace Torch. Many more have participated as observers, cheering and waving as the runners have come through their town or village.





The Peace Runners have visited thousands of schools and inspired children of all ages and backgrounds to take a step for peace. Often the Peace Run is part of special school programmes.





 Since the Peace Torch was first lit in 1987, it has visited 126 countries.

 The Peace Run has covered a distance of 490,000 km (305,000 miles) – greater than the distance to the moon.

 Thousands of volunteers at government and community levels, as well as in schools, associations and sports clubs, have contributed to the progress of the Peace Run over the years.

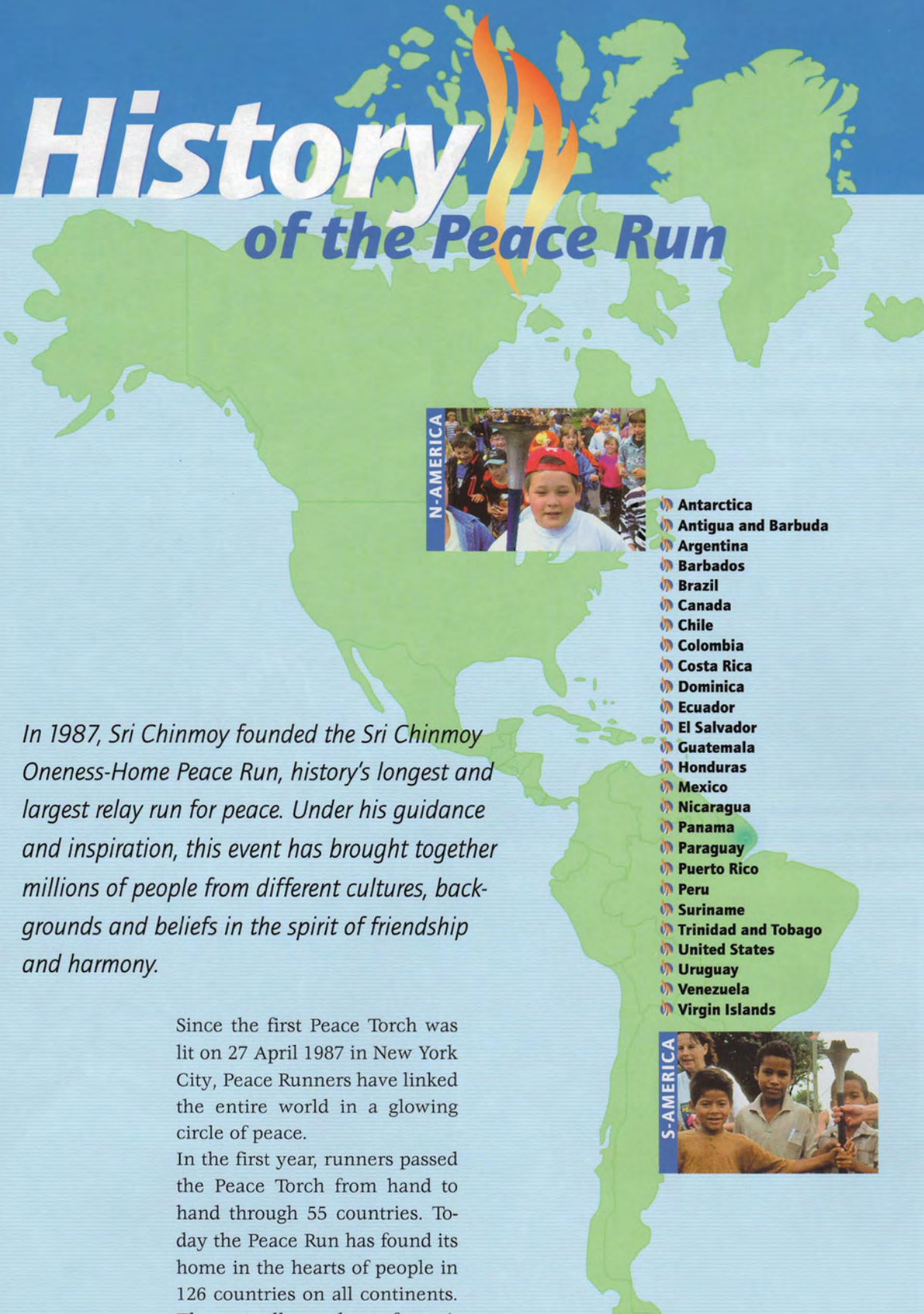
 To celebrate the New Millennium, Peace Run events were held every day during the year 1999, encompassing over 100 countries around the world.

 In 1989, a precedent-setting run linked Eastern and Western Europe with Russia.

 Over 1,800 schools in America are using a special Peace Run study programme entitled "America's Heroes and You".  
(An Australian edition – "Australia's Heroes" – will soon be introduced in Australian schools.)



# History of the Peace Run



- Andorra
- Austria
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina



- Antarctica
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Barbados
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Dominica
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Puerto Rico
- Peru
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United States
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
- Virgin Islands



*In 1987, Sri Chinmoy founded the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, history's longest and largest relay run for peace. Under his guidance and inspiration, this event has brought together millions of people from different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs in the spirit of friendship and harmony.*

Since the first Peace Torch was lit on 27 April 1987 in New York City, Peace Runners have linked the entire world in a glowing circle of peace.

In the first year, runners passed the Peace Torch from hand to hand through 55 countries. Today the Peace Run has found its home in the hearts of people in 126 countries on all continents. The overall number of participants has increased greatly and the overall mileage covered has doubled. In the coming years, runners will carry the Peace Torch through an ever-growing number of countries, and the flame of humanity's oneness will continue to be spread from runner to runner, nation to nation, continent to



continent, symbolising our hopes and dreams for peace. "While running from one country to another in this Peace Run," says Sri Chinmoy, "we are transcending our capacities and at the same time, we are inviting the whole world to feel the supreme importance of oneness."

The Peace Run has done much to inspire the hearts and uplift the minds of all who support peace. It has been a testimonial to the invincibility of the human spirit and to its determination to overcome all obstacles in the pursuit of lasting peace among the people on earth.



- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia
- Malta
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- San Marino
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- Vatican City (Holy See)
- Yugoslavia



- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Brunei
- Darussalam
- Cambodia
- China
- Georgia
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Uzbekistan
- Viet Nam

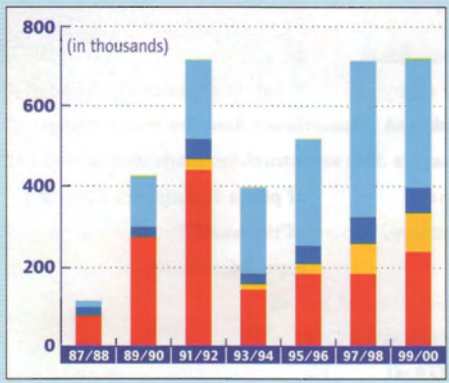


- Benin
- Botswana
- Cameroon
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Ivory Coast
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Mali
- Morocco
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- The Gambia
- Togo
- Tunesia
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
- Egypt
- Israel
- Jordan
- Palestinian Authority

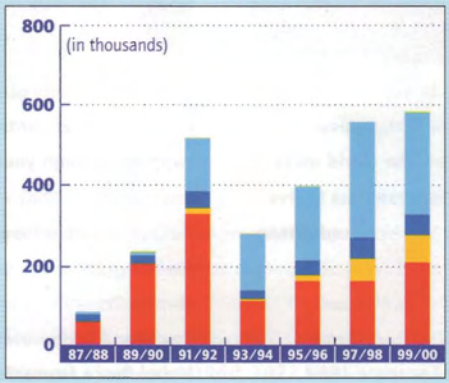


- Australia
- Cook Islands
- East Timor
- Fiji
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Tonga

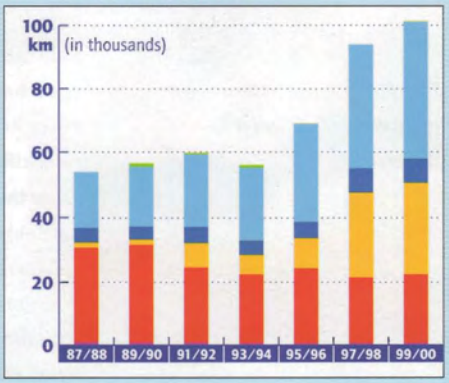
Number of participants



Number of children participants



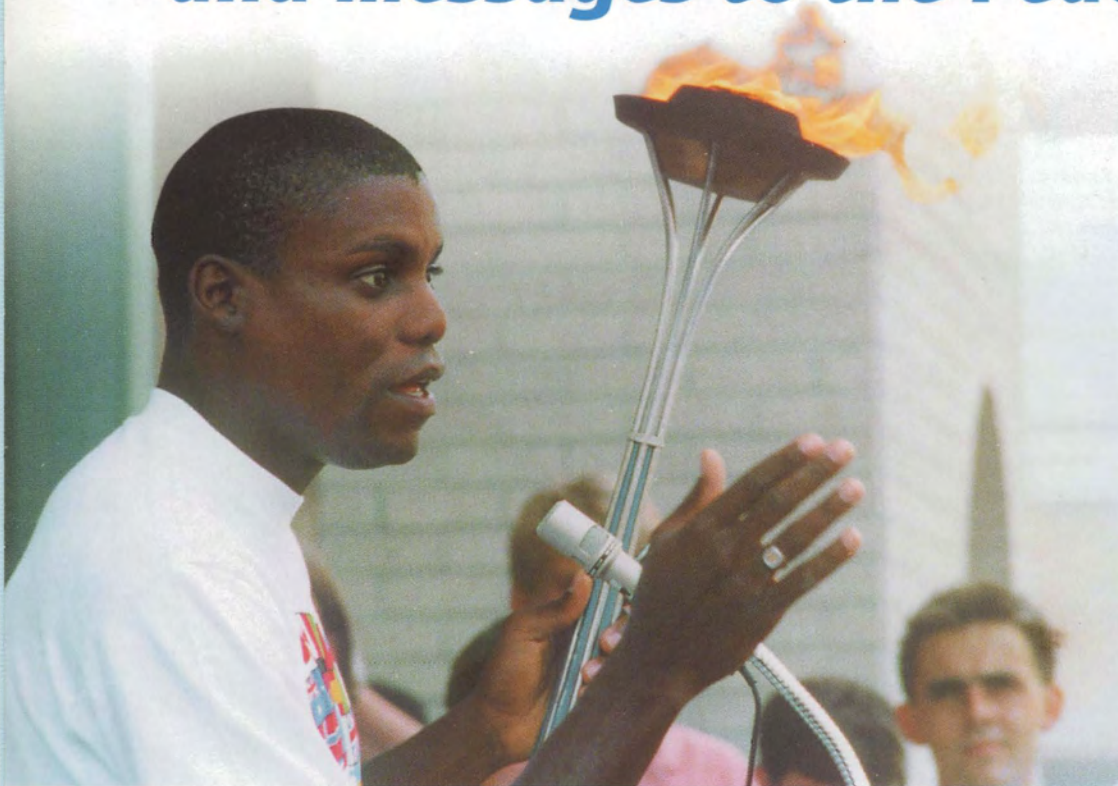
Number of kilometers



MIDDLE EAST EUROPE AUSTRALASIA CENTRAL AND SE ASIA THE AMERICAS AFRICA

# Special moments

## and messages to the Peace Run



"The entire world is focusing on a peaceful time. We want peace. We want to try to instill a positive, wonderful attitude within our world." *Carl Lewis, Legendary Olympian*



*Cathy Freeman, Olympic Track and Field Champion, Sydney, Australia*



*Pir Vilayat Inayat-Khan  
Head of the Sufi Order in  
the West*



"I am happy to support your Peace Run for justice, peace and reconciliation. The world must know that God wants us to live amicably as brothers and sisters, members of one family, the human family, God's family."  
*Archbishop Desmond Tutu,  
Nobel Peace Laureate 1984*



"I keep you in my prayer and I count on your continual support through your prayers and sacrifices that we may do God's work with great love for His greater glory."  
*Mother Teresa  
Founder, Missionaries of Charity,  
Nobel Peace Laureate 1979*



"I salute the runners of the Peace Run who are carrying a torch to the destination of peace through the streets of the world."  
*Pope John Paul II*



**"Your activities for the benefit of peace throughout the world occupy an important place and this has been recognised in all countries, and it is for a very good reason that you are held in such esteem at the United Nations."**

*Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Raisa Maximovna receive the Peace Torch during a meeting with Sri Chinmoy.*



**"From the ancient Greek Olympiads to modern day events such as this one, athletic competition and running in particular have always been a vehicle for men and women of goodwill to express their common aspirations and shared dreams. Their most cherished goal was, and remains, the achievement of world peace. Every step counts... I would like to wish you today godspeed and success."**

*Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations*



**"Your contributions and cooperation are most needed and welcome in our turbulent times. Let's hope that the flame of peace you have carried throughout the world will continue to enlighten all those who, like us, believe in a future of peace, security and harmony."**

*Vladimir Petrovsky  
Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva*



*Muhammad Ali, Three-Time World Heavyweight Boxing Champion (1964, 1974, 1978)*



*Gennady Strekalov, Russian Cosmonaut, has taken the Peace Torch on the spacestation MIR.*



**"There can be nothing more important in the world than peace!  
I wish you success for your responsible job."**

*Dr. Pal Schmitt, President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee,  
Chief of Protocol of the International Olympic Committee,  
Two-Time Olympic Champion (1968, 1972, Fencing)*

# Today's children

are tomorrow's peacemakers ...

The Peace Run  
has visited hundreds  
of thousands  
of school children  
around the world.  
Since 1987...



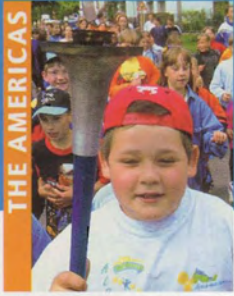
...8,000 children



*In the weeks leading up to the Peace Run's arrival, schools often undertake different projects in the spirit of peace. The Peace Torch arrival brings with it a joyful celebration, where children everywhere offer the same longing for a better, more peaceful world. Their promises to take a step for peace in their own lives are expressed through poems, essays, messages, drawings and music as well as by their enthusiastic cooperation with their teachers.*

Inspired by the message "Peace begins with me" and a dynamic presentation that seeks to involve and educate children, some 10,000 schools around the world have welcomed the Peace Run. Children greet the Peace Runners' arrival at their school with

huge peace banners, drawings, paper peace doves and other artwork for peace. During the ceremony children read essays, poems and messages they have written about peace, perform plays, play instruments, dance and sing. In addition, thousands



...1,200,000 children



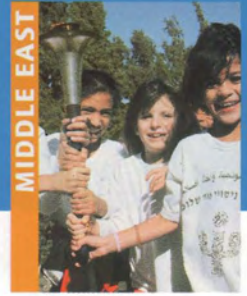
...160,000 children



...240,000 children



...1,000,000 children



...7,000 children

## ... and hope for a better world



*"Peace! Dominate the world!  
Peace! Fly us on your wings!  
Allow us to enjoy a better world  
Than today's world.*

*You are like a warm sun,  
Which sometimes heats us.  
Never stop burning.*

*When you are there,  
Your music encourages all humanity.  
Fly also in the poor countries,  
In hungry countries,  
Which are hoping for your help.*

*Peace!  
Save us from hate.  
We will all make a big circle around the world,  
Holding our hands together to welcome you."*

**Giuditta, Chiara and Giulia**  
*Primary School A. Sclaro, 5th class  
Siena, Italy*

of young hands reach out to hold the Peace Torch and to run with it. Often there are speeches by the Principal and teachers. Meredith Wedin, Principal at T.H. Rogers School, Houston, USA, said, "All the students and staff knew that they were

sharing in something very special. The students thoroughly enjoyed preparing the songs, poems and posters, used to convey the special unifying spirit of the event." Usually the Peace Run stays no more than a few hours in any

one place, but the spirit of the Peace Run and the experience of peace remain.

# In the News...

From the very beginning, the media has been very supportive in conveying the news of the Peace Run and its participants. Thanks to this coverage, countless individuals around the globe have been inspired to take a step for peace or to cheer the runners on. By capturing the many moments of the Peace Run, the media has helped the growing spirit of international friendship and peace to be seen, heard and felt by hundreds of millions of people.

## Daily coverage

■ THE SUNDAY STAR, Toronto, Canada, 28 June 1987  
By Mary Ann Horgan

### Global marathon...

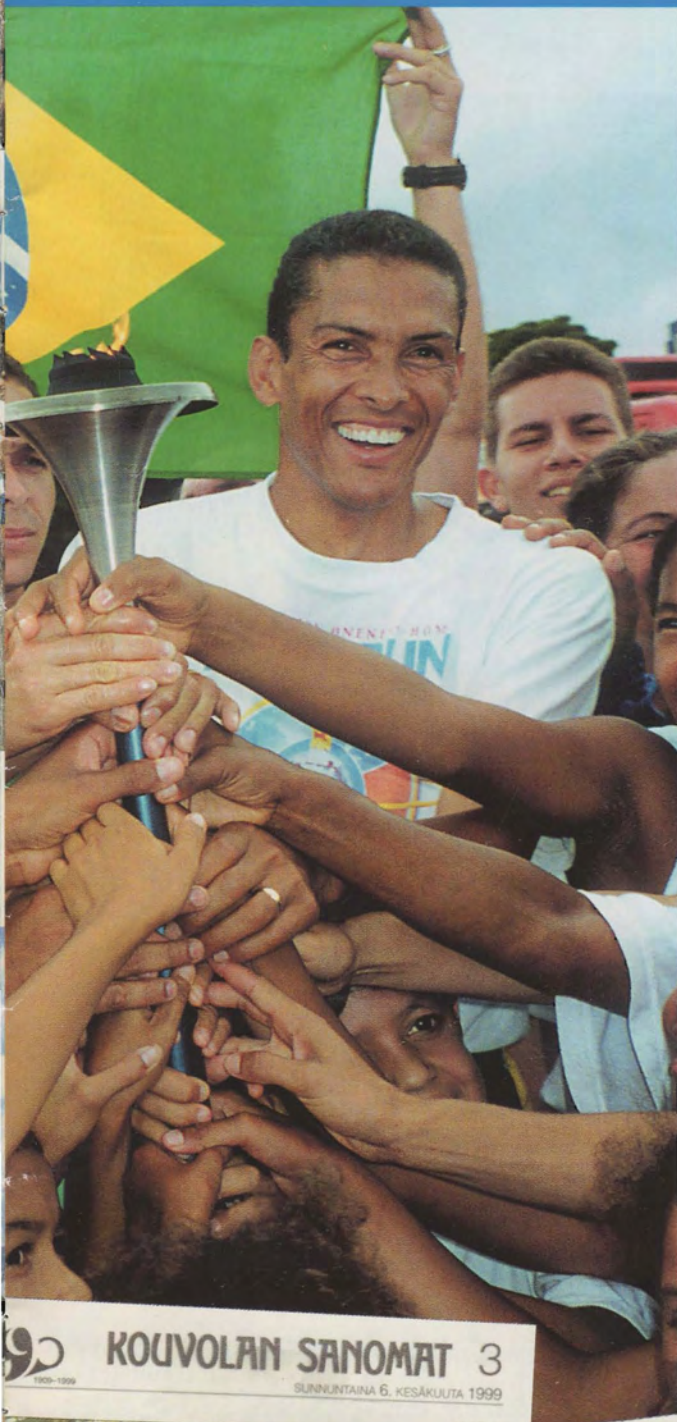
...“I’m here because my heart is really with world peace,” said Sravana Diggis 39, of Queen St. E. “The thing that’s unique about this is that it’s not political and it’s not to raise money. It’s just for peace.”...

■ LA SUISSE, Geneva, Switzerland, 16 June 1993

### The Torch of freedom

Peace. Utopia? That’s what you might think if you read the newspapers. But children never give up. They want to prove to the world that they believe that peace is possible. Yesterday, 400 children ran through the streets of Geneva to show their wish for peace and freedom.





## Interview

■ SPORT MAGAZINE, Budapest, Hungary, March 2000  
 Interview with Agnes Molnar, member of the European Peace Run Team 1999.

...“My most wonderful experience was in Ireland, when protestant and catholic children ran side by side together with us. Normally they go to separate schools and playgrounds. It was really significant.”

## Feature story

■ ESSERE SEMPRE, Milano, Italy, 26 January 1997

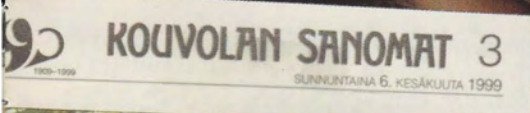
...“The Peace Run focuses on satisfaction, not the mere absence of war. It wants to be the vehicle for a message of love, of positive enthusiasm, of hope. The Peace Run wants to give people an opportunity to live peace, to feel peace, to experience peace. It's an initiative that comes from the assumption that global peace depends on each one of us and can only happen if we can overcome our individuality and recognise the unity of humanity. Every participant is the messenger of a new hope, a new joy and a new friendship.”...

## Column

■ TV SPORT CELEBRITY, New Zealand, 1993  
 By Darren Young

...“I've enjoyed every minute of my day spent with the Peace Run. Sri Chinmoy must be an extraordinary man to have such a vision for world peace. The Peace Run really works. Everyone feels they're taking part in something special and doing something for peace. Thank you all.”...

**Brazilian athlete Joaquim Cruz holds the Peace Torch at the Marakana Stadium, Brazil (1999).**



# Organisation



International Peace Run organisers at the opening ceremony of the global Peace Run at the United Nations headquarters in April 1999.

## **Global coordination**

*Peace Run coordination, route maps and schedule development, as well as international Peace Run team support, is organised by the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team (SCMT). The SCMT was founded by Sri Chinmoy in 1977. Today, it hosts over 500 athletic events all around the world, including the largest triathlon in the southern hemisphere, which takes place in Canberra, Australia. The Run is managed globally by Peace Runs International, a non-profit organisation based in the United States.*

## **Global cooperation**

*Hundreds of thousands of volunteers worldwide organise commemorative Peace Run days, receptions or ceremonies for the Peace Runners' arrival. These are festive moments when the release of doves and colourful balloons with peace messages may accompany the songs of children. A moment of silence for peace and goodwill often concludes the event, leaving a deep and positive impression on those who participate.*

## **Peace-builders**

*It is the dedicated participation and enthusiasm of Heads of State, government leaders, teachers, sports clubs, children and other volunteers that have helped to make the Peace Run a successful programme for peace-building on a global scale.*



# Sri Chinmoy



## About the Founder

### Peace Initiatives

#### • The United Nations

*Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations*

Twice-weekly meditations for peace, held since 1970 at UN headquarters in New York for delegates and staff, as well as other inspirational activities.

#### • Peace-Blossoms

Over 800 significant landmarks – from natural wonders to entire nations – have been dedicated to peace as part of the Sri Chinmoy Peace-Blossoms programme. With inspirational plaques in 85 countries, the Peace-Blossoms family offers daily reminders of our common quest for peace.

#### Honours and Awards

In recognition of his unique contribution to peace around the world, Sri Chinmoy has received numerous awards over the years, including the Pilgrim of Peace Award, UNESCO's Nehru Medallion, along with several honorary degrees from noted universities.

### Peace Poems

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

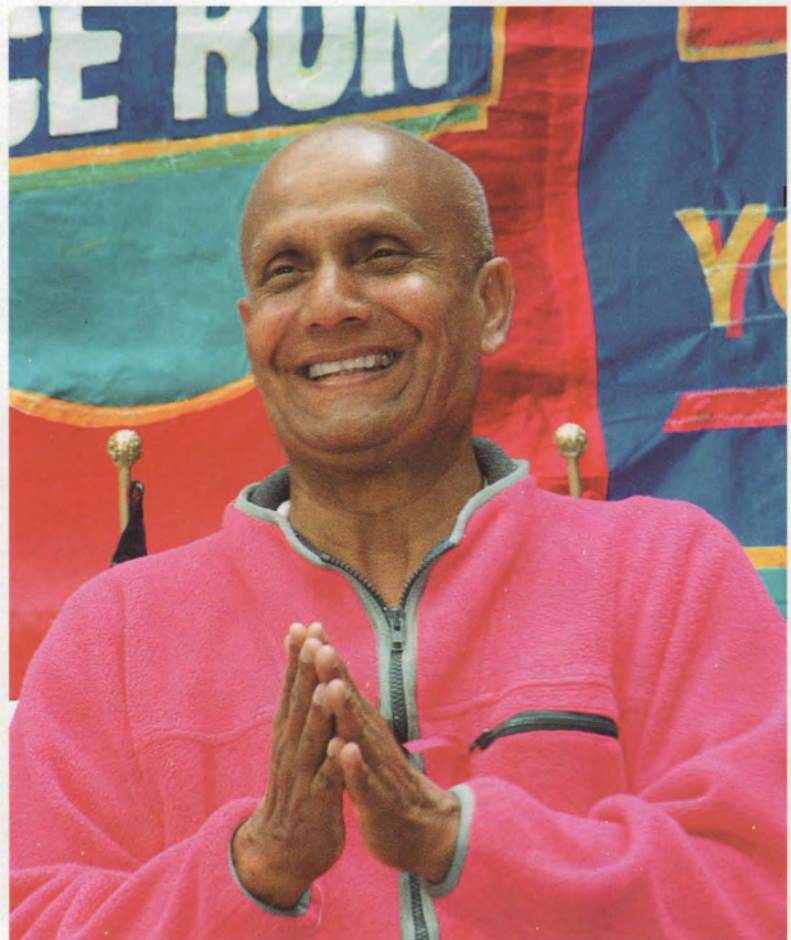
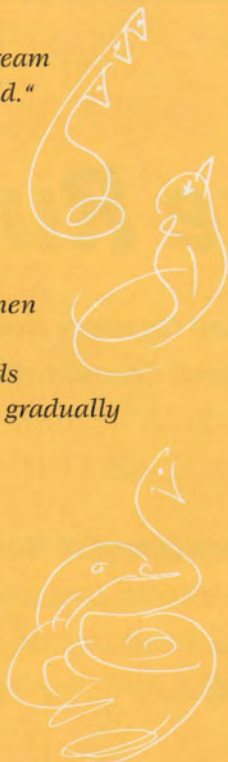
\* \* \*

*"You and I create the world  
by the vibrations  
that we offer to the world.  
If we can invoke peace and then  
offer it to somebody else,  
we will see how peace expands  
from one to two persons, and gradually  
to the world at large."*

\* \* \*

*"Peace-seed must be sown  
In the heart.  
Only then will it grow  
In the body of human life."*

**- Sri Chinmoy**



*For over thirty-five years Sri Chinmoy has dedicated his life to the fulfillment of the dream of world peace. Through events like the Peace Run, he has sought to inspire individuals to bring forward their own feelings of peace from within and to share them with the world in dynamic ways. Sri Chinmoy is also highly regarded for a variety of creative accomplishments that convey the spirit of peace and harmony through music, art and poetry.*

#### Tribute by Nelson Mandela

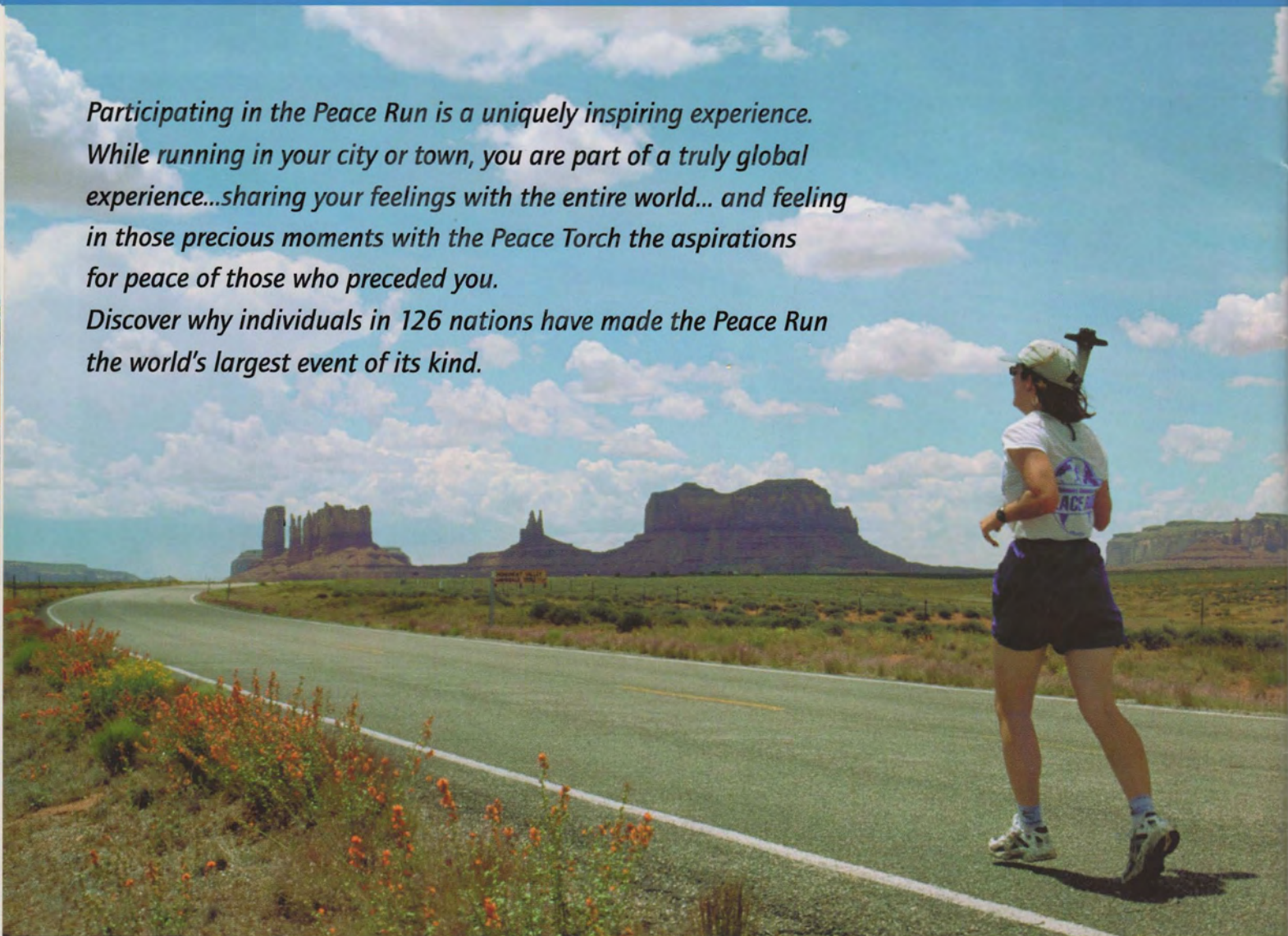


**"My brother in peace,... we acknowledge the tremendous contribution which you and your peace movement are making to promote global peace... Your untiring efforts and continuous travels worldwide to spread the message of peace and the oneness of humanity are indeed admirable, my brother, and we offer all our support and encouragement for your peace initiatives."**

**Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa and Nobel Peace Laureate (1994)**

# The Peace Runners...

*Participating in the Peace Run is a uniquely inspiring experience. While running in your city or town, you are part of a truly global experience...sharing your feelings with the entire world... and feeling in those precious moments with the Peace Torch the aspirations for peace of those who preceded you. Discover why individuals in 126 nations have made the Peace Run the world's largest event of its kind.*



# Join [www.peacerun.com](http://www.peacerun.com) the Peace Run!

**For more information contact:**

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[www.peacerun.com](http://www.peacerun.com)