

ITF NEWSLETTER

INFORMATIONS

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INFORMATIONSBLAD

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NEWS ABOUT THE ITF

FRENCH SOMALILAND

ITF protests at use of convicts as strikebreakers

The ITF General Secretary, Hans Imhof, has sent a cable to the Governor of French Somaliland lodging a strong protest at the employment of convicts as strikebreakers in a strike involving dockers, and demanding the immediate cessation of this practice.

TRANSPORT WORKERS (GENERAL)

GREAT BRITAIN

TUC votes in favour of government's policy on wages, prices and productivity

The Trades Union Congress voted on 7 September to support the British government's national economic plan, including the productivity, prices and incomes policy, on the basis of similar treatment being accorded to all incomes, prices and dividends. The resolution affirming this support, which also contained a proviso demanding effective measures to assist the lower paid

workers, "particularly those whose earnings are close to modern conceptions of subsistence levels", was carried by 4,936,000 votes to 3,814,000.

Two other motions, the first declaring opposition to the pay freeze and the Act which would impose penalties on trade union members and officers, the second opposing legislation making compulsory the "early warning" system of vetting wage claims, were defeated by majorities of 1,134,000 and 474,000 votes respectively. The section of the TUC General Council's report recommending acquiescence in the freeze was adopted by a majority of 344,000.

RAILWAYMEN

CANADA

Back to work order to Canadian railwaymen

Following the passage of an Act by the Canadian Parliament ordering 118,000 Canadian railwaymen back to work, the sixteen unions involved told their members to comply with the law. They have however lodged strong objections to the legislation, which provides for an 18% pay increase over a two-year period, as recommended by Conciliation Boards, but which does not incorporate any of the improvements to fringe benefits proposed by the Boards. In a number of places men have remained out on strike despite the order, risking two-year prison sentences. The Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport & General Workers announced that it was organizing a work-to-rule among its 22,000 members involved in the dispute, and called upon other unions concerned to join in this campaign, in an effort to bring the railway companies to the bargaining table. A mediator has been appointed by the government to supervise further negotiations, which must result in agreement by 15 November or else the issues in dispute go to compulsory arbitration.

FRANCE

Railwaymen's views on railway service cuts proposal

The ITF-affiliated French FO Railwaymen's Federation is opposing the planned closure of some passenger stopping trains, and has made its views known within the Administrative Council of the French Railways (SNCF). The union points out **that the proposed closures will effect only very slight economies, and that the progressive pruning of railway**

services, far from assuring the health of the trunk lines, will finish by destroying the network completely. The union's primary concern is with the public service function of the railways, and is not satisfied that the proposed substitution of railway services by road passenger services will provide a satisfactory alternative for the public.

The Administrative Council voted to adopt the proposals, the trade union members dissenting. It now rests with the Minister to confirm them.

GREAT BRITAIN

Railway unions appealing to Prime Minister

Leaders of the three ITF-affiliated British railwaymen's unions - the National Union of Railwaymen, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and the Transport Salaried Staffs Association - are shortly to see the Prime Minister to appeal to him to honour the promises he made earlier this year when a railway strike was averted by agreement on the payment of a 3½% increase which was due last week, but which has been frozen.

UNITED STATES

Proposed amendment to Railroad Retirement Act

A negotiating committee from the ITF-affiliated Railway Labor Executives' Association has won an agreement from rail management representatives to cooperate in seeking a legislative amendment to the Railroad Retirement Act to provide for supplementary pensions for retiring railway employees to be paid for in full by the employers.

ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

EUROPE

Human failure blamed for Limburg coach accident

The court investigating the Belgian coach accident near Limburg, West Germany, in which over thirty people, including 28 children, were killed, has reported that the accident was the result of human failure on the part of the driver, who was probably tired.

Netherlands. - The ITF-affiliated Netherlands Transport Workers' Union (NBV) has published a statement stressing the need for

European regulation of driving and rest periods. They point out that of the six EEC countries only the Netherlands has regulations covering driving and rest periods for international touring coaches. These lay down a maximum of 9 hours' driving time per duty period; a minimum of 10 hours' rest between duty periods; and a free day of at least 36 hours per week. In addition, a break of at least $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour must be taken after a period of 5 hours at the wheel.

The NBV supports proposals made for regulations within the EEC which include among other things the following: Minimum age for drivers of 21 years; continuous driving time to be limited to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours, which must be followed by a break of at least 30 minutes; daily driving time for a coach driver should not exceed 8 hours; duty periods must have been preceded by a continuous rest period of 11 hours; and personal log-books kept by the drivers should be replaced by tachographs.

PORT WORKERS

NETHERLANDS

Cost-of-living compensation in Amsterdam and Rotterdam

The ITF-affiliated Netherlands Transport Workers' Union reports that it has succeeded in negotiating for its dock group members in Amsterdam and Rotterdam compensation for increases in the cost of living during the first half of 1966. All employees aged 21 or over, with at least 2 months' service, receive a lump sum of 120 Guilders (approx. £11 16s. or \$34). This also applies to married men and breadwinners under the age of 21. Others under age 21 receive 100 Guilders (£9 18s. or \$27.64).

SEAFARERS

GREAT BRITAIN

Union liaison officer on board "Queen Elizabeth"

A special organizer for the ITF-affiliated National Union of Seamen is sailing aboard the liner "Queen Elizabeth" to act as permanent liaison representative between the crew and the union. This follows the success of a pilot scheme introduced by the NUS and the shipping companies last year, which involved 12 vessels of different types engaged in various trades.

HONG KONG

Progress of Seamen's Recruiting Office

The following tables show the figures of seamen registered and hired through the Seamen's Recruiting Office in Hong Kong.

Registration (Since 3 May 1966)

| Date | No. of Completed Registrations in | | | | Total all Parts |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|-----------------------|
| | Part I | Part II | Part III | Part IV | |
| As at 31st August, 1966 | 10,538 | 424 | 155 | 4,411 | 15,528 |

Supply (From 27 June)

| Period | No. of Masters Held | No. of Seamen Requested | No. of Seamen Selected |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| During June, 1966 | 21 | 85 | 74 |
| During July, 1966 | 339 | 1,134 | 1,130 |
| During Aug., 1966 | 436 | 1,324 | 1,272 |

Note:

- (i) the four outstanding vacancies at the end of July have been brought down to the month of August; and
- (ii) the fifty-two vacancies outstanding as at 31st August will be filled during September.

Part I: Serving seamen available for employment.

Part II: Seamen with certain qualifications not yet available for employment.

Part III: Seamen without qualifications who have applied for seagoing employment but must wait until vacancies arise.

Part IV: Serving seamen on company lists and serving with the company in question.

ISRAEL

Manning problem settled

The ITF-affiliated Israel Seamen's Union and the management of Zim Israel Navigation Co. Ltd. have reached agreement on the reduced complement to man the company's new automated cargo ship "Haviva". The 3,000 ton vessel will have a crew of 18, five less than the regular complement for this type of ship. The vessel will be operated for two trial trips on the Mediterranean-North West European route, after which her final complement will be determined. Meanwhile a joint committee of company and union representatives will work out the extra pay the smaller crew is to receive as compensation for additional work in the light of the savings the company will make.

Once the vessel's operation proves satisfactory, similar cuts will be made in the manning scales of her eight sister-ships which are also to be automated. Later Zim intends to introduce automation in all its 65 vessels.

CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS

GREAT BRITAIN

Joint council for airport workers

Representatives of white-collar staff and manual workers are to sit together on the central joint council and the joint negotiating and consultative committee appointed as the industrial relations bodies for the new British Airports Authority. They will be concerned with the pay and conditions of 3,282 employees at London, Gatwick, Stansted and Prestwick airports. The aim is to try to get rid of differences in treatment between white-collar and industrial workers and to bring before the combined committee as many aspects of personnel policy as possible.

GREECE

Olympic dispute settlement

Additional details have been received of the agreement which ended the strike of pilots and certain groups of ground staff employed by Olympic Airways. (Although the agreement was reached in direct negotiations between the two parties held under government auspices, its provisions have been submitted to the arbitration court for formal approval as an award).

The main points of the settlement were:

- a) with effect from 12 August 1966 wages and salaries should be increased by amounts ranging from 13½% to 37%, with the higher increases going to the lower-paid employees;
- b) Second Officers recruited after 1965 are to be given a monthly increase of \$50 (these officers had not been receiving the rate laid down under the 1965 agreement);
- c) pension arrangements are improved;
- d) the unions agreed not to take any further strike action before the end of 1968, it being mutually understood that all disputes which could not be settled by direct negotiations should be referred to arbitration.

Olympic Airways have also undertaken not to proceed with their legal action for damages against the ITF General Secretary, Hans Imhof, and the Civil Aviation Section Secretary, K.A. Golding. (This action followed the blacking at London Airport of Olympic aircraft operated by a small minority of strikebreaking pilots).

UNITED STATES

Board refuses to make recommendations

A Presidential Emergency Board set up to look into the dispute between American Airlines and the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Union (the latter had threatened to strike on 28 July) has declined to recommend terms for a new contract. The Board's members reported that the parties were not deadlocked, had only had one strike in 20 years, and should be permitted to resume bargaining without interference. The union is not free to strike now until 27 September, but has stated that a negotiated settlement should be possible before that date.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Guyana: A one-day strike of workers in shipping, ferry and rail services in support of pay demands ended when the government assured the strikers that their demands would be met by the end of the month.

Nepal has become the 116th member of the International Labour Organization.

United States: The House of Representatives has voted to increase the minimum hourly wage for American workers to \$1.60 from the present \$1.25 by 1968.

PERSONALIA

Frank Cousins, General Secretary of the British Transport & General Workers' Union, has been elected back to the TUC General Council. He had given up his seat on joining the government.

Frank Hall, retired General Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress, was honoured by his colleagues on the CLC Executive Council at a special luncheon in Ottawa recently. He was presented with an inscribed silver tea service as a memento of his service as a General Vice-President of the Congress since its formation in 1956. Hall is a member of the ITF Executive Board.

Ghana: The trade union movement is continuing the process of reorganizing its unions on a democratic basis. The following have been elected as general secretaries of transport workers' unions: Railway Enginemen's Union: K.E. Asaam; Maritime and Dockworkers' Union: J.R. Baiden; Railway and Ports Workers' Union: W.A.E. Thompson; National Union of Seamen: A. Kay-Essien; Ghana Motor Union: W.B. Otoo; General Transport & Petroleum Workers' Union: K.A. Osei-Mensah.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Asian Advisory Committee - Seoul, 26-30 September 1966
Executive Board - London, 14-16 November 1966

LATE ITEM

Greece: Seamen and stewards employed on coastal and Mediterranean passenger services, who belong to the ITF-affiliated Panhellenic Seafarers' Federation, have gone on strike in support of a 30% wage claim. The PSF has agreed to accept 16%. The government has issued mobilization orders against the strikers, and the ITF General Secretary, Hans Imhof, has cabled the Prime Minister as follows: "Whilst not endorsing minority action the International Transport Workers' Federation strongly condemns mobilization measures aimed at defeating right to strike of Greek seamen and asks that you cease these measures immediately."