

International Red Cross Guards Geneva Conventions

The International Committee of the Red Cross—many recognize the name but few are familiar with what it is or what it does.

Attention was focused on this organization Nov. 2, when when President Kennedy agreed with a Soviet proposal to have the International Committee carry out agreed upon inspection procedures during the current Cuban crisis.

The Red Cross has since announced that it was withdrawing its offer because it deemed that the inspection was no longer necessary.

The committee is a group of 25 Swiss citizens with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. They are completely autonomous—non-political, non-sectarian. They are a self-perpetuating group, when one member dies or retires, his successor is elected by the remaining members of the committee.

THE FUNDS for the ICRC come from an annual campaign which is limited to Switzerland, voluntary contributions from private citizens, national Red Cross societies, and governments.

The organization is recognized by virtually every nation in the world as the neutral channel for negotiation between belligerents in the protection of victims of war, and as a means by which organized relief can cross battle lines or enter an area of conflict.

There have been relatively few instances in which signatories of the Geneva Conventions have refused the offices of the ICRC or denied access to its representatives. The historical beginning of the ICRC dates back to a five-member study commission formed in 1863 by the Swiss Society of Public Welfare to consider proposals by Henri Dunant, a Swiss businessman,

for an organization that was to become the Red Cross.

LATER THAT YEAR, the study group became known as the Committee of the Red Cross, a name which lasted until 1880 when ICRC became its official designation.

The ICRC is the guardian of the Geneva Conventions, which spell out the principles of neutrality and protect from

unnecessary suffering sick and wounded prisoners and civilian populations in occupied countries. To illustrate the variety of ICRC work, here is a rundown of some committee activities during the first half of this year:

1. At the request of the U.N., an ICRC delegate visited New Guinea and helped arrange for the release and repatriation of Indonesians held by the Netherlands government.

2. At the request of the Chinese Red Cross, an ICRC delegate found and located in Central Vietnam 20 Hainan fishermen whose ships had been wrecked in the Tonkin Gulf. The delegate then obtained a junk and turned it over to the shipwrecked sailors for their return home.

3. An ICRC delegate visited penal institutions in Yugoslavia to talk with political prisoners and to ascertain the conditions of imprisonment.

4. In Hungary, three ICRC representatives investigated 108 new cases of victims of pseudo-medical experiments carried out by the Nazis in concentration camps during World War II.

ANDRE DURAND, who has been a delegate for 20 years, is a good example of these Swiss who work unflinchingly to put Red Cross principles into

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practice the world over. Since 1951, Durand has served in Hong Kong, Vietnam, Indonesia, Ceylon, Thailand, Japan, and Laos. These missions have ranged from negotiations leading to the release of five American held prisoners by Communist forces in Laos to supervising the voluntary repatriation of North Koreans to their homeland from Japan. Durand carried out all these

assignments after recovering from severe wounds received while on duty with the ICRC in Palestine during the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. These wounds cost him the loss of an arm. Many ICRC representatives have lost their lives in service, the most recent being Georges Olivet, who was killed last December in the Congo while attempting to evacuate civilians.

Artist's Work To Be Shown In December

Alvin J. Beller is the featured artist in a display in Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Assn.'s Torrance office during December, it was announced today by Charles T. Cederlof, GFS assistant vice president and Torrance branch manager.

Beller has studied water color technique with such noted artists as J. C. Wright, Dong Kingman and Navy watercolorist Arthur Beaumont.

Born in Detroit, Beller took his basic art training at Detroit Commercial Art School. The following two summers, he studied with Hugh H. Breckenridge in East Gloucester, Mass. It was here that he developed his love of the waterfront as subject matter, using oils in French impressionistic style.

Beller has also had one-man shows at Utah State University, Crocker Art Gallery of Sacramento, La Jolla Art Center, San Pedro Art Assn. Gallery, Palos Verdes Art Gallery and Laguna Beach Art Assn. Gallery.

Ballet Stars To Perform On Saturday

Ballet stars Lois Ellyn and Joey Harris will be presented at El Camino College Saturday evening in the Campus Theater. The duo will be featured in a program including some of the masterpieces of ballet.

The dancers will demonstrate a variation of dance forms progressing from classical and romantic to contemporary American, college spokesmen said. The two have been dancing together since their teens.

Also featured on Saturday's program will be Tatiana Riabochinska, who is currently appearing as a guest with the International Concert Ballet Co. She is ranked as one of the world's leading performers, and has appeared with many of the greatest ballet companies.

Concert tickets are available to the general public at the college student store. Curtain time will be 8:30 p.m.

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