

ITF NEWSLETTER INFORMATIONS INFORMATIONEN INFORMATIONSBLAD

No. 21

28 October, 1965

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RAILWAYMEN

ARGENTINA

Plan for rehabilitation of railways agreed

The Argentine State Railways management (EFEA) and the two railway trade unions have agreed on the principles of a plan to reshape the system to provide a good service for the nation. The unions -- the ITF-affiliated Locomotivemen's Union "La Fraternidad" and the Railwaymen's Union -- have welcomed this development, and pledged themselves to do all in their power to see that the plan succeeds. The plan's objectives are to reduce the railways' deficit; repair the locomotives and rolling stock; and renovate the track, with priority given to the main lines.

- In two years' time, and thereafter annually, an analysis will be made of the results obtained and the plan will if necessary be modified in accordance with these findings;
- There will be no reduction of staff except through resignation, retirement, death and dismissal for disciplinary reasons;
- The railway workshops will be reorganized and their productivity increased as quickly as possible; no measures will be adopted which might lead to a restriction of the workshops' functions;
- The present track network will be maintained in its entirety, and no measures will be adopted which might prevent the network being extended to serve developing areas;

-- The trade unions concerned will be consulted on the application of the plan.

COSTA RICA

Technical assistance for job evaluation

In response to a request from the Costa Rica Railwaymen's Union, the ITF Regional Office in Lima has helped to arrange for a technical expert, Eli Oliver, to assist them in a job evaluation exercise. Mr. Oliver, who was a member of the US Railway Labor Executives' Association delegation to the ITF Congress earlier this year, is giving his services under the auspices of the Organization of American States.

The Mexican Railwaymen's Union had also offered to send a technical expert to assist the Costa Rican railwaymen, but the OAS arrangement had already been accepted owing to the urgent nature of the request. This ready expression of international solidarity has been much appreciated.

GERMANY

Railwaymen's Conference decides programme

Delegates to the ITF-affiliated German Railwaymen's Union conference have agreed on a programme of claims for the union to pursue. These include the introduction of the 40-hour, 5-day week, and a corresponding reduction in the maximum permissible weekly hours; increased participation by the employees in management decision-making; reduction of the pensionable retirement age to 60 years; and generally improved social welfare provisions.

GREAT BRITAIN

Pay claim referred to Incomes Board

The claims for improved pay and conditions put forward by the three railway unions are to be referred to the National Board for Prices and Incomes for examination. Earlier the National Union of Railwaymen had decided to send their claim to arbitration, but, together with the Association Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and the Transport Salaried Staffs Association, agreed to let their original claims go before the Incomes Board on condition that the last offer by the Railways Board would be implemented immediately. For terms of this offer, see Newsletter No. 19 of 30 September 1965, page 165.

Road haulage firm contract with British Railways

A large private road haulier has entered into an agreement with British Railways which involves the diversion of virtually the whole of the firm's London-Scotland freight to the railways.

The haulage company has commissioned a five-days-a-week train service between London and Glasgow for its exclusive use. The agreement is for at least 20 years, and the company has leased railway land to construct its own terminals. The National Union of Railwaymen has protested at what it calls an invasion of the nationalized railways, and asks why the railways have failed to get this traffic and been placed in the second-rate position of acting as an agent for private enterprise.

GUATEMALA

New agreement for IRCA employees

The ITF-affiliated Guatemala Railwaymen's Union has concluded a new collective agreement with the IRCA railway company. This agreement, effective for 2½ years, provides for a minimum daily wage of 2.00 quetzales (approx. US \$2.00 or 14s. 4d.); a dental service in addition to the existing medical service; a guaranteed pension plan; and long-service bonuses.

ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

PERU

Bus workers' strike settled

A 16-day strike by bus workers in Lima was settled on 23 September when the Minister of Labour ordered the bus companies to pay the workers an increase of 8 soles per day, retroactive to July 1962, the date when it should have been implemented. (8 soles equals approx. 2s. or US \$0.32).

While the bus strike was still on, on 18 September the tram workers also stopped work; they have received no pay since July, and are owed social benefits going back to 1960. They have the full support of the Lima Regional Office, and the ITF General Secretary has addressed a letter to the Peruvian President supporting the tram workers and stressing the need for urgent measures to remedy the crisis affecting the tram service. The ITF has also made a donation to a fund to help the men and their families.

UNITED STATES

Passenger transport workers' programme of claims

The New York membership of the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Union, employed by passenger transport companies, have agreed a programme of claims. These include demands for a 4-day, 32-hour week; a 30% pay increase; an annual guaranteed salary; 5 weeks'

vacation after one year's service; double time for work on statutory holidays; 5% bonus for shift work from 6.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. on weekdays and all day Saturdays and Sundays; and a \$100-a-year uniform allowance.

INLAND NAVIGATION WORKERS

PERU

River transport workers' agreement

Following the decision of the Ganzo Azul Oil Co. to transfer its transport department from Iquitos to Pucallpa, inland navigation workers employed by the company have obtained a new agreement which provides that:

- Bonus payments of 15% for transporting inflammable goods, which have not been paid since 13 April 1961, will be paid in full;
- With effect from 30 September this 15% bonus will become part of basic pay;
- All staff affected by the transfer will receive a disturbance allowance of 15% based on pay received during the past 15 months; the company will pay removal expenses of the worker and his family.

PORT WORKERS

PAKISTAN

ITF supports Karachi affiliate

In response to an appeal from the Organization of Karachi Port Trust Workers, the ITF General Secretary has informed the employers that the ITF is greatly concerned at the delay in settling the claims submitted by the union, urging the Authority to accede to these just demands and promote industrial peace in the port.

TURKEY

Strike against Maritime Bank

The ITF-affiliated Port and Land Stevedores' Union of Turkey is in dispute with the Turkish Maritime Bank, which operates ships. The union had been negotiating with the Bank for several months, and

went on strike in support of its claims on 19 October in the ports of Istanbul and Trabzon; in Izmir the government has postponed the strike as it has authority to impose a 3-month waiting period. Affiliated unions have been asked to take action against ships of this company in solidarity with the Turkish union.

SEAFARERS

GREECE

Seamen on foreign vessels excluded from social security

The Greek Merchant Marine Ministry has recently announced that Greek merchant seafarers - officers and ratings - serving on board foreign-owned vessels will not be eligible for the benefits available to other Greek seafarers under the provisions of the Greek Seamen's Social Security Fund. It has also been decided that the time spent on foreign-owned vessels will not count as sea service for the purposes of determining eligibility to sit for promotion examinations.

ISRAEL

Zim to try "alternation" system

The Zim Israel Navigation Co. Ltd. and the ITF-affiliated Israeli Seamen's Union have started an experiment for the reduction of ships' complements by permitting men to do work in different departments. In the 28,000 ton cargo ship Elat, the regular complement of 37 men is reduced to 31 by eliminating the posts of chief steward, three deck hands and one each from the engine and catering departments. The reduced crew will get a fixed monthly bonus as compensation for the extra work load.

UNITED STATES

3-year contract for SIU members

Members of the ITF-affiliated Seafarers' International Union employed on deep-sea tankers, freighters and passenger ships belonging to members of the American Merchant Marine Institute have obtained a new three-year contract. This provides pay increases ranging from \$18.04 to \$37.17 a month in basic pay. An AB's new basic rate is now \$392.58 per month (£140 4s.). The contract also provides increased overtime rates and other fringe benefits.

Radio officers' strike

A strike by members of the ITF-affiliated American Radio Association ended on 20 October with an agreement on a new four-year contract with the Pacific Maritime Association. The strike had tied up a number of ships in four west coast ports and in Hawaii. Details of the settlement are not yet available.

CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS

GREAT BRITAIN

Strike threat averted

The threat of strike action by baggage porters, firemen and drivers at British airports was averted on 26 October when their employers, the Ministry of Aviation, conceded in principle that they should be given parity of pay with State airline employees. Negotiations between the ITF-affiliated Transport & General Workers' Union and the Ministry are continuing.

PERSONALIA

Arne Kruse has been elected head of the transport group of the Danish Transport & General Workers' Union.

Michael J. Quill, International President of the Transport Workers' Union of America, celebrated his sixtieth birthday last month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Denmark: the deadline for the strike of Danish radio officers has been postponed for the third time - until 27 October.

Great Britain: representatives of railway footplate staff have accepted an offer of bonus payments based on recommendations by a court of inquiry recently (see Newsletter No. 19 of 30 September).

Greece: seafarers are to receive a bonus for service in Vietnamese waters equivalent to 100% of salary; it will apply for a period of not less than 15 days.

Japan: the All Japan Seamen's Union has reached deadlock in its negotiations with the Coastal Shipowners' Association on a pay claim, and is contemplating strike action.

United States: the bill to repeal Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, which allows States to ban union shop agreements, has been put off for the current session of Congress following a filibuster in the Senate.

CORRECTIONS to last issue of Newsletter.

1. We regret that Peru was omitted from the cost-of-living figures given in the supplement. The latest available figure is for May 1965: 158 compared with 100 in 1960.
2. In the late report on the Peruvian railwaymen's settlement, there is a mistake in the item about four additional holidays with pay; this should read: 2 for Peruvian Independence and 2 at Christmas.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fair Practices Committee | - London, 11-13 November, 1965 |
| Management Committee | - London, 15 November, 1965 |
| Executive Board | - London, 16-18 November, 1965 |
| Asian Seamen's Committee | - London, 24-26 November, 1965. |

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