

ITF

NEWSLETTER INFORMATIONS INFORMATIONEN INFORMATIONSBLAD

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NEWS ABOUT THE ITF

ARGENTINA

International solidarity with dockers

All ITF-affiliates have been informed of the grave situation which now faces the dockers in Argentina. The military government has given sweeping powers to a "Captain of the Port" which allow him to impose any system of working in the ports which he sees fit. Offers made by the dockers' unions to cooperate in formulating plans for the more efficient working of the ports were rejected, and the unions therefore called an indefinite strike against the new regulations on 18 October. A general strike of transport workers was held on 9 November in solidarity with the dockers. Military personnel and non-union labour are being used in the ports, and ITF affiliates have been urged to do all they can to stop or delay Argentine ships and aircraft and to cable protests to the Argentine government.

The question of whether affiliates should be asked to place a total ban on all sea and air cargoes to and from Argentina is to be discussed by the ITF Executive Board at its meeting from 14 to 16 November 1966.

ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

BELGIUM

Tramway workers unite

Organizations of tramwaymen within the Belgian General Federation of Labour have agreed to unite in a single organization affiliated to the Central Union of Public Service Workers. This was announced following a constitutional congress in Brussels on 30 October.

FRANCE

New guaranteed wages for drivers

New national guaranteed weekly wages have been established for French transport workers, effective from 3 October 1966. The examples given below are weekly rates in Francs for a 40-hour standard week:

Job	Area A*			Area C		
	Under 2 yrs**	After 5 yrs	After 15 yrs	Under 2 yrs	After 5 yrs	After 15 yrs
Driver-delivery van	109.77	114.16	118.55	99.90	103.90	107.89
Driver-lorry up to 5 tons	117.10	121.78	126.47	104.33	108.50	112.68
Driver-lorry 5 to 10 t.	86.26	89.71	93.16	110.66	115.09	119.51
Driver-lorry over 10 t.	90.10	93.70	97.31	120.75	125.58	130.41
Driver-mechanic up to 5 t.	95.53	99.35	103.17	110.66	115.09	119.51
Driver-mechanic 5 to 10 t.	99.90	103.90	107.89	115.69	120.32	124.95
Driver-mechanic over 10 t.	107.55	111.85	116.15	124.53	129.51	134.49
Long-distance driver	114.63	119.22	123.80	132.75	138.06	143.37

Job	Area A*			Area C		
	Under 2 yrs**	After 5 yrs	After 15 yrs	Under 2 yrs	After 5 yrs	After 15 yrs
Driver-perishable goods	90.10	93.70	97.31	104.33	108.50	112.68
Driver-rapid press delivery	106.45	110.71	114.97	123.29	128.22	133.15
Qualified removal service driver	95.53	99.35	103.17	110.66	115.09	119.15
Coach driver	109.77	114.16	118.55	127.14	132.23	137.31
Coach driver-conductor	117.10	121.78	126.47	135.62	141.04	146.47

* There are four wage areas, A, B1, B2 and C.

** There are two other intermediate increment points: after 2 years' service and after 10 years' service.

(There are 13.70 Fr. to £1 and 4.90 to US \$1.)

PORT WORKERS

ISRAEL

Haifa port workers get pay rise

A new contract for 1,700 stevedores at Haifa was signed recently after six months of negotiations. It provides for a pay rise of 10% this year and 5% in 1967. In addition, one third of the men will be upgraded this year, and a further third next year.

SEAFARERS

INDIA

New agreement for foreign-going seamen

An agreement was signed in Bombay on 17 October between representatives of the shipowners and the National Union of Seafarers of India on behalf of foreign-going seamen. The agreement is effective from 1 November 1966, and provides for a wage increase of Rs.25 for

each category of seaman, plus a further Rs.15 from 1 November next year. Hours of work are to be progressively reduced over a period of about three years so as to establish a uniform 44-hour working week. Additional benefits include increased leave from 18 to 24 days a year, increased subsistence allowance and standardized medical benefits. (There are 21 Rs.to £1 and 7.5 to US \$1.)

SWEDEN

Reduced fares for seamen

The Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) is offering special reductions for seamen who choose to fly home from signing-off points outside Sweden. For flights from the North Sea ports of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Brussels, Antwerp, Bremen and Hamburg, for example, tourist class tickets are available with a 40% rebate. From other places the reduction is as follows:

Ports in Great Britain	-	40%
" " the Middle East	-	45%
" " the Far East	-	40%
Lisbon	-	25%
Ports in Italy	-	40%
Paris	-	40%

GENERAL

SWITZERLAND

Cost-of-living compensation agreed

Agreement has been reached between the Union of Federal Employees and the government on the payment of supplements to compensate for rises in the cost of living during 1966 and 1967. These comprise: a single payment equivalent to 5.5% of salary payable before the end of this year (the minimum amount payable is set at 620 Sw. Fr. - about £51 5s. or \$143.50); and a recurring supplement equivalent to 11% of basic pay and allowances during 1967. These supplements have been calculated on the basis of a change of the cost-of-living index from 213.8 points last year to an estimated average for 1966 of 225 points.

NEWS IN BRIEF

International: Indonesia has accepted the 1960 IMCO Safety of Life at Sea Convention.

- Botswana (former Bechuanaland) and Lesotho (former Basutoland) have become members of the United Nations and of the International Labour Organization.

Guatemala: The new Constitution which came into effect on 5 May 1966 contains two new labour provisions. The first provides for a mandatory Christmas bonus (aguinaldo) for employees with at least one year's service, equivalent to at least 50% of normal monthly earnings. The second provides for the employer to pay a survivors' benefit for the widow and children of a worker who dies in that employer's service

PERSONALIA

Maurice Vergracht has been appointed to the post of national secretary of the Belgian Union of Tramway and Bus Personnel. He succeeds the late Julien Geldof, who died in May this year.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Management Committee	-	London, 14 November 1966
Executive Board	-	London, 14-16 November 1966
Conference of ITF Flight Engineers' Affiliates	-	London, 28-29 November 1966.