

ITF

NEWSLETTER INFORMATIONS INFORMATIONEN INFORMATIONSBLAD

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NEWS ABOUT THE ITF

New Affiliations

The ITF has recently accepted applications for affiliation from the following organizations:

Turkish Civil Aviation Trade Union,
Karachi Tramway Workers' Union (Pakistan),
Organization of Karachi Port Trust Workers,
Senegal Transport Workers' Federation,
National Chinese Seamen's Union (Taiwan).

RAILWAYMEN

UNITED STATES

Bills to reduce railway working hours

Bills have been introduced in both houses of Congress to limit railway employees' working hours to from nine to twelve hours in any 24-hour period. At present most employees can be obliged to work 16 hours and some can even be required to remain on duty for 24 hours. The present legislation dates from 1907.

Employment pool for displaced engineers

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has reached agreement with the railway companies on the establishment of a national employment pool for qualified locomotive engineers. This is to assist engine drivers who have been declared redundant to obtain employment once again as jobs fall vacant. Names and addresses of former

engineers who wish to be considered for vacancies are to be supplied to all railway companies, and the latter are being recommended by their national negotiating body to consider every name on the list when recruiting. Eventually the BLE plans to work with the companies in developing an apprentice engineer programme.

ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

GREAT BRITAIN

Pay rise for London busmen

Drivers and conductors employed on London Transport buses are to receive a pay rise of 7% with effect from 23 June. This will mean increases of between 18s. and £1 per week.

New basic minimum scales will be:

Central London services - Conductor, £14 7s. 6d. per week; Driver, £15 3s. 6d. per week.

"Country" services - Conductor, £13 11s. 6d. per week; Driver £14. 5s. 0d. per week.

NORWAY

Taxi drivers may strike

Negotiations on new contracts for taxi drivers in Oslo, Asker and Baerum broke down on 25 May, and compulsory mediation is now taking place between the owners and the Norwegian Transport Workers' Union. Oslo taxi drivers will go on strike on 11 June unless agreement has been reached by then.

UNITED STATES

New York City - subway safety plan

The Mayor of New York has recently authorized a plan to provide greater safety on the city's underground railway system. City and NY Transit Authority police travel on subway trains between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m., and an electronic alarm system is to be installed in trains, platforms and change booths in the fight against crime.

The Transport Workers' Union of America welcomed this as a step in the right direction, but added that the union wanted a more comprehensive alarm system; this would extend to Transit Authority buses, where drivers should have a two-way radio for added protection.

PORT WORKERS

VENEZUELA

Norwegian ship boycotted

Venezuelan dockers boycotted the Norwegian ship Sunland at the port of Guanta on 7 June. Some Norwegian ships are being chartered by Canadian firms which trade with Cuba.

SEAFARERS

ARGENTINA

Seafarers' union dispute

The United Maritime Union of Argentina (SOMU) reports that it is in dispute with the Argentine tanker owners and with state and private shipowners in the river and foreign trades. The union's executive has set out a list of minimum demands relating to seniority pay, medical assistance, annual leave and compensation for loss of effects, and planned to go on strike for 48 hours on 9 and 10 June, prolonging this by a work-to-rule until 13 June, unless its claims were met.

FINLAND

Panamanian-flag ship brought under ITF agreement

The Spanish-owned s.s. Mati, registered in Panama, was refused port services in Kotka until an ITF-approved agreement had been signed giving the crew British pay rates as well as providing for contributions to the International Seafarers' Welfare Fund and compensation for the port workers' loss of pay during the boycott.

INDIA

New wage agreement

The National Union of Seamen of India, Calcutta, reports that it has reached agreement with the shipowners on a new collective agreement and pay rates, effective from 1 May, 1965. The new minimum wage is Rs. 147.50 per month (approx. £11 or US \$31). Each seaman receives an increase of Rs. 22.50. Overtime rates are Rs. 1.00 per hour for those earning Rs. 175.00 per month or less, and Rs. 1.25 per hour for those earning more than Rs. 175.00.

Paid annual leave entitlement is one day for every 20 days' articulated service; a subsistence allowance of Rs. 3.50 per day is also paid. Subsistence allowance at sea is Rs. 4.50 per day. Medical benefits give a seaman discharged sick or injured at an Indian port his full wages for a maximum period of 12 weeks. A seaman undergoing out-patient treatment is entitled to a subsistence allowance of Rs. 4.50 a day plus his travelling expenses. Hours of work are to be the subject of a separate settlement "as early as possible". A number of other improvements in fringe benefits have also been negotiated.

The following are a selection of the current minimum standard monthly wage rates for foreign-going seamen with effect from 1 May 1965. (There are approx. 13.33 Rupees to £1 and 4.76 to US \$1).

Deck Department

	Rs.
Bhandary (cook for ratings)	201.00
Bhandary Mate	147.50
Carpenter	432.00
Assistant Carpenter	323.50
Cassab (storekeeper)	212.00
Deck Maintenance Hand	241.00
Seacunny (Quartermaster)	307.00
Seaman I	201.00
Seaman II	190.00
Seaman III	173.50
Serang (Bosun)	323.50
1st Tindal (Bosun's mate)	260.50
Winchman	221.00

Engine Department

Coal Trimmer/Trainee Fireman	160.00
Engine Room Cleaner	172.50
Donkeyman	224.50
Fireman	184.50
Fitter	432.00
Fitter 2nd Class	327.50
Fitter/Electrician	432.00
Greaser	212.00
Pumpman	313.50
Assistant Pumpman	241.00

Saloon Department

Baker	340.00
Assistant Baker	274.00
Barman 1st Class	307.00
Barman 2nd Class	241.00
Captain's Steward	221.00
Engineers' Steward	221.00
Officers' Steward	221.00
Chief Ship's Cook	340.00
Ship's Cook	291.00
2nd cook	241.00
3rd Cook (Passenger)	190.00

Saloon Department (cont'd)

	Rs.
3rd Cook (Cargo)	160.00/173.50
Pantryman 1st Class	257.50
Pantryman	241.00
Chief Steward	406.00
Steward	356.50
2nd Steward	273.50
Night Steward	241.00
Head Waiter (Cargo)	241.00
Head Waiter (Cargo/Passenger)	257.00

UNITED STATES

Threat of strike action

Unless agreement can be reached between seafarers' organizations and the shipping companies on new contracts, there will be a general strike of US seamen after 15 June.

CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS

UNITED STATES

New flight attendant contracts

The Air Line Stewards' and Stewardesses' Association of the Transport Workers' Union has obtained new contracts for members employed by Eastern Airlines, Northeast Airlines and Pacific Airlines. At Eastern, new basic monthly rates have been increased to range from \$340 to \$460, with effect from 1 May 1965. Supplements on jets range from \$4.81 to \$6.58 per hour for each hour over 70 per month in the first year of the contract, rising to from \$6.01 to \$8.23 for all hours over 67 per month with effect from 1 May 1966. Maximum hours are 80 in the first year and 75 in the second.

At Pacific Airlines basic rates from 1 March 1965 are from \$287 to \$403; in addition flight attendants are paid \$4 for each hour flown after 60 per month, \$4.65 after 70 hours, and \$4.90 after 80 hours. These rise to \$4.60, \$5.25 and \$5.50 on 1 March 1966 and to \$5.00, \$5.65 and \$5.90 on 1 March 1967.

New rates at Northeastern after a \$25 a month increase range from \$355 to \$465; penalty rates are paid for hours in excess of 70 per month, and there is a maximum of 85 hours per month on piston aircraft and 80 on jets.

All three contracts also provide improvements in conditions and fringe benefits, and all include a clause prohibiting discrimination because of race, colour or creed in hiring, promotion or working conditions.

GENERAL

ITALY

Transport unions call for national transport body

The Trade Union Committee of Transport and Allied Workers (whose creation was reported in the last issue of this Newsletter) has called upon the Italian Minister of Transport to set up a National Committee to work out a comprehensive transport policy for the country.

TRADE UNION RIGHTS

SPAIN

Changes in anti-strike legislation?

The Spanish Minister of Labour has announced in a statement to the ILO that "economic and occupational strikes" will no longer be criminal offences. Legal machinery for the settlement of disputes, starting with arbitration, was being set up.

The government plans to distinguish between strikes with a political motive and those caused by purely economic and social grievances. The former would be dealt with firmly, the latter settled by negotiation. The problem, of course, centres on who is to decide if a strike is political or economic and on how the distinction is to be made.

Present legislation states that strikes by workers and by persons engaged in public services will be punished as acts of sedition. Penalties include prison terms of as much as 12 years, and deportation to other parts of the country.

PERSONALIA

Anthony Matz is retiring as President of the US Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers on 1 July this year. He will be succeeded by William E. Fredenberger, now Secretary-Treasurer of the union.

E. Greve Petersen, President of the Danish Locomotivemen's Association, celebrates his fiftieth birthday on 19 June.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia: With effect from 15 March 1965, the Industrial Commission awarded railway operating and workshop staff pay increases ranging from 15s. per week for labourers to £2.1s. per week for skilled senior grades. (Australian £ equals £1. 5s. sterling)

Mexico: Gulf and Pacific ports may be affected by a strike of port workers planned for 15 June unless new contracts can be agreed by then.

United States: A Federal Court has ordered postponement of a proposed merger between the Atlantic Coast Line and the Seaboard railway companies, which had been approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission; the court found that the latter had given insufficient consideration to the public interest and to the elimination of healthy competition which the merger would entail.

United States: Seafarers', dockers' and shipbuilding unions joined in a demonstration in Washington recently to protest against the government's shipping policies and to press for the build-up of the US-flag merchant marine fleet.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Fair Practices Committee	- Stockholm 14,15 June 1965
Sub-Committee on Railway Pay Structure--	London, 1, 2, July 1965
Executive Board	- Copenhagen, 26,27 July 1965
XXVIII Congress	- Copenhagen 28 July - 6 August, 1965

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