

## Auto Engineers to Meet

A. S. Krota, chief development engineer of the B. F. Goodrich Co. will speak on "An Independent

Four-Wheel Suspension using Rubber Torsion Spring" before the Indiana Section of the Society of Automotive Engineers at 8 p. m. Thursday in the Antlers hotel.

## Mercy Flight To Save U. S. Consul Bared

## Russian Performs Successful Operation

By WILLIAM H. NEWTON

SHANGHAI, Dec. 9.—The dramatic story of a mercy flight by Russian airmen and an emergency operation in a Soviet hospital which saved the life of an American consul isolated in the vast mountain wilderness of central Asia was uncovered here today.

The consul is Robert S. Ward, Cincinnati. He is flying from Shanghai to the United States today to recuperate from an ailment which nearly cost his life.

Mr. Ward was U. S. consul at Urumchi in Sinkiang province. He was stricken by an attack of volvulus, a complete stoppage of the intestinal tract, which is fatal unless an operation is performed quickly.

## No Surgeon Available

He was the only American in the city, the capital of Sinkiang province on China's western border and one of the most isolated areas of the world. No surgeon was available.

With death only a matter of hours, Soviet diplomatic officials arranged an emergency flight to Alma Ata, capital of the neighboring Soviet republic of Kazakhstan where there is the modern "hospital of the Soviet ministers."

Accompanied by a Russian woman doctor, Mr. Ward was flown to Alma Ata in an unconscious condition and the emergency operation performed.

"They could not have done more for me," Mr. Ward said. "Beyond question they saved my life."

## Patient Cannot Die

The operation was performed by a tall, slender Russian surgeon named Nikolavich Syganov. After the operation Mr. Ward said his Russian nurse told him: "There's a saying in Kazakhstan, 'when Syganov operates the patient cannot die.'"

The American was provided with special nurses and interpreters day and night. After the operation Mr. Ward developed a high fever. One of the nurses sat at his bedside throughout the night moistening his lips with wet gauze, he said.

The Russians refused to accept pay for the operation and the hospital care, Mr. Ward said.

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