

France expects of the French Red Cross". In conclusion, Mr. François-Poncet stressed the importance of the Red Cross Centenary and analysed the lesson to be drawn from Henry Dunant's fine example.

On the same day the inauguration took place in Paris of the "Henry Dunant cross-roads" and on Sunday a national competition of first-aid, exercises and a parade of the various Red Cross services gave immediate practical demonstration of the efficiency and vitality of the National Society, to which the ICRC was pleased to bring its congratulations and good wishes.

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## Japan

The Japanese Red Cross celebrated the Centenary of the Red Cross with an impressive ceremony which took place on May 8, 1963, in Tokyo, and at which Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress of Japan were present. A number of leading personalities also attended, of whom mention should be made of the Imperial Princesses and the Prime Minister of Japan, together with senior officials.

The Japanese Red Cross was represented by its President, Prince Shimadzu, its Vice-Presidents, Mr. Ishizaka and Mr. Tanabe, and the heads of various departments.

H.M. The Emperor read out a message whose text was as follows : <sup>1</sup>

*It is Our pleasure to be here and meet all of you at this significant gathering to celebrate the Red Cross Centenary.*

*We are very glad that, for the past one hundred years since the establishment of the Resolutions of the Geneva International Conference, Red Cross Societies have been born in 90 countries and have made such a progress through the co-operation of people of every country in the world.*

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

## NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

*We are very grateful that the Japanese Red Cross Society also, making untiring efforts in co-operation with Red Cross Societies of other countries, firmly established its foundation and its programs have developed year by year.*

*We hope that all the personnel concerned will co-operate more than ever and fulfil their mission of humanitarian duty with the assistance of the people, and endeavour to contribute for the peace of the world and the welfare of humanity.*

Mr. H. C. Angst, honorary ICRC delegate in Japan, read an address from the International Committee which was translated simultaneously into Japanese. He brought the warm congratulations of the founder institution and pointed out that Henry Dunant's gesture had found a very live echo in Japan, where the National Society is carrying out magnificent work for the continuation of which the International Committee sends its best wishes in this year, in which all eyes are turned towards the humanitarian task being accomplished day after day by millions of Red Cross workers.

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### Switzerland

*The National Red Cross has been given new statutes and we are pleased to publish the following article on the meaning and implications of a revision of great importance for the future work of the Society. The co-operation of the Swiss Red Cross in protective measures for the population and the new form of membership provided for in the new statutes will be particularly remarked upon.*

The delegates of the Swiss Red Cross met recently in Berne in extraordinary assembly and after examining the statutes in use, decided to revise them. They had received the draft of the new statutes as drawn up by the Managing Committee of the Swiss Red Cross on October 25, 1962, the draft being based on a preliminary