

ITF NEWSLETTER

INFORMATIONS

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IN THIS NUMBER: Asian Advisory Committee meets in Seoul (p. 187); British wage freeze made compulsory (p. 188); ITF represented at South Vietnamese transport workers' Convention (p. 189); Paris subway workers stage 24-hour strike (p. 191); British docks committee's proposals on decasualization (p. 191); Norwegian dock rationalization agreement (p. 192); JMC Welfare Subcommittee meets in Oslo (p. 192); 25% pay rise for Indian merchant navy officers (p. 193); TWU wins new contract on American Airlines (p. 194); Supplement.

ABOUT THE ITF

ASIA

Asian Advisory Committee meets in Seoul

The third meeting of the ITF's Asian Advisory Committee took place in Seoul (Republic of Korea) from 26-30 September. Following an intensive review of the ITF's activities and prospects in the Asian region the Committee went on to consider how best the ITF's work could be intensified and if possible improved in the future. The outcome of these discussions will be conveyed to the ITF's Executive Board at its next meeting, where the ITF's regional activities as a whole will be reviewed.

Finally, the Committee adopted four resolutions concerning: Malaysian labour legislation, the possibility of the conversion of the railways in Western Malaysia into a public corporation, the admission of the Republic of Korea into the ILO, and an expression of thanks to the Committee's Korean hosts for their great hospitality. (The resolutions appear as a supplement to this Newsletter).

Present were: K. Suzuki (Japan, Chairman of the Committee), S. Packirisamy (Malaysia), R.A. Santoso (Indonesia), Chan Hyuk Lee (Korea), T. Onda (Japan), R.S. Oca (Philippines, member of ITF Executive Board), R. Kamisawa (Japan, member of ITF Executive Board), A.D. Lazoro and B. Tupaz (Philippines), B. Majumder (India, and currently on an ITF assignment in Hong Kong), J.P. Maynes (Australia), H. Imhof (General Secretary), H. Lewis (Secretary for Regional Activities), D. U'ren (Asian Representative), T. Yamazaki (ITF Japanese Office) together with L. Zosel (USA, an observer) and representatives of the ITF's affiliates in Korea including: In Kun Park (President of the National Dockers' Union), Lee Chong Sik (President of the National Transportation Trade Union) and Park Keun Sik (President of the National Maritime Workers' Union).

TRANSPORT WORKERS GENERAL

FRANCE

Minimum wage raised

The minimum guaranteed wage for French industrial workers (SMIG) has been increased, by a decision of the Council of Ministers, to 2.10 F per hour (previously: 2.05 F) in the Parisian region. In other areas the new minimum wage varies between 1.974 F and 2.058 F per hour.

(There are approximately 13.6 F to £1 and 4.8 F to \$1).

GREAT BRITAIN

Wage freeze made compulsory

The British Government has decided to bring Part IV of the recently enacted Prices and Incomes legislation into effect, thereby giving legal force to the national standstill on wage and price increases which was announced in July. The Government had originally hoped that the standstill, which is to last 6 months and will be followed by a further period of "severe restraint" would be observed voluntarily and that it would not be necessary to activate any provision for legal compulsion.

Minister of Transport promises transport integration

Replying to the debate on transport policy at the British Labour Party's Annual Conference, Mrs. Barbara Castle, Minister of Transport, pledged that legislation would be introduced in the next session of Parliament to provide for

the integration of transport in Britain. As regards the railways, she intended that a number of socially necessary lines would be retained in the future trimming of the network, even though they cannot pay their way. On driving hours in road transport the Minister said that the present regulations were out of date and were to be reviewed to bring them into line with modern conditions on the roads. As they stood, Britain could not ratify international conventions on working conditions in road transport.

A resolution moved by Sidney Greene (National Union of Railwaymen) and seconded by Alex Kitson (Scottish Commercial Motormen's Union), calling for the speedy implementation of a plan to provide for a national integrated transport system to cover road, rail, air, coastal shipping and ports, was adopted by the Conference.

Three unions to coordinate activities

Britain's three largest unions, the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Engineering and General and Municipal Workers' Unions, are endeavouring to work more closely together. Talks have been in progress since last April on a greater coordination of the unions' activities. The organizational fields of the three organizations overlap (the GMWU also organizes transport workers), and the intention of the present discussions is to reduce wasteful duplication of work. Joint committees have been set up to settle disputes between their respective members, and issues which are to be discussed include the introduction of common services in a number of fields of activity.

MALAYSIA

Transport unions to merge

Four of Malaysia's largest transport workers' unions have decided to amalgamate and to reconstitute themselves as the "Federation of Transport Workers." They are: the Transport Workers' Union (7,000 members), the Harbour Trade Union (3,500) -- both ITF affiliates, the Penang and Province Wellesley Stevedores and Dock Workers' Union (1,500) and the Airline Employees' Union (1,000).

SOUTH VIETNAM

ITF represented at transport workers' Convention

During September the ITF-affiliated Vietnamese Transport Workers' Federation held its 4th National Convention in Saigon. The ITF was represented at the Convention by Asian Regional Representative Donald U'ren. One of the

Convention's resolutions expressed appreciation for the attendance of an ITF representative and its hope that the ITF would continue to develop its programmes and activities to aid transport workers the world over in their common struggles. The resolution further made a special appeal to the ITF and its affiliates for support to the Vietnamese transport workers suffering the effects of a long destructive war imposed on them by communist aggression.

RAILWAYMEN

GREAT BRITAIN

Union proposes productivity deal

The ITF-affiliated National Union of Railwaymen of Great Britain has made an important productivity proposal to the British Railways Board.

During talks with the Board on improving the pay of low wage groups on the railways NUR leaders suggested that in exchange for a substantial increase in basic minimum wages they would be prepared to cooperate in bringing about much greater flexibility in working arrangements, which would involve considerable staff reductions. Under the proposal the present 14 manual grades would be reduced to six, and the functions of each grade would be less strictly limited than at present. Interchange of work might also occur between grades.

ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

INTERNATIONAL

British and Austrian road transport unions conclude ITF mutual assistance agreement

Two ITF-affiliated road transport workers' organizations, the British United Road Transport Union (URTU) and the Austrian Transport and Commercial Workers' Union (HTV), have reached agreement on arrangements for assisting each other's members whose work takes them into or through one another's country. The agreement is one of a number which affiliates enter into mutually in the framework of procedure laid down by the ITF Road Transport Workers' Section, whereby a union provides legal or other assistance to members of another affiliated union, on

presentation by the member of his union card and his green ITF card, which he carries on assignments abroad. The URTU now has agreements with its opposite numbers in most countries in which its members are likely to be driving.

FRANCE

Paris subway workers stage 24-hour strike

Underground railway workers in Paris went on a 24-hour strike on 6 October. The action was in support of demands for improvements in holidays and working hours, demands first submitted to the Parisian transport authority (RATP) in November 1965. Though all the unions concerned are involved in the Métro strike, a stoppage called by the Communist CGT on the bus network did not receive the support of the union belonging to the democratic centre, Force Ouvrière. FO, however, was in favour of a strike of longer duration on the Métro. The unions are due to meet again in the next few days to decide what further action may be necessary if the government has not intervened to produce a satisfactory settlement.

PORT WORKERS

GREAT BRITAIN

Docks committee publishes proposals on decasualization

The Report of the Devlin Committee on decasualization in Britain's docks has been published. The Report recommends terms under which Britain's 65,000 dockers would be given permanent employment on the basis of a 40-hour week and a guaranteed weekly wage, conditional on the abandonment of restrictive practices and strict job demarcation rules. The daily minimum wage recommended is £2 4s 4d, coupled with a "modernization payment" of £2 per week plus 1s for every hour of overtime. If earnings from all sources (excluding weekend work) did not bring the docker's pay up to £15, his employer would make up the difference. The present fall-back pay of £9 per week would be abolished.

The dockers' unions -- the majority are represented by the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union -- have not yet decided to accept the Report's recommendations. They are expected shortly to make their views known.

NORWAY

Rationalization agreement for dock work

The ITF-affiliated Norwegian Transport Workers' Federation has concluded an agreement with dock employers to cover rationalized working. The agreement, which runs to 30 June 1967, guarantees stable income and employment to union longshoremen. It provides for the maintenance of present gang sizes where piece work loading and unloading are carried out by conventional methods, but for reduction of complements where partly or fully mechanized methods are in operation. Gang sizes would in this case vary between two and seven, depending upon methods in use. An early retirement clause, providing for retirement at 65 on old-age pension rates instead of at the normal retirement age of 70, is intended to offset the effects of rationalization on employment.

SEAFARERS

INTERNATIONAL

JMC Welfare Subcommittee meets in Oslo

A meeting of the Subcommittee on Seafarers' Welfare of the ILO Joint Maritime Commission took place in Oslo from 3 to 7 October. The meeting was chaired by Tord Bratt, Chief of the ILO Maritime Division. Seafarers' delegates included representatives from Finland, India, the Netherlands, USA and West Germany. The ITF was represented by Charles Blyth, Secretary of the Special Seafarers' Section, as an observer.

The Subcommittee found that good progress had been made in the provision of better welfare facilities for seafarers since its last meeting, and that a number of countries had accepted the JMC principle that welfare activities on behalf of seafarers should be carried on jointly by governments, shipowners and seafarers' organizations.

The Subcommittee emphasized that the great technological advance taking place in the shipping industry would have its effect on the seafarers. They would, for example, spend longer periods of time on board ship and have less time to spend ashore. Also, different skills and qualifications would be demanded of them. All this would have an influence on the forms future welfare activities would need to take. As it was impossible to say at what point in time welfare requirements would change, programmes for future activities would have to be developed on a flexible basis.

The Subcommittee called upon all countries, which had signed it, to ratify the Customs Cooperation Council's Convention on Welfare Material for Seafarers.

Other questions discussed included methods of financing seafarers' welfare work and safety arrangements in ports.

The Subcommittee called for a general expansion of cooperation in the field of seafarers' welfare activities, wherever this was practical and possible.

INDIA

25% pay rise for merchant navy officers

The ITF-affiliated Maritime Union of India has secured the first industry-wide collective agreement for Indian merchant navy officers. The agreement, which covers over 2,000 officers of all categories on board foreign-going ships, provides for an increase in salary spread over three years of about 25 per cent, and is retroactive to 1 January 1966.

ITALY

Strikes called off after concessions

On 2 October Italian seafarers' unions began a series of strikes, in which every Italian ship whether in a home or foreign port should be stopped for 24-hours within a period of 10 days, in support of claims for improved pensions and health insurance. The strikes were, however, called off when the Government made concessions to the unions' demands.

CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS

DENMARK

Private charter hostesses get inter-union support in conflict

Twenty-seven air hostesses employed by a private air charter company went on strike last week against the refusal of their employers to enter into a collective agreement with them. Conair, the firm involved, was soon the object of a blockade imposed by the trade union centre, LO, requiring ground staffs to withhold services from the struck aircraft. The ITF-affiliated Swedish Transport Workers' Federation also blacked Conair planes at Swedish airports. Latest reports say that Conair has agreed to enter into a collective agreement with the hostesses.

UNITED STATES

TWU wins new contract on American Airlines

Last minute negotiations before ground staff on American Airlines, members of the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Union (TWU), were due to go on strike on 28 September produced a settlement which has now been accepted by the 12,000 TWU members involved. The new contract provides for three 5% wage increases payable within 18 months, additional annual vacation (now three weeks after five years and four after 15) and an extra paid holiday. In addition to other improvements a 50% company contribution to employee pension costs has also been agreed.

Fact-finding board for TWU dispute with Pan-American

President Johnson has appointed a fact-finding board to inquire into the issues in dispute between the Transport Workers' Union, representing 15,000 ground staff and cabin personnel, and Pan-American Airways. The union is demanding a 30% pay increase and a reduction in working hours without loss of pay.

Machinists win new contract with Braniff

The ITF-affiliated International Association of Machinists (IAM) has won a new agreement with Braniff Airways providing for the same terms as were won on five other major airlines following the strike last August (5% retroactive to 1 January 1966, 5% on 1 January 1967 and 5% on 1 May 1968). Other gains cover pensions, health and welfare, cost of living adjustments and improved annual vacation.

PERSONALIA

H.B. Nannestad has been elected President of the Norwegian Marine Engineers' Union at the union's annual general meeting. He succeeds Thorbjørn Trondsen, who is retiring.

FORTHCOMING MEETING

ITF Executive Board - London, 14-16 November 1966
Conference of Flight Engineer
Affiliates - London, 28-30 November 1966.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ASIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Malaysian Labour Legislation

This meeting of the ITF Asian Advisory Committee, held from 26 to 30 September 1966, in Seoul,

HAVING NOTED with pleasure and relief the conclusion of a treaty between the Indonesian and Malaysian Governments ending the conflict between them,

RECOMMENDS the Executive Board of the ITF (a) to urge the Malaysian Government now to repeal the two emergency ordinances that were promulgated to meet the situation created by the Indonesian Government policy of "confrontation" against Malaysia and which, since they are repressive, hamper the development and practice of the free trade union movement; and (b) to support the efforts of the ITF's affiliates in Malaysia to restore in full the rights of the free trade union movement.

2. Conversion of the Western Malaysian Railways into a public corporation

This meeting of the ITF Asian Advisory Committee, held from 26 to 30 September 1966, in Seoul,

HAVING NOTED the intention of the Malaysian Government to convert the Malaysian Railway Administration into a public corporation in Western Malaysia despite the opposition of all the railway employees who will, by present proposals, be deprived by the conversion of their hard-won status as Government servants with all the rights, privileges and advantages that are associated with that status,

RECOMMENDS the Executive Board of the ITF (a) to urge the Malaysian Government to reconsider its proposals concerning the administration of the railways and (b) to support the position adopted by the Railwaymen's Union of Malaya (RUM) in so far as it seeks to protect its members from any change whatsoever in the status and conditions of employment of both present and future employees.

3. Admission of Korea to the ILO

This meeting of the ITF Asian Advisory Committee, held from 26 to 30 September 1966, in Seoul,

HAVING NOTED the desire of the Government of the Republic of Korea to seek membership of the ILO and

HAVING NOTED further that this desire was endorsed by the Executive Board of the Asian Regional Organization of the ICFTU, meeting in Seoul from 13th to 16th May 1966,

RECOMMENDS the Executive Board of the ITF (a) to endorse the obvious merit of the Korean Government's intentions, which have the unanimous support of the ITF's Korean affiliates and the Korean trade union movement generally; and (b) to request the General Secretary to inform the ITF's affiliates of the Korean Government's wishes and to urge that the affiliates use their influence with their governments so that the Republic of Korea gains admission to the ILO at the earliest opportunity.

4. Thanks to the Korean hosts

This meeting of the ITF Asian Advisory Committee, held from 26 to 30 September 1966, in Seoul,

RECORDS its deep gratitude for the great hospitality shown to the participants by the ITF's Korean affiliates, the Federation of Korean Trade Unions, the Korean authorities and the Korean people generally and

IS CONVINCED that by meeting in Korea the links of solidarity and common cause that bind the ITF and the transport workers of Korea have been even further strengthened.

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