

ITF NEWSLETTER

INFORMATIONS INFORMATIONEN INFORMATIONSBLAD

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RAILWAYMEN

GREECE

Strike prevented by government action

Greek railway workers were obliged to report to work on 8 November after the government issued civil call-up orders to stop them from striking. The strike was to have been in the form of six-hour stoppages on three consecutive days to press a claim for higher pay.

MALAYA

Railwaymen's Union attacks management

The ITF-affiliated Railwaymen's Union of Malaya is charging the railway administration with inefficiency and malpractices and is demanding a public inquiry into its operations. The union also has grievances against the administration concerning pension rights and promotion prospects.

ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

FRANCE

Compensation for time spent away from base

An improvement of 5% has recently been made to the amounts payable

as meal and overnight allowances for road transport workers required to spend time away from home. With effect from 25 October 1965, single meal allowance is set at 4.20 Fr., or 6.20 Fr. if the driver has not been given at least one day's notice that he will have to take a meal away from base. If, because the normal timetable has been overstepped, the working day ends after 9.30 p.m., the driver receives 6.20 Fr. for his evening meal.

The allowance for two meals when the working day ends after 10 p.m. is 12.40 Fr.

Overnight allowance (irregular) is: 11.05 Fr. for bed and breakfast; 6.20 Fr. for each meal, i.e. 23.45Fr. for 24 hours. Drivers who spend either 3 consecutive days or 9 days per month in the same locality receive 10.10 Fr. for bed and breakfast, 5.75 Fr. for each meal, i.e. 21.60 for 24 hours.

PORT WORKERS

KOREA

Dockers' union seeks improved welfare facilities

The ITF-affiliated Korean National Dockers' Union reports that at its recent annual conference it was agreed to press for improved pay and to campaign for the establishment and expansion of social welfare facilities in ports. A previous campaign in 1963 resulted in the establishment of recreation rooms, cafeterias and two hospitals, and it is hoped that the new drive will succeed in extending these facilities.

TURKEY

Dock strike over

The ITF-affiliated Turkish dock workers' union has cabled that its strike against the Turkish Maritime Bank was settled on 5 November.

SEAFARERS

DENMARK

Radio officers' strike prohibited

On 28 October the Danish parliament passed a law forbidding the radio officers to strike in support of their pay claim; instead the claim is now to go to compulsory arbitration. This follows

seven months of negotiations and attempts at conciliation which were rejected out of hand by the shipowners. The ITF-affiliated Radio Officers' Association has protested strongly against this compulsion. The arbitration award will be published by 30 November.

New pay scales for ratings

The pay scales laid down in March this year for Danish seafarers have been adjusted with effect from 1 September to take account of increases in the cost of living.

<u>Three-watch ships</u>	<u>Basic</u>	<u>Cost-of-living</u>	<u>Total</u>
Boatswain	Kr.842.25	602.50	1,444.75
Pumpman	817.75	602.50	1,420.25
Carpenter with 18 months sea service	793.25	602.50	1,395.75
Able Seaman	768.75	611.50	1,380.25
Ordinary Seaman	442.50	657.00	1,099.50
Junior Seaman	159.00	247.00	406.00
Deck Boy	143.00	247.00	390.00
<u>Two-watch ships*</u>			
Boatswain	842.25	756.00	1,598.25
Pumpman	817.75	756.00	1,573.75
Carpenter (18 m. sea service)	793.25	756.00	1,549.25
Carpenter (less than 18 m.)	768.75	765.50	1,534.25
Able Seaman	768.75	765.50	1,534.25
Ordinary Seaman	442.50	799.50	1,242.00
Junior Seaman	159.00	276.75	435.75
Deck boy	143.00	276.75	419.75
*Two-watch supplement of Kr. 50.00 to be added to all these.			

Dirt money per month: Boatswain, pumpman, carpenter and able seaman - Kr. 48.40; ordinary seaman - Kr. 24.83; junior seaman - Kr. 11.11; deck boy - Kr. 9.84.

<u>Overtime</u> (per half hour)	Weekdays	Sundays & Public Holidays and from 21.00 to 06.00 h.
Boatswain	Kr. 4.23	5.21
Pumpman	4.15	5.11
Carpenter (18 m.sea service)	4.08	5.01
Carpenter (less than 18 m.)	4.03	4.95
Able Seaman	4.03	4.95
Ordinary Seaman	3.69	4.49
Junior Seaman	1.73	2.14
Deck Boy	1.70	2.09

(There are Kr. 19.35 to £1 and 7 to U.S. \$1).

GREAT BRITAIN

Pay claim turned down

Shipowners have rejected claims by the ITF-affiliated National Union of Seamen for improved pay and overtime, shorter hours and longer annual leave. They have, however, agreed to consider claims for improved fringe benefits, among which are subsistence payments ashore, tanker bonuses, a proposal that only essential duties should be performed on board ships at weekends, and rest-periods at sea.

ICELAND

New agreement for seamen

The Icelandic seamen's union reports that a new collective agreement was recently signed for seamen which provides for a 5.2% increase in the monthly wage, a 13.1% rise in overtime pay and an additional 2.5% rise in overtime pay for those who have 2 years' sea service, with an extra 5% for those with 4 years' sea service. Instead of a cut in working hours, the agreement gives an additional 20 days' holiday a year; if these are not taken as leave they are paid for at the year's end, or when a man signs off his ship, each day qualifying for 1/30th of a month's salary plus 60%. Seamen are entitled to 4 days off for each month at sea, plus other public holidays and negotiated rest days totalling about 11 to 13 each year. In addition they receive 21 days' annual leave.

Life insurance benefit, or total disability benefit, has been increased from Kr. 200,000 to Kr. 300,000, plus the Kr. 200,000 prescribed by law. Sick leave is one month on full pay for those with less than 2 years' service, 6 weeks for 2

years, and 9 weeks for 3 or more years' service. For injury this period of full pay is 4 weeks, 8 weeks and 12 weeks respectively.

New monthly wage rates, including a 4.88% rise as compensation for the cost-of-living increase, which operated from 1 September, are as follows:

	Starting rate	After 2 years	After 4 years	After 6 years
Boatswain, Carpenter	I.Kr.8,099	8,352	8,606	8,859
Able Seaman	7,108	7,362	7,615	7,869
Chief Stoker, Diesel engine oiler	8,437	8,700	8,964	9,228
Stoker, cleaner	8,005	8,269	8,533	8,796

Overtime (per half hour):Kr. 38.30, rising to Kr. 39.26 after 2 years and 40.22 after 4 years.

(There are Kr. 121 to £1 and 43 to US \$1).

FISHERMEN

INTERNATIONAL

New draft instruments for fishermen agreed by ILO Conference

Unanimous agreement was reached on conclusions concerning all three agenda items discussed at the ILO Preparatory Technical Conference on Fishermen's Questions held in Geneva from 18 to 28 October. The Conference was preceded by a meeting of the ITF members of the Workers' Group, which took place in the same city on 16 October.

The three agenda items dealt with were accommodation on board fishing vessels; vocational training for fishermen; and fishermen's certificates of competency. The Conference itself was a follow-up to the work of the 1962 ILO Committee on Conditions of Work in the Fishing Industry and, as was the case with that Committee, most of the Workers' representatives came from ITF-affiliated organizations. It took the place of the first stage in the ILO double-discussion procedure, which means that the Conclusions it reached -- taking the form of draft international instruments --

will now be submitted for final approval to next year's International Labour Conference.

The results of the Conference represent a considerable success for the Workers' Group since the Conclusions take the form of suggested Conventions covering both accommodation and certificates of competency and of a suggested Recommendation on vocational training. The Conclusions on accommodation, which are extremely comprehensive, apply to all fishing vessels of 75 gross registered tons and over, with a further clause sponsored by the Workers' Group which states that the competent national authority can also determine its application to vessels of 25 to 75 gross tons after consultation with fishermen's organizations and fishing vessel owners, where this is reasonable and practicable.

The Conclusions on certification, which refer specifically to skippers, mates and engineers, apply to ships of 25 gross tons and over. A certificated skipper would be required on such vessels, a certificated mate on ships of 100 gross tons and over, and a certificated engineer on vessels of a given engine power to be determined by national authorities.

The Conclusions on vocational training reinforce those on certification by stating that national standards should be established for certificates of competency or diplomas covering not only skippers, mates and engineers, but also bosuns, skilled fishermen, cooks, or other deck and engine room personnel. A skilled fisherman is defined as "any experienced member of the deck crew working on board a fishing vessel, participating in the operation of the vessel, preparing gear for fishing, catching fish, loading catch and processing it, and maintaining and repairing nets or other fishing equipment."

Chairman and Spokesman for the Workers' Group during the Conference was R. Dekeyzer (Belgium), Vice-Chairman of the ITF Fishermen's Section, who also acted as spokesman in the Working Party on Accommodation. His deputy was J. Buquet (Netherlands). Einar Haugen, Section Chairman, was appointed Workers' Vice-President of the Conference. Heinz Wiemers (Germany) led the Workers' Group in the Working Party on Vocational Training and Certification. The following ITF representatives also served as members or deputy members of the two Working Parties: R. Head (United Kingdom); L. Balinger (United States), G. Nakano and H. Sekine (Japan), E. Haugen and I. Nes (Norway), J. Buquet (Netherlands) and F. Annerl (Germany). K.A. Golding of the ITF Secretariat was Secretary of the Workers' Group.

A fuller report on the Conference, together with the Conclusions adopted is being sent to all fishermen's affiliates. An article giving a more detailed assessment of the results achieved will appear in the ITF Journal.

SCANDINAVIA

Scandinavian agreement on 12-mile fishing limit

Danish, Norwegian and Swedish fishery organizations have agreed

that there should be a general extension of existing international fishing limits to 12 miles, but that there should be a four-mile limit between their three countries. This proposal is now to be submitted to the three respective governments.

CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS

FRANCE

Flying staff to strike - international solidarity requested

The ITF-affiliated French Flying Staff Association has informed the ITF that it is calling its members employed by Air France out on strike from midnight 23 November to midnight 27 November. It has been obliged to take this step since it has exhausted the normal means of negotiation in its attempts to obtain a 5.2% pay increase awarded to other Air France employees. This has been refused the flying staff despite a clause in their collective agreement which states that they shall not be allowed to fall behind in relation to other Air France employees. Solidarity action is being requested from ITF affiliates.

PERSONALIA

Sam Henderson: it is with regret that we report the death on 8 November at the age of 61 of Sam Henderson, national bus officer of the British Transport & General Workers' Union.

Fritz Prechtel has been elected President of the Austrian Railwaymen's Union in succession to the late Josef Matejcek.

R.C. Smith, vice president of the Transportation-Communication Employees Union, has been elected chairman of the joint negotiating committee of the non-operating railway unions in Canada in succession to Frank Hall. Charles Smith, vice president of the Maintenance of Way Employees, has been elected co-chairman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The British Mercantile Marine Service Assoc., which organizes ships' captains, intends to seek a large increase in pay if the government and shipowners adopt a court of inquiry recommendation that captains should face instant dismissal for immoderate speed in fog. The aim would be to give a captain a large bank balance early in his career as a safeguard against dismissal.

Great Britain: the first liner train service - between London and Glasgow - will start on 22 November. British Railways Scottish Region has emphasized that only BR lorries would be used to serve the trains and that private road hauliers would not be admitted to the London and Glasgow terminals for the time being.

Greece: our report in the last Newsletter that Greek seafarers were to receive a 100% Vietnam war-risk bonus was somewhat premature. The ITF-affiliated Panhellenic Seafarers' Federation had not in fact accepted the agreement, since a number of points had still to be settled satisfactorily.

Netherlands seafarers have obtained a Vietnam war-risk bonus of 100% with effect from 1 November; this is payable for all time spent in Vietnamese ports, with a minimum of five days.

Sudanese railwaymen went on strike for four days from 26 October in support of claims for wage increases and better working conditions.

Uruguay: Public servants including transport workers struck for 72 hours from 13 to 15 October in support of claims for higher pay. Their stoppage coincided with a 24-hour general strike called on 13 October by the national centre. Negotiations are now going on between the government and unions concerned.

COST OF LIVING

January 1963 - 100

Netherlands - mid-September 1965 - 111.22 points.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Management Committee	- London 15 November 1965
Executive Board	- London 16-18 November 1965
Asian Seamen's Committee	- London 24-26 November 1965.