

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

FORTHCOMING CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE RED CROSS

The centenary of the founding of the Red Cross will, as we know, be celebrated in Geneva in August and September 1963. For some months past several Commissions and Sub-Committees have been at work preparing and organizing the various events, to which references have already been made in the International Review. The Centenary Commission produces a series of "Newsletters" of which we now give a few extracts. These will give some idea of the two most important elements of the celebrations which will be taking place next year in Switzerland, and whose importance will pay witness to the lasting quality of our movement.

International Exhibition of the Red Cross

This Exhibition, to be held in Geneva's Palais des Expositions, will be open to the public during the Centenary Commemorative Period, i.e. 15th August to 15th September 1963. It is conceived as an informational and educational presentation of the Red Cross Movement as a whole and it is designed for the general public as well as Red Cross members and the specialist. It may also provide the basis for a permanent Geneva Museum which would fulfill a long-felt need.

To inspire a general interest and to avoid duplication, the International Exhibition of the Red Cross is to be essentially thematic and be comprised of two main sections :

1. *Historical Section* which will show, in as attractive and clear a manner as possible, the principal stages in the development of the Red Cross from its foundation to the present day ;

2. "*Topical*" *Section*, which will show the many diverse facets of the Red Cross, while maintaining an essential unity, and endeavour to illustrate the many types of problem with which the Red Cross can be faced, the way in which it meets these, its future possibilities and its plans. It will, first of all, show the organization and operations of the Red Cross institutions, the International Conferences and their resolutions, the Geneva Conventions and, finally, the Principles.

Then will be shown assistance to military and civilian victims of armed conflicts, relief to victims of natural disasters, health, the Junior Red Cross and, finally, information (Press, radio, television and films), which will include two cinemas and devote considerable space to Philately, Numismatics and Red Cross Posters.

These last three Sections will retrace the history of the Red Cross around the world through the large numbers of stamps issued during the century by 135 countries and territories, through medals, insignia and decorations and by posters. Their beauty and originality will make these three Sections a real attraction for the public, both Red Cross members and not.

The larger of the cinemas will show a programme of general information films while productions of a more specialized interest will be screened in the second cinema.

The Medical Services of Armed Forces, depicted in different Sections of the Exhibition, will underline the parallelism of these activities with those of the Red Cross and stress the importance of the Geneva Conventions.

Finally, to enable industrial and commercial firms to show the latest developments of interest to the Red Cross, a Section called "Equipment at the Service of Mankind" is under consideration.

The International Exhibition of the Red Cross is now taking shape. It is hoped that it will arouse a wide interest in the work of the Red Cross and a desire to help in one way or another. If visitors realize what the Red Cross has done, what it can do for all in pre-

venting and relieving suffering, and if they ask themselves what they can do for the Red Cross, then the aim of the Exhibition will have been achieved.

Centenary Commemoration Day

Sunday 1st September 1963 will be marked in Geneva as Centenary Commemoration Day, within the framework of the Red Cross Centenary Programme in Switzerland.

The "Centenary Commission for the Red Cross in Switzerland" plans to mark the full importance of the event and unite all National Societies and the Genevese public in kindred spirit during this day dedicated to the Movement's Anniversary. "Centenary Day", while recalling a past which does honour to humanity, will also be forward looking and be a fresh point of departure for a Movement, which circumstances make more necessary than ever.

It is foreseen for this Commemorative Day to begin with a Solemn Proclamation. The Swiss Authorities and Heads of Delegations, preceded by National and Red Cross banners of participating countries, will proceed to Geneva's Grand-Théâtre, where the Official Ceremony is to take place.

The Programme will be highlighted by addresses from the Swiss Authorities and personalities belonging to the Red Cross movement, together with musical works also indicative of the Red Cross' universality. Benjamin Britten, Dimitri Shostakovich and Frank Martin have accepted, in principle, to compose special works which will be played by the Swiss-Romande Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of its conductor, Ernest Ansermet.

At the close of this Ceremony, wreaths will be placed at the monument erected in Geneva to the memory of Henry Dunant, and an address made. A special radio-television hookup will link Zurich and Heiden, where similar ceremonies will take place at the same time.

In the afternoon a Red Cross International Parade through Geneva is scheduled. This will present different epochs in the history of the Red Cross and portray the principal activities of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies from

around the world. It will depict in vivid manner for citizens and visitors alike the spirit of the Red Cross, its universality and the constant effort to make it ever more worthy of the principles to which it is dedicated.

To associate the public with the Centenary Celebration, the Parade will finish with an outdoor gathering, a picnic and an international folklore programme.

Dedicated to the public, Commemoration Day assumes an educational character. It will render homage to the first 100 years and affirm the Red Cross of today. It must be a dynamic occasion for both participants and onlookers. For these reasons, it will be re-transmitted as widely as possible throughout the world by all available methods of publicity.