

# ITF NEWSLETTER

## INFORMATIONS

## INFORMATIONEN

## INFORMATIONSBLAD

No. 2

20 January, 1966

IN THIS NUMBER: Belgian railwaymen's pay rise (p. 12); British railwaymen plan national strike (p. 13); Malayan railwaymen may join pension scheme (p. 13); New York transport strike over (p. 14); Netherlands dockers turn down pay and hours offer (p. 14); Danish seamen boycott new tanker (p. 15); Japanese seamen's strike plan (p. 15); French flying staff plan further strike action (p. 16):

### RAILWAYMEN

BELGIUM  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### New two-year agreement for public servants

Belgian public service workers, including railway employees, benefit from a new two-year agreement negotiated by the Common Front of Christian and socialist unions. The agreement - which runs from 1 January 1966 to 31 December 1967 - provides for increases in the guaranteed minimum wage of 3,500 Fr. per year effective 1.1.66 and a further 3,000 Fr. effective 1.1.67. In addition, all wage rates are increased by 3,000 Fr. effective 1.4.66 and again by the same amount on 1.4.67. Holiday pay goes up from 4,000 Fr. to 5,000 Fr. during 1966 and to 5,500 Fr. in 1967. Compensation for night work is set at an extra 5 Fr. per hour, and for Sunday work double time is paid. (140 B.Fr. to £1 and 50 to US \$1.)

Railwaymen went on to the 43 hour week on 1 January 1966.

GERMANY  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### Railwaymen demand hours cut

The ITF-affiliated German Railwaymen's Union has protested against proposals by the government for further cuts in Federal Railways staff unless these are accompanied by a long overdue reduction in the maximum permissible working hours of 54 per week. The union states that railwaymen are not prepared to put up with any further increase in the work load.

The union has also given notice to terminate pay agreements for Federal Railways employees with effect from 31 March 1966. No detailed claims have yet been formulated, but they will be based on increases in the cost of living, and on the expected increase in national productivity.

GREAT BRITAIN  
\*\*\*\*\*

National strike threatened by NUR

The ITF-affiliated National Union of Railwaymen has called a national rail strike from 14 February in protest against the rejection of its claim for a substantial pay increase by the government's Prices and Incomes Board. The railway unions agreed last year to allow their pay claims to go before the Board and to accept as an interim measure an offer of 3½% in October last year; a further 3½% in October 1966; 2 days' additional annual leave for those with 10 years' service or more; and the 40-hour week from April 1966.

The Prices and Incomes Board report, which has been welcomed by the British Railways management, stated that railway manual workers did not merit any improvement on this settlement, basing its judgment on an average earnings figure of £18 17s. per week. The NUR has protested against the use of this figure, since it includes overtime earnings. The union also objects to the Board's failure to compare railway pay with that in outside industry.

The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen has also rejected the Board's report, and is seeking a meeting with the Minister of Economic Affairs.

MALAYA  
\*\*\*\*\*

Pension arrangements for railway employees

The Malayan government has recently informed the ITF-affiliated Railwaymen's Union of Malaya that since railway employees are recognized as having the status of public servants they are also eligible to join the public service pension scheme. An assessment will be made to determine which posts will qualify as pensionable, in accordance with the standards currently applied to posts in the other public services. Pensionable status will then apply with effect from 19 August 1964, the date on which it was decided that railway employees were members of the public service.

Railway employees occupying pensionable posts will be given the option either of joining the pension scheme or continuing to belong to the Railway Provident Fund.

ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

PERU  
\*\*\*\*

Streetcar workers' dispute settled

Tramway workers formerly employed by the CNT (National Streetcar Company), who had been on strike over non-payment of wages, have now obtained a satisfactory settlement from the Peruvian government. The government will pay all overdue wages, and holiday and social security benefits, part of the money being raised from the sale of the company's assets which were handed to the government when the company went bankrupt. The employees also receive compensation for loss of employment, and a period of six months' grace has been allowed during which routes formerly operated by the CNT will be granted to any organized group or transport cooperative composed of former CNT employees. In addition, re-training schemes are to be established for the benefit of displaced tramwaymen, and the streetcar unions are cooperating in a programme to train their out-of-work members as bus drivers, since it is anticipated that buses will take over the old tram routes.

The ITF Regional Director for Latin America, J. Otero, reports that the ITF's moral and financial assistance has been of great value in helping to obtain this settlement.

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

New York strike over

New York's bus and subway employees went back to work on 13 January following agreement between the Transit Authority and the two ITF-affiliated unions involved, the Transport Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Transit Union. The settlement, based on a mediation proposal, provides for wage increases totalling 15% in three stages: from 1 January 1966, 1 January 1967 and 1 June 1967; pension benefits are also improved. (Further details of the agreement will be given as soon as these are available.)

The nine union leaders arrested for contempt of court on 4 January were released as soon as the settlement was reached. Michael Quill, President of the TWU, remained in hospital where he is still recovering from the heart attack he suffered after his arrest.

PORT WORKERS

NETHERLANDS  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dockers reject pay and hours offer

Dock workers in the ports of Amsterdam and Rotterdam have turned down an offer of a 7% pay increase and other improvements. The

figure of 7% is considered insufficient to compensate for recent increases in the cost of living and the dockers also want faster progress in the reduction of the working week. The offer was to cut hours from the present 42½ per week to 41¼ on 1 July 1967.

SEAFARERS

DENMARK  
\*\*\*\*\*

Boycott of new tanker over manning

The ITF-affiliated Danish Seamen's Union has ordered a boycott of the new 92,000 t. Danish tanker "A. P. Møller". The company, whose name the ship carries, has been given a dispensation from the manning regulations to allow the vessel to sail with only 10 deck crew instead of 12. The ship is at present lying in Amsterdam, but is expected in Copenhagen on 24 January. The Danish ombudsman is currently investigating a claim by the union on the question of manning dispensations.

GREAT BRITAIN  
\*\*\*\*\*

NUS resubmits pay claim

The ITF-affiliated National Union of Seamen has resubmitted its claim for pay increases which was turned down by the ship-owners last November. This time the shipowners have deferred a reply to this and other claims, including proposals concerning hours of work at sea and improved fringe benefits. The ratings' panel of the National Maritime Board is due to meet again on 1 February.

Shell drop scheme for "general purpose" crews

The experiment which Shell were proposing to conduct using "general purpose" crews (Newsletter No. 18 of 16 September 1965) has been dropped owing to failure to agree with the National Union of Seamen on the amount of extra compensation to be paid to men operating the scheme. Talks on the bonus payments had been conducted with the Shipping Federation, the NUS asking for £8 per month per man, while the owners were only prepared to offer £4.

JAPAN  
\*\*\*\*\*

Fourth wave of seamen's strike planned

The ITF-affiliated All-Japan Seamen's Union has announced that the fourth wave of its strike will begin at midnight on 24 January and last for about two weeks. The shipowners are reported to be prepared to take all possible measures to counteract the new strike threat, including a lockout.

FISHERMEN

GREAT BRITAIN  
\*\*\*\*\*

Minimum guaranteed pay for Hull trawlermen

Hull trawler deckhands have been guaranteed a weekly minimum fall back rate of earnings, irrespective of what their catches make. Deckhands on articles with less than two years' service will have a weekly minimum of £17 10s. Od., while those with more than two years' service who have qualified for good conduct-efficiency pay will have a minimum of £18 11s. Od. This agreement follows the establishment of a new national wages structure which lays down a basic weekly rate of £12 6s. 9d., rising to £13 7s. 9d. for those with over two years' service. These basic rates do not include the catch percentage; the Hull arrangement means that even if any trip receipts fail to cover running expenses earnings cannot fall below the guaranteed rates quoted.

SOUTH AFRICA  
\*\*\*\*\*

Trawler and line fishermen's dispute

The ITF-affiliated Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union are in dispute with the fishing company Irvin and Johnson. The wage agreement between the parties expired on 31 October last year, and the union has been seeking pay increases and improvements in other conditions of employment covering leave, the introduction of a pension or provident fund, and sick pay provisions. The claims were rejected, and a conciliation board is to be set up under the terms of the Industrial Conciliation Act.

CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS

FRANCE  
\*\*\*\*\*

Flying staff plan further strike action

Unions representing flying staff of Air France are planning to call a further strike during the last week of January in support of their claim for wage increases in line with those granted to ground staff. The company's refusal to grant this claim, which is in violation of an agreement dating back to 1958, was the cause of strike action in November last year.

GENERAL

ITF sorrow at death of Shastri

Hans Imhof, ITF General Secretary, sent the following cable to President Radhakrishnan of India on the death of Mr. Shastri: "On behalf International Transport Workers' Federation, wish express deep sympathy transport workers the world over at tragic passing of Prime Minister Shastri. World has lost great and just statesman."

PERSONALIA

Alan Thomson has been appointed National Bus Secretary of the British Transport and General Workers' Union, replacing Sam Henderson who died recently.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Great Britain: Employees of municipal and private bus companies outside London are planning to submit claims for substantial increases in pay.

Great Britain: Port employers have made a surprise interim pay offer during talks by the Docks Modernization Committee, details of which have not been disclosed. The move is thought to be an attempt to improve the atmosphere for discussing decasualization plans.

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

Management Committee	-	Geneva, 6 & 7 February 1966
Seafarers' Section Conference	-	Hamburg, 28 & 29 March 1966
Dockers' Section Conference	-	Hamburg, 30 March 1966
Joint Dockers' and Seafarers' Conference	-	Hamburg, 31 March 1966
Railwaymen's Section Committee	-	London, 20 & 21 April 1966
Railwaymen's Section Conference	-	Rome, 23-25 June 1966