

Iran

The National Society devoted the week of May 11 to 18, 1963, to the Red Cross Centenary. Prior to this, H.I.M. the Shahanshah had expressed, in a broadcast from Radio-Teheran, his approval of the work of the Red Cross and the vast openings offered it by a hundred years of existence.

Many events in celebration took place in Teheran, amongst which mention should be made of a large charity fête and the commemorative ceremony itself. The former was particularly successful and also comprised an exhibition of sale whose financial results enabled one of the Society's children's hospitals to be restored. The latter was impressive, and represented an affirmation of the Red Cross ideal and of its permanent character throughout a century.

The ceremony was presided over by H.I.H. Princess Shams Pahlavi, Honorary President, and was attended by members of the Government and representatives of the armed forces and the diplomatic corps. The Prime Minister, the Court Chamberlain, the Secretary-General, then the Director-General of the Red Lion and Sun Society, in turn recalled the figure of Henry Dunant. Reference was also made to the historic circumstances in which a work was begun which was to make universal progress, to the tasks of the ICRC and of the League and those of the National Society which continue to expand year after year and extend throughout the whole country.

A group of nurses in training then gave a theatrical performance in four scenes representing Florence Nightingale in the Crimea, the Committee of Five in Geneva, and the fine motives which induce a young girl to become a nurse. Princess Shams Pahlavi closed the ceremony, whose complete success evidently caused her much pleasure, by expressing her wish that the humanitarian ideal would be everywhere more and more known.