

# ITF NEWSLETTER INFORMATIONS INFORMATIONEN INFORMATIONSBLAD

No. 9

29 April, 1965

IN THIS NUMBER : May Day message (p.82); ITF helps Chilean affiliate after earthquake (p.82); British government authorizes "liner" trains (p.83); IMCO Safety Committee (p.84); ILO Asian Maritime Conference (p.84); Belgian airport technicians strike (p.85); Air Canada flight attendants' agreement (p.85); TWA hostesses' agreement (p.86); Cost-of-living figures (Supplement).

MAY DAY 1965  
\*\*\*\*\*

On MAY THE FIRST the International Transport Workers' Federation sends warmest greetings to its affiliates throughout the free world. This is the day on which we remember the pioneers who paved the way for labour's present achievements, and rededicate ourselves to the aim of creating a fuller and happier life for ourselves and our children. This is the day on which the strong pledge themselves to help their weaker brothers. We recall that although the labour movements of some countries have reached positions of influence and power, there are still many areas where basic trade union rights are denied.

The ITF remains firmly attached to free trade unionism in the pursuit of economic security and social justice for transport workers regardless of race, colour or creed, and will continue to use all the methods at its disposal to promote these objectives.

## NEWS ABOUT THE ITF

LATIN AMERICA  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Help for Chilean union following earthquake

Following the earthquake which recently devastated a large area of Chile, the ITF head office in London sent a sum of \$500 to its affiliate the Chilean Maritime Confederation to assist those stricken by the disaster. The ITF's Latin American Regional Office in Lima has sent an appeal to the affiliates in the Region and to other

organizations seeking immediate financial help for Chile.

RAILWAYMEN

CANADA

\*\*\*\*\*

Labour law to be changed for workers' protection

Railway unions in Canada are seeking an amendment to the Industrial Relations and Dispute Act to prevent management taking advantage of a loophole which permits the unilateral introduction of technological changes - which might affect railwaymen's conditions of employment - during periods when collective agreements are closed. As things stand at present they are only obliged to negotiate such changes with the unions during a period when agreements are open for renewal, and can thus by-pass collective bargaining by holding back technological changes until contract negotiations are over.

The Minister of Labour has given an undertaking that the Act will be amended in line with the unions' request.

GREAT BRITAIN

\*\*\*\*\*

New pay and hours claims by railway unions

The National Union of Railwaymen and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen have submitted claims for a "substantial" pay increase - a figure of 6½% has been mentioned - and have asked for renewed discussion on their claim for a reduction in the working week from 42 to 40 hours. The claims are on behalf of British Railways and London Transport (Underground) staff.

Government authorizes introduction of "liner" trains

The Minister of Transport has authorized British Railways to go ahead with the introduction of liner trains - new rapid long-distance goods trains - on the terms proposed by the management. The National Union of Railwaymen recently reaffirmed its opposition to the present plans; whilst not opposed to the new service in principle, the union is not prepared to accept that private road hauliers should have access to liner train terminals, and it also objects to the proposal not to equip the new trains with brake-vans but to place guards in the rear of the locomotive. It feels that this might be the first step towards eliminating guards on all modern goods trains.

ITALY

\*\*\*\*\*

24-hour protest strike

A general strike of Italian railwaymen took place on 14 April in protest against the management's decision to pay a special bonus

to about 3,000 administrative and technical staff as a reward for their work on the railway modernization plans. This bonus was not authorized by the government.

INLAND NAVIGATION WORKERS

CANADA  
\*\*\*\*\*

New agreement for freight handlers

The Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees has informed us of a new agreement with Canada Steamship Lines Ltd. covering about 1,000 waterfront freight handlers at various inland navigation terminals from Montreal to Fort William. The agreement provides for wage increases of 30 cents an hour, 10 cents of which is effective from 16 April 1964, 10 cents from 16 April 1965 and 10 cents from 16 April 1966, giving an hourly rate of \$2.21 for 1965 and \$2.31 for 1966.

Night rates were also increased, giving time and a half for work on Saturday nights; Sundays and Public Holidays are already paid at time and a half. Annual leave is now 1 week after 1 season's service, 2 weeks after 2 seasons, 3 weeks after 10 seasons and 4 weeks after 15 seasons. A study is to be conducted to see whether all employees can be brought into a pension scheme.

SEAFARERS

INTERNATIONAL  
\*\*\*\*\*

IMCO Maritime Safety Committee meets

The Maritime Safety Committee of the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization is meeting in London from 29 April to 7 May to consider all aspects of IMCO's technical work during the past year. In particular the Committee will have before it a completely revised and modernized version of the International Code of Signals; the major part of a draft International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code and a draft Bulk Cargoes Code. The Committee will consider whether these Codes should be transmitted to the IMCO Assembly in September for formal adoption and recommendation to IMCO Member States.

ASIA  
\*\*\*\*

Second ILO Asian Maritime Conference - ITF represented

The second ILO Asian Maritime Conference is being held in Tokyo from 21 to 30 April. The ITF is represented by Assistant

General Secretary Lawrence White as an Observer, and ITF General Secretary Pieter de Vries is attending the Conference as a representative of the Workers' Side of the ILO Joint Maritime Commission.

The ILO has prepared a report on the application to Asian seafarers of ILO Recommendation No. 109 (1958) on Wages, hours and manning. The Director-General's Report emphasizes the importance and urgency of the following questions awaiting consideration by the Conference:

- Compliance on a larger scale with established ILO minimum maritime labour standards, in particular as regards wages, hours of work on board ship and manning;
- Development and extension of vocational training schemes;
- Inclusion of seafarers in a broader range of social security coverage;
- Extension of the machinery for the recruitment of seafarers to those ports where it does not exist;
- Provision of further medical and welfare facilities in Asian ports;
- Improvement of the cooperation between shipowners' and seafarers' organizations and the public authorities.

CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS
------------------------

BELGIUM  
\*\*\*\*\*

Strike of airport technicians

Technicians employed on servicing of radio and radar equipment at Brussels and Ostend airports went on strike on 12 April in support of their claim for a revision of salaries. They were joined for 24 hours on 17 April by all other airport staff who came out in sympathy. One of the unions involved is the Public Service Workers Union, whose civil aviation section is affiliated to the ITF.

CANADA  
\*\*\*\*\*

New agreement for Air Canada flight attendants

The ITF-affiliated Canadian Air Line Flight Attendants' Association has concluded a new agreement with Air Canada which provides for pay increases of 3% from 6 April 1965 and a further 3% from 5 April 1966. With effect from 1 July 1965 flight attendants will be credited with two statutory holidays for each full quarter worked, which will be granted during the period between 1 November and 31 April. Those with 20 years' service are entitled to four weeks' annual leave. Other improvements include higher meal allowances and a reduction of the employee's

contribution to the life insurance scheme with a corresponding increase in the company's contribution.

UNITED STATES  
\*\*\*\*\*

Hostesses' and Pursers' agreement with TWA

The Air Transport Division of the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Union of America has obtained a new contract with Trans World Airlines on behalf of its hostesses and pursers. The two-year agreement, which came into effect on 1 March 1965, provides for an increase of 4½% on basic pay rates, with an additional lump sum equivalent to 5% of earnings between 1 May 1964 and 1 March 1965. Domestic jet hostesses now get a starting rate of \$378.50 a month rising to a maximum of \$508.36 for a 78½-hour work month, with overtime after 70 hours. With effect from 31 December 1965 hours are to be reduced without loss of pay to 75 a month, with overtime after 68 hours. Domestic piston hostesses receive a starting rate of \$393.50, rising to \$508.33 a month for 85 hours with overtime after 70 hours. Their hours are reduced from 1 March 1966 to 80 a month, with overtime after 70 hours.

International hostesses receive a starting rate of \$454.26, rising to \$640.49 for 78½ hours, with overtime after 65 hours. International pursers receive a starting rate of \$498.21, rising to \$739.72 a month for 78½ hours, with overtime after 65 hours. In addition, all hostesses and pursers receive 50 cents per hour operational duty pay. Other improvements include a company financed retirement scheme for pursers; better sickness, hospital and injury benefits; higher moving expense allowance; free foreign language courses for hostesses; and a non-discrimination clause.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Argentine tram workers have recently obtained a 30% pay increase backdated to 1 October 1964 and effective for one year from that date.

The annual conference of the British Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers - the country's fifth largest union - has accepted the government's incomes and prices policy.

The Norwegian Shipowners' Association has stated that it is in favour of a proposal, to be discussed at this year's conference of the Norwegian Seamen's Union, to permit seamen to become established employees of one shipowner.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS  
\*\*\*\*\*

Executive Board - Frankfurt, 24-26 May, 1965  
XXVIIIth Congress - Copenhagen, 28 July - 6 August '65

\*\*\*\*\*

COST OF LIVING

We give below the latest cost-of-living figures published by the International Labour Organization.

1958 - 100 unless otherwise stated

Country	Month	Index Figure
Argentina	January 1965	652
Australia	December 1964	113
Austria	January 1965	120
Barbados	December 1964	110
Belgium	January 1965	113
Brazil	January 1965	1,732
British Guiana	December 1964	111
British Honduras	September 1964	104
Canada	January 1965	109
Chile	December 1964	444
Colombia	January 1965	191
Costa Rica	December 1964	114
Cyprus	January 1965	106
Denmark	January 1965	129
Dominican Republic	January 1965	112
Finland	January 1965	133
France <sup>1</sup>	January 1965	110
Germany (Fed. Rep.)	January 1965	115
Greece <sup>2</sup>	January 1965	108
Honduras	January 1965	112
Hong Kong	January 1965	108
Iceland	January 1965	168
India - All India	December 1964	141
- Bombay <sup>3</sup>	December 1964	137
- Delhi <sup>3</sup>	December 1964	135
Indonesia	June 1964	2,165
Ireland	November 1964	120
Israel	January 1965	141
Italy	January 1965	128
Jamaica	November 1964	121
Japan	January 1965	137

Continued...

Country	Month	Index Figure
Kenya - Africans <sup>4</sup>	January 1965	110
- Europeans	January 1965	113
Luxembourg	January 1965	110
Malaysia - Malaya <sup>5</sup>	November 1964	102
- Singapore <sup>6</sup>	January 1965	105
Malta	January 1965	118
Mexico	December 1964	115
Morocco	January 1965	131
Netherlands	December 1964	120
Netherlands Antilles	January 1965	106
New Zealand	December 1964	118
Nicaragua	January 1965	104
Nigeria <sup>7</sup>	October 1964	113
Norway	January 1965	123
Pakistan - Karachi	December 1964	113
Rhodesia - Africans <sup>8</sup>	December 1964	108
- Europeans	January 1965	116
Sierra Leone	December 1964	120
South Korea	December 1964	208
Sudan	December 1964	115
Sweden	January 1965	122
Switzerland	January 1965	115
Tanzania	January 1965	101
Trinidad & Tobago	January 1965	116
Tunisia <sup>9</sup>	January 1965	112
Turkey	November 1964	158
Uganda - Africans	January 1965	108
- Europeans	January 1965	117
United Arab Republic (Egypt)	November 1964	103
United Kingdom	January 1965	118
United States of America	January 1965	108
Uganda <sup>10</sup>	November 1964	159
Venezuela	December 1964	106
Zambia - Africans	December 1964	111
- Europeans	January 1965	116

Key

<sup>1</sup>1962 - 100; <sup>2</sup>1959 - 100; <sup>3</sup>1960 - 100; <sup>4</sup>1959 - 100; <sup>5</sup>1959 - 100;  
<sup>6</sup>1960 - 100; <sup>7</sup>1960 - 100; <sup>8</sup>1961 - 100; <sup>9</sup>1962 - 100; <sup>10</sup>1963 - 100.