

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## **The Nobel Peace Prize Award TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE AND THE LEAGUE**

The 1963 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to the International Committee of the Red Cross jointly with the League of Red Cross Societies. These glad tidings were announced to the ICRC by the following telegram sent from Oslo, on October 10, 1963.

*The Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Parliament has awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1963 to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies with a half to each stop letter follows. Gunnar Jahn, August Schou.*

(signed) Gunnar Jahn — August Schou

On the same day and in the name of the institution of which he is President, Mr. Léopold Boissier replied by the following cable :

*Deeply moved by the honour of receiving jointly with the League of Red Cross Societies the Nobel Prize for Peace which had first been bestowed upon Henry Dunant and then twice to our institution I express our profound gratitude to you and to the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Parliament.*

(signed) Léopold Boissier

This was followed up by a letter in which the ICRC reiterated its expression of thanks and advised that Mr. Boissier would attend

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the presentation ceremony which is to take place on December 10, 1963, in Oslo, and that whilst in Norway, he would give an address on the ICRC and its present-day tasks.

Thus, the Norwegian Committee has acknowledged the importance and significance of the work of the ICRC which has unceasingly brought relief to victims of conflicts and, through its activities and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, has demonstrated that spirit of solidarity which should unite all men. Soon, therefore, four Nobel Peace Prizes may be seen at the headquarters of the ICRC, the one awarded to Henry Dunant, and also the three received by the ICRC in 1917, 1944 and 1963. This unique collection is a particularly striking testimony to the achievements of the Red Cross in promoting peace. It will be recalled that according to Alfred Nobel's will, the prize is awarded to " whoever has made the greatest or the best contribution to further brotherhood amongst the nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies, as well as for the formation and propagation of peace congresses " .

The International Committee is conscious of the great distinction which has just been bestowed upon it, and which it is pleased to share with the League of Red Cross Societies. It knows that the co-operation of the National Societies is necessary to enable it to fulfil its mission, and it associates them with the honour which has just been conferred upon the two International Red Cross institutions.

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