

# ITF NEWSLETTER

## INFORMATIONS

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### NEWS ABOUT THE ITF

INTERNATIONAL  
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#### ITF Executive Board pledges support to Latin American affiliates

Problems of trade union freedom in Latin America occupied an important place among the business of the ITF Executive Board, which met in London from 14 to 16 November. The meeting was attended by H. Dúby (President; Switzerland); H. Pettersson (Vice-President; Sweden); F. Prechtl (Austria); R. Dekeyzer (Belgium); R. Degris (France); Ph. Seibert and G. Kugoth (Germany); H. Nicholas and S.F. Greene (Great Britain); R. Kamisawa (Japan); E. Tolosa and H. Hernandez (Latin America); G.J.H. Alink (Netherlands); A. Okon (Nigeria); R.S. Oca (Philippines); D.S. Beattie and J. Elliott (United States); and Hans Imhof (General Secretary). Apologies for absence were received from F. Hall and Wm. Smith (Canada); Z. Barash (Israel); G. Hauge (Norway); and A. M'Baye (Senegal).

The meeting heard a detailed account of the current situation in Argentina given by Bro. E. Tolosa, General Secretary of the ITF-affiliated Argentine Dockers' Union (SUPA), and others with special knowledge of the position created by the attacks on democratic trade unions there which have been made by the military government of General Onganía. Bro. Tolosa reported that the membership of his union, on strike since 19 October in protest against arbitrary changes in port working rules introduced by the Government, was remaining firm despite military intervention

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of the organization and the large-scale use of unorganized casual labour as strikebreakers under military escort. Trade unionists in the maritime industry were also being forced to work at gun-point by Government troops. Nevertheless, the dockers were being given widespread support by other trade unionists both in Argentina itself and in other Latin American countries.

Following a very full discussion of the position, the ITF Executive Board unanimously adopted a resolution recommending affiliated unions to apply, where appropriate, an international boycott against Argentine ships and aircraft as well as, under certain circumstances, against cargoes to and from Argentina. The full text of the resolution reads as follows:

TRADE UNION SITUATION IN ARGENTINA

WHEREAS the Armed Forces of Argentina, usurping governmental powers not granted them by popular wishes and in flagrant violation of the National Constitution, have proclaimed themselves to be absolute masters and rulers of the country's destinies;

WHEREAS through de-facto President, Army General Juan Carlos Onganía, such Armed Forces have taken totalitarian measures which threaten the very existence of the Argentinian labour movement while, at the same time, curtailing basic political, social and economic freedoms universally recognized as the corner stones of democracy;

ALARMED by the adoption of dictatorial laws and decrees eliminating benefits and trade union rights legitimately achieved and established for over fifty years and which measures adversely affect the interests of railwaymen, seafarers and dockers unions affiliated to the ITF;

NOTING FURTHER that, in outright violation of international agreements and conventions signed and ratified by the Argentinian Government, General Onganía recently decreed the military intervention of the ITF-affiliated dockers' union, SUPA, in reprisal for the union's refusal to yield on its rights to negotiate the conditions arbitrarily imposed upon dock workers by the military government;

FULLY INFORMED that similar decrees may be applied to other transport workers represented by unions affiliated to the ITF,

THE ITF EXECUTIVE BOARD, at its London meeting, 14th, 15th and 16th November, 1966,

RESOLVES:

1. To express publicly its repudiation and condemnation of repressive, anti-labour, totalitarian policies of the Argentinian Military Government;

2. To declare unconditional solidarity with the Argentinian dockers' union, SUPA, presently engaged on a nation-wide strike since 19th October - and its General Secretary, Brother Eustaquio Tolosa, who is also a member of the ITF Executive Board;
3. To declare solidarity and support with all ITF affiliates in Argentina in those critical moments for the democratic labour movement of that country;
4. To urge all ITF affiliates throughout the world to join with the Secretariat in conveying to the Government of Argentina and to the ILO a most vigorous protest for such anti-democratic policies; and
5. To recommend an international boycott, to be applied where appropriate, until such time that the Argentinian Government reviews its present anti-labour stance and puts an end to the military intervention of SUPA:
  - a) against ships and aircraft bearing the Argentinian flag;
  - b) against cargoes which would normally be carried to and from Argentina by Argentine ships and aircraft but which, instead, are carried by ships and aircraft of other nationalities; and
  - c) to refuse unloading of cargoes originating in Argentina, presently loaded by strike-breakers employed by the military government of General Onganía.

The Executive Board also gave careful consideration to the position of the ITF-affiliated Chilean Confederation of Maritime Workers (COMACH), which is under extremely heavy pressure from the Frei Christian Democratic government as a result of its refusal to sever its links with the international free trade union movement. The latest move in the government's campaign against COMACH and its leader Wenceslao Moreno has been to block COMACH's plan to raise a \$100,000 loan from the state-owned National Bank to cover part of the cost of its recently-inaugurated headquarters and Seafarers' Welfare Centre. The loan -- previously agreed by the Bank on very favourable terms -- has now been cancelled as the result of governmental pressure and part of it which has already been advanced has to be repaid at short notice and at an exorbitant rate of interest. In consequence the union's new headquarters is now threatened with foreclosure. In a unanimously-approved resolution, the Executive Board expressed the ITF's complete solidarity with COMACH in its present difficult position and made recommendations concerning financial assistance to the organization which are intended to safeguard the future of its headquarters.

The full text of the resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION ON THE TRADE UNION SITUATION IN CHILE

The Executive Board of the ITF, meeting in London from 14 to 16 November, 1966,

HAVING LEARNED that the ruling political party in Chile - Christian Democratic Party - at its recent Second National Congress adopted a resolution ordering Chilean labor unions - particularly with regard to ITF-affiliated COMACH - to sever affiliation and fraternal bonds with the ITs, ORIT and the ICFTU;

FULLY INFORMED that our affiliate COMACH has steadfastly refused to heed such totalitarian order, expressing publicly its firmest decision to continue affiliated to the ITF and to ORIT-ICFTU;

NOTING FURTHER that, in retaliation for disobeying the order of the Christian Democratic Party, COMACH is being subjected to harrassment and attacks by such political party, which is exerting its influence and governmental power to block COMACH's efforts in obtaining a \$100,000 loan from the state-owned Chilean National Bank;

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the fact that failure to obtain such loan before the end of the year amount to foreclosure of COMACH's recently-inaugurated union headquarters and Welfare Center valued at \$400,000 and 75%-financed by COMACH's own financial resources; and

ALARMED at the prospect that, if COMACH is subdued by such political party, not only the entire Chilean labor movement but the Latin American trade union movement as a whole would be easy prey for the same and/or other political parties,

RESOLVES:

1. To notify the President and Congress of Chile of the ITF's strongest protest for such attempt on the part of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party to impose upon the labor movement a totalitarian resolution which contradicts existing international conventions on freedom of association;
2. To declare complete solidarity with COMACH in its struggle for the preservation of trade union independence and to congratulate General Secretary Wenceslao Moreno for his courageous stand against political domination of the labor movement;
3. To ask the ITF Seafarers' Welfare Fund to consider a loan to COMACH to avert foreclosure of its headquarters and Welfare Centre; and

4. To recommend to the ICFTU International Solidarity Fund that a grant or loan be allowed ICFTU-affiliated COMACH, to complement any assistance furnished by ITF and some of its affiliates.

ARGENTINA  
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Action following Executive Board resolution

All affiliated organizations, and particularly those in seafaring, docks and civil aviation, have been strongly requested to take all appropriate action in accordance with the terms of the resolution adopted by the Executive Board (see above). A list of the latest movements of Argentine ships has been circulated, and on 22 November the British Transport & General Workers' Union declared black the Argentine cargo liner "Uruguay" in the Port of London.

ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

GREAT BRITAIN  
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Busmen to get frozen pay increase

77,000 busmen employed by municipal transport undertakings outside London are to receive their frozen pay increase of 9s. 3d. per week from 14 January. The increase had originally been agreed on 20 July - the date from which the freeze became effective.

The unions are also meeting representatives of privately-owned provincial bus companies to discuss pay claims for 100,000 employees. The employers want to discuss methods of improving productivity before reaching a settlement on pay.

SINGAPORE  
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Traction company workers call off strike

A threatened strike by employees of the Singapore Traction Company Employees' Union, due to begin on 17 November, was called off when the company offered to pay three weeks' bonus to each employee. The strike had been called in protest against the company's failure to reach a settlement on claims the union had submitted, and the union agreed to call it off and to accept the bonus offer on condition that all its claims be referred to the Arbitration Court. The union had received a cable of support from the ITF, for which its President has expressed the thanks of the membership.

UNITED STATES  
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Settlement averts strike in Houston

A new two-year contract providing improvements in wages and fringe benefits averted a strike against Houston Rapid Transit Lines on 3 November. The agreement gives an immediate pay rise of 13 cents an hour, plus a further 12 cents in a year's time. Employees now have three weeks' vacation after eight years' service, a \$15 per month increase in pension payments, and an additional company contribution of \$2 per man per month to the fund for improved hospitalization and sick leave.

SEAFARERS

FINLAND  
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South African goods to be boycotted

The ITF-affiliated Finnish Seamen's Union announced on 20 November that vessels carrying South African goods to Finnish ports would be boycotted during the week as part of an anti-apartheid campaign. All ships carrying South African goods were to be affected, regardless of where they were loaded.

GREECE  
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New claims for ocean-going seafarers

A special committee of the ITF-affiliated Panhellenic Seafarers' Federation has proposed a series of claims upon which negotiations on a new contract for crews of ocean-going vessels of 4,500 tons and over may be based. These claims include: a 40% pay increase; 44-hour week at sea (8 hours a day Monday to Friday, and 4 hours on Saturday) and 40-hour week in port; full pay for crew members who fall sick; victualling allowance to be increased; 15% tanker bonus; an extended sea service bonus payable after one year's service; holiday entitlement to be increased to two days for each month's service for officers and one and a half days for crew (currently one and a half days and one day respectively); and other improvements in fringe benefits.

NORWAY  
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Negotiations for foreign trades contracts

Negotiations between the Norwegian Mates' Union and the shipowners on a new contract for the foreign trades have broken down. The Seamen's Union, however, is continuing talks with the owners, one of the problems remaining to be solved being special conditions attaching to rationalization on board ship. The agreement ended on 31 October.

CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS

CANADA  
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Machinists' strike against Air Canada

The ITF-affiliated International Association of Machinists called its 5,200 members employed by Air Canada out on strike on 14 November following the breakdown of negotiations on a new contract for mechanics and other ground staff. Discussions began again on 19 November, and are continuing. The government is not planning at present to intervene to end the strike.

PHILIPPINES  
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Pilots strike against PAL

Pilots employed by Philippines Airlines went on strike from 11 November in protest against the fact that pilots collecting new aircraft for PAL from KLM in the Netherlands - with which PAL are closely associated - are expected to deadhead in economy class accommodation. The pilots, who are members of the ITF-affiliated Federation of Air Transport Unions, are demanding that they should travel first class as passengers under such circumstances.

ITF civil aviation affiliates have been requested not to supply crews for aircraft which PAL might attempt to operate or for aircraft of other companies used for service normally operated by PAL.

UNITED STATES  
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Fact-finding Board reports in Pan Am-TWU dispute

The Presidential Emergency Board report on the dispute between Pan American Airways and the Air Transport Division of the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Union has made recommendations

for a settlement which the union has said are not acceptable "in toto", but might provide a basis for the resumption of direct negotiations.

The Board has recommended three 5% pay increases at annual intervals during the lifetime of a new contract which would last for 32 months. It has proposed that the union's claims for shorter hours, higher overtime rates, and certain other benefits should be withdrawn, and has made recommendations for some improvement in sick leave, pension and insurance provisions.

GENERAL

GREAT BRITAIN  
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"Severe restraint" to follow freeze

The British government has published its plans for the period of severe restraint which will last from 1 January to 30 June 1967 following the end of the freeze on prices and incomes. The criteria already laid down for price increases will not be relaxed, and wherever possible prices should be reduced. Increases in incomes must be exceptional and severely limited. The norm for the annual rate of increase in money incomes a head must be zero; the only possible exceptions provided are for productivity agreements and "lowest-paid" workers. Increases already negotiated should be paid six months after the date originally agreed.

The General Council of the Trades Union Congress has complained that the productivity criteria will inhibit the negotiation of genuine productivity deals; that the approach to low-paid workers is too limited; and that the criteria for wages are more rigorous than those for profits and dividends. It says that the government ought to recognize that an unyielding and legalistic approach to the problems of the period of severe restraint would prejudice and possibly destroy any opportunity of establishing, after the present digression, a more coherent and progressive policy for incomes.

The General Council also proposed to take some positive steps towards a coordinated wage policy. Towards the end of each year it will issue a report on the economic situation and prospects for the coming year, incorporating its views on the general level of increase in wages and salaries which would be appropriate. This would constitute the standard by which unions would be expected to judge their claims and in the light of which the TUC would examine claims and settlements notified to it. The report would be considered by a conference of union executives, and its authority would derive from their study and endorsement of its recommendations. Trade unions might subsequently move on



to a more precise definition of certain common objectives - such as minimum wages and conditions - and to establish regular consultation between the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry to secure more uniformity of minimum conditions. The TUC also thinks it may be possible for unions concerned with major claims to submit and negotiate them simultaneously after consultations between themselves and with the TUC.

NEWS IN BRIEF

International: The Gambia has accepted the 1960 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.

Australia: 400 Qantas pilots went on strike on 24 November to support a claim for pay increases proportionate to those recently awarded to their colleagues on domestic routes. A Qantas spokesman said that pilots on strike would be dismissed on the spot.

Belgium: A 24-hour strike of public service workers took place on 10 November in support of pay claims.

PERSONALIA

Jean Belotti, Air France captain, has been elected President of the French National Airline Pilots' Union and of the French Federation of Civil Aviation Flying Staff, in succession to André Gréard.

Peter Madsen: It is with deep regret that we report the death on 8 November of Peter Madsen, former General Secretary of the Danish Railwaymen's Union from 1948 to 1964. He was 71 years old.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS  
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Conference of ITF Flight  
Engineers' Affiliates - London, 28-29 November 1966