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LA JOLLA LIGHT

Swim for peace set at the Cove

Three United Nations staffers are flying in from New York for a two mile-long "peace swim" at 4 p.m. on Saturday at the La Jolla Cove.

It's the latest in a series of more than 20 winter swims the trio are making to focus attention on 1986 as the "United Nations International Year of Peace."

The three began their peace journey Jan. 1 with a 1½-mile swim off Hiroshima, Japan. As thousands of Japanese lined the shore, they swam around one of the country's most sacred sites: the shrine on Mayajima Island.

Five days later they repeated their swim in Nagasaki Harbor.

Since that time they have swam in six states and Bermuda, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The La Jolla swim is part of a weekend series that will include swims in Arizona, Mexico, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

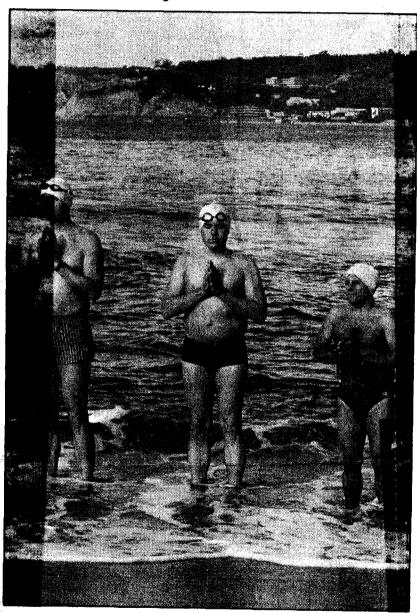
"We're hoping to make people more aware of what the UN is doing for peace and to inspire others to make their own efforts for world peace," said Adhiratha Keefe, one of the swimmers.

Keefe, a 38-year old UNICEF

employee, whose first name means "divine charioteer," swam the English Channel last September to commemorate the UN's 40th anniversary. Over 4,000 people have attempted to swim the Channel, but less than 400 have completed the difficult crossing.

The two other swimmers are Sunil ("infinite blue sky") Davidson, 38, also of UNICEF, and Shraddha ("faith") Howard, 32, of the United Nations Secretariat. Both are training for English Channel swims later this year.

The three swimmers belong to the Peace Meditation group which meets twice weekly at the United Nations under the leadership of spiritual master Sri Chinmoy.



The San Diego Union/Greg Vojtko

Swim for Peace: These three United Nations employees have traveled the world at their own expense to make symbolic swims for peace. Saturday, they swam two miles beginning at the La Jolla Cove. Shown meditating prior to their swim are, from left, Adhiratha Keefe, Sunil Davidson and Shraddha Howard.

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