

# ITF NEWSLETTER

## INFORMATIONS

## INFORMATIONEN

## INFORMATIONSBLAD

No. 9

5 May, 1966

IN THIS NUMBER: German railwaymen negotiate for pay increases (p. 92); Japanese railwaymen strike for pay increases (p. 92); US railwaymen to demand contract improvements (p. 93); British Guiana busmen strike over contract violations by management (p. 94); Swiss dockers win new contract (p. 94); Pay increases for Danish merchant navy officers (p. 95); British seamen's strike still on (p. 96); US airline workers' strike averted (p. 97).

### THE MAY DAY MANIFESTO OF THE ICFTU

Workers of the world!

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions sends you its warmest, brotherly greetings on this day of international labour solidarity - May Day, the workers' own holiday, the day when we remember the pioneers who led us to past victories, the day when we look to the future and prepare for the struggles still to come.

In many lands, thanks to the unstinting efforts of the free trade unions, the past year has seen continued progress in winning for the workers steady employment, more leisure time and a fairer share of the wealth they produce.

Yet hunger is still the daily lot of more than half the world's population. The gap between the rich and the poor nations is widening, and will widen still further unless resolute action be taken.

Save for a few remaining bastions of colonial rule such as Rhodesia, South Africa and the Portuguese colonies, the fight for national independence everywhere is virtually won. Yet for the world's hungry millions these will prove to have been hollow victories unless the means are found to make the new nations economically viable.

This is first and foremost the job of the young nations themselves: through their own efforts, through drastic social reforms if need be, they must hammer out the conditions for sustained economic growth and social progress. But they must

also have help from the wealthier nations. Until international social justice is done, the ICFTU will never cease its pressure for more aid and freer trade.

The organized workers of the newly independent states are able and willing to play their full part in the task of nation-building. But this they can do only as free men, through their own independent trade unions.

The ICFTU pledges itself anew to continue its aid to the young labour movements of the developing countries: aid in training leaders, in organizing, in promoting socially useful projects of all kinds and in resisting attacks on their freedom and independence.

As in the past, the ICFTU stands ready to uphold the workers' rights to form, join and run trade unions of their own choice. And, as always, we will defend those rights no matter by whom they are threatened.

The free trade unions know that social progress requires peace between nations. Let them solve their differences at the conference table. Let them agree on universal controlled disarmament. This would also release vast funds for the fight against hunger and want.

Workers of the world, strengthen your free trade unions as weapons for the defence of peace and freedom, for the achievement of social justice!

Forward with the ICFTU for Bread, for Peace and for Freedom - for all the workers, everywhere!

RAILWAYMEN

GERMANY  
\*\*\*\*\*

Negotiations start for pay increases

The ITF-affiliated German Railwaymen's Union (GdED) has begun negotiations with the Federal Railway Board for pay increases. The Union is demanding rises of 26 Pfennig. (about 5d or 6 cents) in the basic hourly rate for wage earning personnel and 9 per cent for salaried staff, retroactive to 1 April 1966. The Railway Board's offer of 4 per cent on all pay rates this year and 2 per cent from 1 January 1967, plus some adjustments in pay structure, has been rejected by the Union as inadequate.

JAPAN  
\*\*\*\*\*

Railwaymen strike for pay increases

The ITF-affiliated National Railway Workers' Union (Kokuro) and National Railway Motive Power Workers' Union (Doro),

organizing employees of the state-owned railways, joined other unions of the public sector on 26 April in a 12 hour strike to support demands for wage increases. The stoppage, which was called off after eight hours following a promise from the Government to examine the public service workers' claims, was timed to coincide with a 24-hour strike called by the private railway workers' unions. The state railwaymen are demanding an all-round increase of 8,500 Yen per month and the employees of the private companies are demanding 8,000 Yen.

(There are 1,000 Yen to £1 and 360 Yen to \$1).

NETHERLANDS  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### Pay increases approved for Dutch railwaymen

A delegates' meeting of the railwaymen's group in the ITF-affiliated Dutch Transport Workers' Union (NBV) has approved a new agreement providing for a 7 per cent pay increase for Dutch railwaymen. This contract improvement, however, also provides for further rises of 5 per cent this year, 2 per cent next year and 2 per cent again the following year, to enable the railwaymen to catch up with other workers in wage levels. The Report of the Van der Dussen Committee on railwaymen's pay, published earlier this year, noted that the railwaymen were lagging behind other workers.

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

#### Railway workshop personnel to demand contract improvements

Unions organizing railway workshop personnel, including the ITF-affiliated International Association of Machinists, will submit demands for improvements in wages and working conditions later this month. The claims include a 20 per cent pay increase, effective from 1 January 1967, plus three-monthly cost-of-living adjustments, effective from 1 April 1967. The adjustments would amount to one cent per hour for every rise of 3 tenths in the consumer price index, with the December 1966 index as a base figure. Other improvements claimed cover overtime pay, shift differentials and annual holiday.

#### Trainmen to seek wage rise

The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (ITF-affiliated through the RLEA) is to submit a demand for a 25 per cent pay increase and other contract improvements later this year. The claim includes a cost of living adjustment of 1.5 cents for each rise of 5 tenths in the consumer price index. Other improvements sought cover guaranteed monthly earnings, annual holiday and life insurance coverage.

ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

BRITISH GUIANA  
\*\*\*\*\*

Busmen strike over contract violations by management

Busmen in the ITF-affiliated General Workers' Union of British Guiana recently went on strike in protest against the violation of an agreement by their employer, Motor Transport Limited. Motor Transport had decided unilaterally to discontinue provisions in the agreement relating to sick leave and medical facilities. Sick leave was halved and the period of service required to entitle a worker to full medical benefits was increased. But after conciliation by the Ministry of Labour, management revoked its decision and restored the original provisions.

PERU  
\*\*\*\*

Former employees of bankrupt tram company to be paid

The Government of Peru has opened a three-million dollar account to provide for the payment of wages which tramwaymen of Lima never received from their employer, the Compañía Nacional de Tranvías, when it went bankrupt in 1965. These workers have had the full support of the ITF during their long struggle to obtain wages which the Company failed to pay. The only remaining problem is that of finding alternative employment for the many workers, formerly employed by the Company, who still have no jobs.

PORT WORKERS

SWITZERLAND  
\*\*\*\*\*

Basle dockers win new contract

After submitting their claims twice to mediation Basle dockers, members of the ITF-affiliated Swiss Transport and Commercial Workers' Union (VHTL), have finally won acceptable wage improvements.

The original mediation proposals were rejected by an overwhelming majority at a mass meeting of the dockers on 17 April, as falling far short of what they had first demanded. The

latest proposals come closer to what the workers were claiming in respect of basic hourly rates and holiday pay. They provide for increases of 11 centimes in hourly rates and of Fr. 8.80 per day in holiday pay, bringing it to Fr. 55 per day. Other improvements are a cost of living allowance of 18 centimes, effective from 1 April 1966, guaranteed shifts (abolition of half shifts), a shift-work bonus of Fr. 1.50 and an increase of Fr. 1.50 in night shift pay, bringing it to Fr. 7.50.

The latest proposals of the Mediation Office, incorporated in a two-year contract to be made retroactive to 1 January 1966, were accepted at a mass meeting of the dockers.

(One franc 100 centimes is about 1s 8d or 23 US cents).

SEAFARERS
-----------

DENMARK  
\*\*\*\*\*

Pay increases for Danish merchant navy officers

Salary increases provided for in last years' agreements for Danish navigating and engine-room officers have recently come into force.

Examples of the new monthly rates of pay, as compared with the old are:

<u>Ship tonnage</u>	<u>salary (April 1965 rate in brackets)</u>
	<u>I. Chief mate</u>
Under 1400 grt	Kr. 2035 (1883) rising to Kr. 2476 (2287) after 12 years. Overtime: Kr. 6.43 (Kr.7.71 Suns.) per $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.
2500-3500 grt	Kr. 2271 (2095) rising to Kr. 2712 (2499) after 12 years. Overtime: Kr. 7.17 (Kr. 8.60 Suns.) per $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.
6500-8500 grt	Kr. 2652 (2452) rising to Kr. 3093 (2857) after 12 years. Overtime: Kr. 7.43 (Kr.8.87 Suns.) per $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.

Ship tonnage                      Salary (April 1965 rate in brackets) (Cont.)

II. Second mate

Under 1400 grt	Kr. 1786 (1649) rising to Kr. 2067 (1912) after 10 years. Overtime: Kr. 5.78 (Kr.6.78 Suns.) per $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.
2500-3500 grt.	Kr.1850 (1708) rising to Kr. 2130 (1972) after 10 years. Overtime: Kr. 5.85 (Kr. 7.52 Suns.) per $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.
6500-8500 grt.	kr. 2190 (2019) rising to Kr. 2471 (2282) after 10 years. Overtime: Kr. 6.94 (Kr. 8.33 Suns.) per $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.

The following rates represent an increase of 2% over last year's :

III. Chief engineer

Under 1400 grt.	Kr. 2801 rising to Kr. 3383 after 12 years.
2500-3500 grt.	Kr. 3197 rising to Kr. 3779 after 12 years.
6500-8500 grt.	Kr. 3858 rising to Kr. 4440 after 12 years.

(Including consolidated overtime compensation).

IV. First engineer

Under 1400 grt.	Kr. 1915 rising to Kr. 2346 after 12 years. Overtime: Kr. 6.04 (Kr. 7.25 Suns.) per $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.
2500-3500 grt.	Kr. 2120 rising to Kr. 2551 after 12 years. Overtime: Kr. 6.68 (Kr. 8.02 Suns.) per $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.
6500-8500 grt.	Kr. 2471 rising to Kr. 2902 after 12 years Overtime: Kr. 7.21 (Kr. 8.71 Suns.) per $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.

(There are 19.35 Danish Kroner to £1 and 7 to \$1).

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

National seamen's strike still on

The annual conference of the British National Union of Seamen (NUS) last Monday unanimously endorsed the decision of the Union's

Executive Council to call a national strike on 16 May, unless the seamen's demands for a 40-hour week at sea and an increase of 12s 6d in the monthly consolidated rate are met by the ship-owners. NUS leaders are due on Saturday to meet the Labour Minister, who is attempting to bring both sides together in an effort to avert the threatened strike.

(The background to the dispute was reported in detail in the last Newsletter, No. 8).

CIVIL AVIATION

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

Emergency Board blocks IAM strike for 60 days

President Johnson has appointed a special Emergency Board to inquire into the dispute between the ITF-affiliated International Association of Machinists and five major airlines over pay demands for 34,000 mechanics and other ground personnel. The strike, due to start on 23 April, is thus banned for 60 days. The Emergency Board, set up under the terms of the Railway Labour Act, will report within thirty days. An earlier attempt at mediation in the dispute had been unsuccessful.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The British Transport and General Workers' Union has strengthened its position in the Hull fishing fleets. Following the recent unofficial strike of fishermen over the signing on of non-union men, trawler owners in the port have agreed to give preference to T&GWU members.

In Toronto, Canada, 5,000 Amalgamated Transit Union busmen, tramwaymen and subway workers have reached deadlock in their talks with the Toronto Transit Commission over claims for pay rises of between 54 and 72 cents an hour. The dispute has been referred to a conciliation board.

Swedish seamen and officers on ferry services linking Sweden with Finland, Denmark, the Continent and Britain have rejected a mediation offer on claims for higher pay. The unions involved may resort to strike action. Only state-owned services, for which separate agreements are negotiated, would be exempt.

The Transport Workers' Union of America has won sole bargaining rights for San Francisco tramway workers. An action programme for improving pay and working conditions on the tramways has already been drawn up.

PERSONALIA

Julien Geldof has died at the age of 60. National Secretary of the Belgian Tramwaymen's Union and former member of parliament, Geldof was a prominent figure in Belgian public affairs. He also played an active part in ITF activities, particularly in the field of urban transport. He will be sadly missed in his own country and in the ITF.

Philip Randolph, President of the US Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, has been honoured for the outstanding part he has played in the American Civil Rights Movement. At a luncheon given in his honour on his 77th birthday Randolph was presented with the annual award of the League for Industrial Democracy for a lifetime of crusading leadership for civil rights.

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

Management Committee	- Utrecht, 23-24 May 1966
Executive Board	- Utrecht, 25-27 May 1966
Railwaymen's Section Conference	- Rome, 23-25 June 1966.

-----ooOoo-----