INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES OUVRIERS DU TRANSPORT
INTERNATIONALE TRANSPORTARBEITER-FÖDERATION
INTERNATIONELLA TRANSPORTARBETAREFEDERATIONEN

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INFORMATIONS
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IN THIS NUMBER: Canadian railwaymen press for redundancy and disturbance compensation (p. 59); Malayan railwaymen work to rule (p. 60); British bus pay inquiry (p. 61); Central Wages Board for Indian port workers (p. 61); New pay agreement for Amsterdam and Rotterdam dockers (p. 61); Health programme for seafarers (p. 62); Danish seamen's pay rates (p. 63); Stricter control of trade unions in Zambia (p. 64).

RAILWAYMEN

CANADA
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Unions press for compensation clause in Railway Act

Railway brotherhoods in Canada are pressing the government to accept an amendment to the Railway Act which is currently passing through Parliament which would "give application to the principle of compensation to railway workers who lose their employment or are required to change their residence as a result of changes beneficial to a railway."

A clause incorporating this provision was recommended for inclusion in the Act by the House of Commons Standing Committee during its consideration of the Bill, but this has not been acted upon by the government. The government Bill as it stands would only provide compensation for loss caused by a change of residence due to abandonment of a line, and even so this would not be given automatically; the employee would have to "plead his cause" before the Board of Transport Commissioners.

The unions claim that the government "has a moral obligation to accept full responsibility for the adverse circumstances" which the Bill would bring about; the Canadian National-Canadian Pacific Act which the present Bill would repeal includes detailed provisions concerning the compensation which employees should receive in cases of change of residence and loss of employment.

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GREAT BRITAIN
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Two unions resume campaign for 40-hour week

The National Union of Railwaymen is to resume its campaign for a 40-hour week in alliance with the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (both unions are ITF affiliates). The claim has already been twice rejected by the British Railways Board, the last time being a year ago, but then it was dropped in favour of the wage claim.

JAPAN
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Private railwaymen strike

Unions representing employees of private railway companies were due to stage a token strike on 17 March in support of their demands for a wage increase of ¥7,000 (about £7 or $19.60) per month and for the establishment of a minimum wage.

MALAYSIA
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Railwaymen work to rule

14,000 railway workers, members of the ITF-affiliated Railwaymen's Union of Malaya, began a work-to-rule campaign on 2 March to press the government to put into effect their status as government servants and the rights and privileges which go with that status. The union is determined to put up with no further delay on this question.

UNITED STATES
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Call for legislation on railway service cuts

The AFL-CIO will support legislation to safeguard the public interest in railway passenger services against increasing abandonment of interstate train services. It is supporting a plan which would give the Interstate Commerce Commission - the body which regulates transport across state borders - authority over the necessity to continue services in the light of public convenience and necessity. The ICC would also handle protection for workers adversely affected by abandonments of services.

The AFL-CIO has also adopted statements calling for a Congressional investigation of railway company mergers; calling upon Congress to undertake a thorough investigation of railway corporation finances, ownership and control to clarify "misleading" statements about railway earnings; and urging improvement of pensions and other benefits for retired railway employees.

ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

GREAT BRITAIN
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Provincial bus strike threat averted

The threat of a strike by 100,000 busmen employed by private companies outside London was averted on 5 March when the Minister of Labour agreed to set up a committee on inquiry into their dispute over pay and conditions. The unions' claims are for a pay increase of 15s. a week, a sick pay scheme, a reduction in the working week and an incentive bonus scheme for bus crews.

PORT WORKERS

INDIA
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Central Wages Board for port workers

A Central Wages Board for dock workers at India's major ports was set up on 13 November, and has recently recommended that dockers should receive higher cost-of-living allowances.

The Board is composed of three representatives each of the workers and the employers, and three independent members, one of whom, Mr. L.P. Dave, acts as chairman. The Board's terms of reference included considering granting an interim pay increase to dockers, linking the cost-of-living allowance to the prices index, and ending the contract labour system.

It was also asked to determine the categories of employees who could be brought within the scope of the wage fixing machinery. It was agreed that before evolving a wage structure, the Board would, besides considering what was a fair wage, also taken into account: the character of the port undertakings and their obligations to provide adequate port facilities necessary in a developing economy; the need for uniformity in the rates of pay and allowances of employees doing similar jobs at the different major ports; the requirements of social justice and the need to adjust wage differentials in such a manner as to promote incentives to workers who improved their skills; and the effect of the wage structure so evolved on the cost of port services and the desirability of extending the system of payment by results.

NETHERLANDS
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New wages agreements for Amsterdam and Rotterdam

The ITF-affiliated Netherlands Transport Workers' Union has

negotiated new agreements for its members employed in the ports of Rotterdam and Amsterdam, which run from 28 December 1964 to 31 December 1965. Basic pay is increased by 5% and gross weekly pay for dockers new ranges from 144.66 Guilders for an ordinary docker after six months' service to 170.84 Guilders for an experienced crane driver. These amounts are made up of basic pay, plus 10% cost-of-living allowance, plus a sum of 17.50 Guilders covering rent and other allowances. Gross weekly pay for port workers in jobs where most of the work is done with mechanical assistance ranges from 138.12 Guilders to 170.84 Guilders. (There are 10.13 Guilders to £1 and 3.60 to US$ 1.)

SEAFARERS

INTERNATIONAL

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Programme to improve health service for seafarers

A joint committee of the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization on the Health of Seafarers met in Geneva recently under the chairmanship of ITF General Secretary Pieter de Vries. It adopted a coordinated scheme designed to improve the health care of the world's merchant seafarers, following a WHO report which showed that treatment in ships not carrying a doctor was often poor, the standards and inspection of ships' medicine chests were inadequate, and medical guides were out of date. The scheme approved by the committee includes a revised international ships' medical guide which incorporates the most recent advances in medicine; a list of contents for ships' medicine chests;and a revised medical section for the International Code of Signals to enable a master to get accurate instructions by radio.

IMCO Conference to cut paper-work in ports

The Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization is holding a conference beginning on 24 March at which it will ask member governments to cooperate in an international programme aimed at abolishing excessive paper work which causes considerable delay at seaports. IMCO has been working towards an International Convention on this subject, and has drafted a Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic for examination and adoption by the Conference.

DENMARK

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New agreement for seafarers

Under a new agreement for Danish seafarers signed recently basic pay is increased by 30 Kr. per month (12 Kr. for junior seamen); a further increase of 20 kr. (8 kr. for junior seamen) is payable from 1 March 1966.

This gives new basic monthly pay rates as follows:

	1 March 1965	1 March 1966
Boatswain	Kr. 592.50	Kr. 612.50
Pumpman	568.00	588.00
Carpenter with 18 months' sea service	543.50	563.50
Carpenter with less than 18 months' sea service, and Able Seaman	519.50	539.00
Ordinary seaman	367.50	387.50
Junior seaman	134.00	142.00

Overtime pay is also increased to give the following half-hourly rates:

	1.3.65		1.3.66	
	Weekdays	Sundays & Holidays	Weekdays	Sundays & Holidays
Boatswain	2.54	3.25	2.60	3.33
Pumpman	2.46	3.15	2.53	3.23
Carpenter with 18 months' sea service	2.39	3.05	2.45	3.13
Carpenter with less than 18 months' sea service	2.31	2.96	2.37	3.04
Able seaman	2.31	2.96	2.37	3.04
Ordinary seaman	1.84	2.35	1.90	2.43
Junior seaman	1.04	1.34	1.07	1.37

Monthly seniority bonuses are increased as follows (previous amounts in brackets):

	After 1 yr.	After 3 yrs.	After 5 yrs.	After 10 yrs.
Boatswain, Pumpman, Carpenter	Kr. 45 (40)	65 (60)	80 (75)	130 (125)
	After 2 yrs			
Able seaman	45 (40)	60 (55)	75 (70)	105 (100)

The extra allowance payable to Boatswain, Pumpman, Carpenter and Able Seaman as compensation when they are away from Denmark for more than 5 months is increased from Kr. 35 to the following: over 5 months - Kr. 40 per month
over 12 months - Kr. 75 per month
over 18 months - Kr.100 per month

(There are 19.34 D. kr to £1 and 6.90 to US $1.)

CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS

GREAT BRITAIN
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BEA seeking change in pilots' flight time rules

British European Airways is attempting to negotiate a new agreement with its pilots under which salary increases would be linked with an increase in the number of hours pilots are allowed to be on duty. The present hours regulations are governed by a points system devised by an aviation medicine expert, and have been in operation about a year. A certain number of points are awarded to a pilot for each flight he makes, varying according to the type of airfields he has to use, the land-air communications; the temperature and humidity of the flight deck and the type of overnight accommodation available. Maximum points permissible are 170 per month.

BEA wishes to modify this system to allow "greater flexibility" in fixing pilots' duty times; it also says that it cannot grant a claim for higher pay unless the points system is revised.

TRADE UNION RIGHTS

SPAIN
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Arrests follow demonstrations

Following the demonstrations which have taken place recently in Spain in support of freedom of association and free trade unions, many workers have been arrested.

ZAMBIA
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Stricter control of trade unions in Zambia

Far-reaching changes have been made in the structure and control of trade unions in Zambia as a result of an Act passed recently by the Zambian Parliament. The Act, which is an amendment of the Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance, establishes a Zambian Trades Union Congress, whose rules can be drawn by the Minister of Labour. The Minister also has power under the law to appoint interim officers of the Congress until an election has been held.

The Act provides for a compulsory check-off for unions which have organised at least 60 per cent of the labour force in an industry. Such unions must be members of the Trades Union

Congress. The Act empowers the Registrar of Trade Unions to e exercise stricter control of unions, to deregister unions, which violate the provisions of the Act and approve the appointment of union officers.

The Act authorises the Minister to dissolve the TUC "if he is satisfied that the Congress has failed adequately to carry out its objects," and his decision is final. Provision is made for "prescribed decisions" which must be approved by the TUC otherwise the decision of affiliated unions would have no effect. Prescribed decisions include the decision of a union to hold a strike ballot or call out workers on strike, dissolution or amalgamation of unions, increases or decreases in the rate of subscriptions, the imposing of a levy and a decision to disaffiliate from the Congress. In effect this means that the TUC and its officials are responsible for calling and not calling strikes in the country, and no union can disaffiliate from the TUC for any reason.

Violation

The Act forbids trade unions in Zambia to accept outside assistance without the specific approval of the Minister. The relevant portion reads: "No trade union or federation of trade unions or officer or member thereof shall accept assistance in the form of cash, gifts, loans, donations, property, travel vouchers or tickets from any foreign government or from any agency or person acting on behalf of any foreign government except with the approval of the Minister."

Similarly the Act forbids any trade union or a federation of trade unions to affiliate to any organization outside Zambia without Ministerial approval. This means in effect that international affiliation and the acceptance of technical and material aid will no longer be a trade union decision but a political one. The ban on international affiliation violates Articles 2 and 5 of Convention 87 of the International Labour Organization which reads:

> "Workers and employers, without distinction whatsoever, shall have the right to establish and, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned, to join organizations of their own choosing without previous authorisation.
>
> "Workers' and employers' organizations shall have the right to establish and join federations and confederations and any such organization, federation or confederation shall have the right to affiliate with international organizations of workers and employers."

PERSONALIA

K.F. Pieterse, Treasurer of the Netherlands "Mercurius" Union which organizes clerical workers in road transport, retired on 15 March after 25 years in the service of the union.

NEWS IN BRIEF

International: The IMCO Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea has been accepted by two more countries, Yugoslavia and the Republic of China (Taiwan), bringing the total number of acceptances to 23. The Convention comes into force on 26 May 1965.

Great Britain: Members of the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union have now joined the strike of ground service staff employed by the independent airline BUA (see last Newsletter, (page 54). Talks which were being held under the chairmanship of a Ministry of Labour conciliation officer have broken down.

Kenya African Railway Workers' Union called its members out on strike from 4 to 8 March in support of a pay claim. The strike ended with an agreement that the dispute would be referred to the Industrial Court. Other unions including the Transport and Allied Workers' Union had threatened sympathy action. African railwaymen in Uganda, who were due to go on strike on 11 March, called off their action pending the result of the Kenya court decision, since their claims were similar.

Malawi railway workers have secured a 10% wage increase following negotiations by the ITF-affiliated Railway African Union. Other items in the new agreement include the check-off of union dues, paid annual leave, overtime and sick leave.

United States dockers in the ports of the South Atlantic and Gulf Coasts went back to work on 7 March after new contract provisions had been approved by ballot. The men had been on strike for 55 days.

COST OF LIVING

SWITZERLAND
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1 January 1963 - 100 points

1 March 1965 - 106.7 points.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS
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North Sea Ports	-	Bordeaux, 23 March 1965
Dockers' Section Conference	-	Bordeaux, 24-26 March, 1965
Executive Board	-	Frankfurt, 24-26 May, 1965
XXVIIIth Congress	-	Copenhagen, 28 July - 6 August.

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