

Those who serve the Red Cross everywhere will endorse the words spoken by Prince Bertil at the opening ceremony of the centenary in 1965 in Stockholm : " In a world in which we all have need of each other, we also need the Red Cross idea and the Red Cross has need of us all ".

R. D. P.

VIETNAM

We know that the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society has sent to South Viet Nam a medical team which is giving valuable assistance in difficult circumstances.

Last April, Panorama, the League of Red Cross Societies' Review, published an article by Mr. C. Rooks on that subject, some passages of which are given below. This Iranian team arrived in Viet Nam in January 1966.

At Ben Tre, Kien Hoa Province, a twenty-member Iranian medical team is bringing the benefits of modern surgery to thousands of Vietnamese peasant farmers who would otherwise go unattended in this Mekong Delta city, 84 kilometers south of Saigon.

Staffed by two surgeons, Doctors Siamak Shakibi and Reza Soleymani, two technicians and fifteen nurses, the team is headed by Colonel Esmahail Gilanpour. The team is sponsored by the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society. The provincial hospital at Ben Tre is the only medical facility for the 600,000 inhabitants of the province.

Many surgical problems of the area are being attended to for the first time in more than a dozen years by the Iranians.

The last surgeon in the community, a French doctor, left following the Geneva agreements in 1954.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Expectant mothers unable to give natural birth now have the chance to live because of the Caesarean operations performed by the two Iranian surgeons.

Recalling her early impression of Viet Nam, Chief Nurse Omolbanin Hahanzadeh said: "The first night, we couldn't sleep because of the artillery firing around the city. Now, we go to sleep without trouble. The noise is nothing."

The Iranian team's day begins early.

Shortly after 8 a.m., the doctors begin their rounds of the crowded ward. Men, women and children are assigned to the ward. The doctor stops at each bed, and passes his instructions to the ward nurses.

On several occasions, during military operations in the province, the team has worked at the hospital continuously for 48 hours treating the wounded. Unfortunately, non-combatants caught in the middle of the war zone are sometimes hurt....

Today the people in Ben Tre, and those throughout Kien Hoa Province, come to the hospital more freely. When they need medical attention, the villagers know that they will receive it.

"These are fellow humans we want to help," says Colonel Esmahail Gilanpour. "We feel privileged to be here to help them."
