



In case of reproduction, please mention source (ITF) · En cas de reproduction, veuillez mentionner la source (ITF) · Nachdruck bei Quellenangabe gestattet (ITF) · Var god ange källan vid eftertryck (ITF)

No. 3

March 1967

IN THIS ISSUE: Meeting of ITF dockers' representatives in Hamburg (p. 18); New ITF agreement for Liberian vessel (p. 19); Brazil and Argentina fertile ground for Communism (p. 19); UNCTAD shipping committee meets (p. 20); Great Britain: Accident pilot flew too long (p. 20) - Liner train dispute settled (p. 20) - Ban sought on low grade airliner fuel (p. 21) - Conference on driver-cab design (p. 21); Norway to consider ratifying ILO fishermen's Conventions (p. 21); United States: maritime unions to examine labour law (p. 21) - Air hostess dismissed for being overweight (p. 22); General conflict averted in Danish wages disputes (p. 22); 10% pay rise for British officers (p. 22); Greek seamen get 22% pay rise (p. 23); Karachi port strike ends (p. 23); US dispute over crewing by foreign seamen (p. 23); Personalia (p. 24).

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

INTERNATIONAL

Meeting of ITF dockers' representatives in Hamburg

A one day meeting of European and American dockers' representatives will be held by the ITF in Hamburg on the 1st April at the offices of the German Transport and Public Services Union (OetV) to hear a report from Brother Tim O'Leary, Chairman of the ITF Dockers' Section, on his recent mission in connection with the conflict in Argentina. Arising from this there will be a discussion on the question of International Solidarity Actions. Among other things, the meeting will also consider the effects of the use of container ships and similar developments in cargo handling. This will form a basis for a full discussion to take place at the next full conference of the Dockers' Section of the ITF.

New ITF agreement for Liberian vessel

The Liberian vessel "Thalis" was threatened with boycott in Sweden in February by the Swedish Seamen's Union. After several discussions with the owner's agents in London, an agreement incorporating British NMB rates of pay and conditions of service was signed in Sweden before a boycott became necessary. Full payment was made by the owners to the ITF Welfare Fund and the crew became members of the Special Seafarers' Section.

LATIN AMERICA

Brazil and Argentina fertile ground for communism

Jack Otero, Assistant Director of International Affairs of the US Brotherhood of Railway Clerks (BRC), and former ITF Representative in Latin America, recently attacked the military regimes Argentina and Brazil in a biting article entitled "When the Generals take over". Otero condemns the military dictatorship in Brazil and comments that, "since 1964 when military leaders overthrew the constitutional government of President João Goulart, communist agents in that nation have enjoyed a field day exploiting the frustrations of millions of Brazilian citizens. Under the guise of throwing out what they termed a red-tinged regime, the Generals have in two years done more to advance the communist cause in Brazil than anything that Goulart or the communists themselves ever did! A total of five Institutional Acts supplemented by a series of 'presidential' decrees in less than three years systematically eliminated all freedoms previously enjoyed by the Brazilian trade union movement as well as every basic democratic freedom once enjoyed by the Brazilian people. The right to strike has been eliminated along with the right to bargain collectively. The military technocrats ruling Brazil ... are pushing more and more people to the side of the communists."

Otero goes on to say that a quick glance at Argentina would reveal a situation similar to that of Brazil. The Argentinian Generals have gone so far as dismantling the country's entire judicial system. "The attack upon the labour movement came sooner than in Brazil, choosing as their first victims the dock workers. But unlike their counterparts in the North, the Argentinian generals are divided amongst themselves ultimately they may bring about Onganía's ouster."

The author points out that the American worker is becoming increasingly restless over the continued economic and military assistance that is being channelled under the auspices of the "Alliance for Progress" to countries like Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, to name a few, where basic democratic rights have been curtailed or totally suppressed. He concludes by saying

that it is free labour's responsibility to fight dictatorial regimes "we must not cease in our efforts to prevent Brazil and Argentina from becoming shameful replicas of Cuba, Paraguay or Haiti. It's about time that all concerned recognize the value and the wisdom of the late President of the US, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, when he said: 'Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable'".

TRANSPORT AND THE TRADE UNIONS

INTERNATIONAL

UNCTAD Shipping committee meets

The 45-nation committee on shipping, set up by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has called for greater co-ordination in dealing with shipping and port questions. The committee suggested that UN Secretary-General U Thant should consider ways of preventing duplication among various UN bodies active in this field. The committee has also invited governments, shippers, shipowners and other shipping and commercial interests to co-operate with the UNCTAD secretariat by providing information on certain matters. The secretariat was asked to prepare an annual review of current and long term aspects of maritime transport.

GREAT BRITAIN

Accident pilot flew too long without rest

New evidence has come to light showing that the pilot of the Britannia airliner which crashed in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, last year, killing 98 people, did not have three days' rest before the flight. This adds weight to the British airline pilots' case in their disagreement with the Board of Trade over the number of hours they should be permitted to fly. The pilots are pressing for a limit of 85 hours for jets and 95 hours a month for all other aircraft.

Liner train dispute settled

The ITF-affiliated British National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) has lifted its three-year ban on private hauliers using liner train terminals. The union made its decision after assurances had been received that there would be no redundancy among cartage and other personnel arising from the opening of terminals to private hauliers, and that earnings would be safeguarded.

Ban sought on low grade fuel in airliners

In a special report issued by Britain's Air Safety Group, a demand was made for the banning of JP4, a low grade petrol, as a fuel for jet airliners. The report states that JP4, which is eight per cent cheaper than the paraffin used by most airlines, is far more dangerous due to its high inflammability. Only four of the world's airlines use it at present, Air Canada, KLM, Sabena and Japan Airlines. The use of JP4 for airliners has already been banned in Australia. (At a meeting of ITF Flying Personnel in 1964, a resolution was adopted urging Civil Aviation Authorities to investigate the relative safety of this fuel).

British conference on driver-cab design

The British Trade Union Congress (TUC) and the Industrial Section of the Ergonomics Research Society recently organized a half-day conference on the design of cabs of road passenger and commercial vehicles. The conference was arranged to give an opportunity for trade unionists to meet ergonomists in research institutions and in manufacturing industry and to hear about developments in cab design. It also provided an opportunity for trade union officials to give details of the practical problems faced by drivers which might be resolved by the better design of cabs. The ITF was represented by U. Hauser, head of the Research and Information Department.

NORWAY

Norway to consider ratification of ILO fishermen's convention

The Norwegian Government is to study the possibility of revising national legislation covering standards of accommodation on board fishing vessels in line with ILO Convention No. 126 on this subject, with a view to ultimately ratifying the Convention. Norway can also associate itself with the main provisions contained in the ILO Recommendation (No. 126) on Vocational Training for Fishermen, adopted at last year's International Labour Conference along with the Conventions on Accommodation and Fishermen's Certificates of Competency.

UNITED STATES

Maritime unions to examine US labour law

A comprehensive survey of court decisions under the Landrum-Griffin Act (controversial legislation concerning union operation) and a study of all available information on interpretations of the law has been authorized by the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department. The Department's President, Paul Hall, of the ITF affiliated Seafarers' International Union, declared that the time has come when the labour movement must take a close look at this "bad law compounded by bad decisions" and create a situation where information and assistance is available to unions. The

Maritime Trades Department council also called on the President of the US to review aid programmes to Argentina in the light of the suppression of the rights of organized labour in that country.

Air hostess dismissed for being overweight

An airline stewardess, who was dismissed by American Airlines for being 31b overweight, has appealed to the New York State Human Rights Commission. The Commission, which deals with cases of discrimination on the grounds of sex, age and colour, already has before it a number of cases brought by stewardesses dismissed under regulations relating to age and marriage.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

DENMARK

General conflict averted in Danish wages dispute

An eleventh hour settlement worked out and proposed to the Danish trade union and employers' centres by the state mediator has averted strikes and lock-outs scheduled to take place throughout industry earlier this month. The settlement provides for appreciable increases for the lowest-paid workers, reduction of the working week, and improved compensation for rises in the cost of living. Several unions, including the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union (DASF) and Marine Firemen's Union have recommended acceptance to their members. The Seamen's Union (also affiliated) has, however, advised its membership to reject the proposed settlement. The Union points out that seamen's wages have fallen behind those of other Danish workers and the mediation proposal, as far as it affects them, would not enable them to catch up.

GREAT BRITAIN

10% pay rise for British merchant navy officers

New rates of pay for British merchant navy officers have been agreed between the ITF affiliated Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association (MNAOA) and the British Shipping Federation. The new rates, under which officers will receive a 10 per cent rise in pay and overtime rates, will be effective from July 1967 provided it does not contravene government policy on prices and incomes. The new agreement also provides for additional annual leave.

GREECE

22% pay rise for seamen

Greek seamen in deep sea trades are to get a 22 per cent pay increase under a new agreement just concluded between the ITF-affiliated Panhellenic Seafarers' Federation and the Union of Greek Shipowners. There is also a general increase of 2s. in the £ and an increase of 11 per cent in the additional payment for Sundays. The agreement is effective for two years from 15 March 1967.

PAKISTAN

Karachi Port Workers' strike ends

A 41-day strike by the ITF-affiliated Karachi Port Trust Workers ended at midnight on 6 March after the release of arrested leaders and employees and on assurances that a settlement of the workers' demands would be brought about.

The Union struck on 24 January over the failure of the Karachi Port Trust to meet the union's claims for improved wages, which were last revised in 1959, and other benefits. Last summer, after 4 years of adjudication, the Industrial Court awarded the principle of payment for overtime work, but this was not implemented by the employers.

Soon after the strike began over 200 employees were arrested, among them union leaders. The ITF and the ICFTU protested vigorously to the Pakistan Government in February against the arrest of strikers and restraints on the freedom of action of leaders of the Pakistan National Federation of Trade Unions, the national centre to which the Karachi Port Trust Workers are affiliated.

UNITED STATES

US dispute over crewing by foreign seamen

Leaders of the ITF-affiliated National Maritime Union, the National Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (MEBA) and the International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots, representing a total of 95,000 seamen, have told President Johnson that they will strike unless the employment of foreign nationals on US government operated vessels engaged in the Viet-Nam sealoift is stopped.

PERSONALIA

Andersen retires as Danish seamen's leader

Svend From Andersen has retired, for health reasons, as President of the Danish Seamen's Union. The Executive Committee is to propose to an extraordinary general meeting that Johannes Nielsen, the Union's representative in New York, should be installed as Acting President until proper elections can be held.

Becu to retire as ICFTU General Secretary

Omer Becu has announced his intention to give up his post as General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), on grounds of ill health. The seven years which he has spent with the ICFTU mark the culmination of a long and fruitful career in the international trade union movement. From 1950 to 1960 Becu was General Secretary of the ITF. Before the war he worked for the International Mercantile Marine Officers' Association and during the war he worked for the ITF in England and America organizing seafarers from the occupied countries. From that time on he became more permanently involved in ITF activities until he was elected to lead our organization. The democratic trade union movement is losing an indefatigable fighter, but we wish him a happy retirement and a speedy return to health.

Gleason appointed Vice-President of MTD

Thomas W. Gleason, President of the International Longshoremen's Association, has been named vice-president of the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department. The Department now has 35 AFL-CIO affiliates.

Olaf Karling, President of the Norwegian Seamen's Union, celebrated his sixtieth birthday on 26 March 1967.

Morse reelected as ILO Director-General

The Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) has reelected David A. Morse as ILO Director-General for a new five-year period, to begin in September 1968 at the end of his current term of office. Mr. Morse has now headed the ILO for more than 18 years.

Maurice Vergracht has been appointed National Secretary of the Belgian Bus- and Tramwaymen's Union, in succession to Julien Geldof, who died in May last year.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- Seafarers' Section Conference - London, 3 - 5 April 1967
- Executive Board - Gothenburg, 16-18 May 1967
- Road Transport Section Conference - Berlin, 13-16 September 1967
- 29th ITF Congress - Wiesbaden, 28 July -
3 August 1968

AFFILIATED UNIONS REQUIRING FURTHER
INFORMATION ON ANY ITEM IN THIS
NEWSLETTER MAY OBTAIN IT ON REQUEST
FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ITF.

---ooOoo---