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Personalia

Stop Press

*Japanese railwaymen's strike*

TRANSPORT

INTERNATIONAL

Nobel Peace Prize goes to the ILO

The Nobel Peace Prize for 1969 has been awarded to the International Labour Organization. The Nobel Committee, announcing its decision, paid tribute to the ILO as an organization which had worked to "improve stable social relations, and thus contributed to safeguarding world peace".

IMCO holds its Sixth Assembly

IMCO, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, held its Sixth Assembly in London from 15-29 October. On the technical side of IMCO's work, a number of important decisions were taken directed towards improving the safety of life and property at sea. They included a series of amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1960, which had been prepared by IMCO's Maritime Safety Committee and were primarily concerned with safety of navigation and radio communications.

The Assembly further adopted amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954 (as amended in 1962). In addition, there were adopted a number of recommendations relating to life-saving appliances, fire safety measures for hydrofoils, and additional traffic separation schemes, as well as new Grain Regulations, which were recommended as an equivalent to the Chapter of the 1960 Convention on the subject. Other decisions included procedures for amending and keeping up to date the International Code of Signals, approval of the "Document for Guidance 1968", which contains standards of safety training for masters of icers and crews of merchant ships and which was worked out by a Joint Committee of ILO and IMCO.

The Assembly also discussed preparations for several future conferences of IMCO: the International Legal Conference on Marine Pollution Damage, to be held in Brussels next month, a conference on Maritime Container Traffic planned for 1971, a conference to revise the Collision Regulations in 1972, and, if possible, a conference on Maritime Pollution in 1973. Another conference projected for the future concerns the establishment of revised Simla Rules, which govern the carriage of berthed and unberthed passengers in special trades.

Fishing vessels were also discussed, the IMCO Maritime Safety Committee being requested to expedite its work in

this field and the eventual objective being either appropriate amendment of the International Safety of Life at Sea Convention (which at present does not cover fishing vessels) or the establishment of a new instrument.

Finally, the Assembly approved reports on the work of the IMCO Maritime Safety Committee and its various sub-committees during the two years under review.

The following were elected as Members of the new IMCO Council: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Federal Germany, France, Ghana, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Malagasy Republic, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, USSR, United Kingdom and USA. As Members of the new IMCO Maritime Safety Committee, the Assembly elected: Argentina, Canada, France, Federal Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Spain, Sweden, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom and USA.

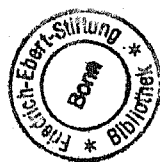
During the Assembly, the first meeting was held of a subsidiary of IMCO's Council which has the special task of dealing with the technical cooperation activities of IMCO. It placed particular emphasis on the need for governments of developing countries to establish priorities in the field of maritime transport for implementing technical assistance projects. In this regard special interest was shown in a report on the problems encountered by certain Latin American countries in applying the requirements of IMCO instruments.

### UNITED STATES

#### Reduced Hours of Work for US Railwaymen

The American House of Representatives has unanimously approved an amendment to the 1907 Hours of Service Act, an act which has until now governed the hours worked by railwaymen. If approved by the Senate, daily hours of service for US railwaymen would be reduced in two stages from 16 to 12 hours. When the bill became law, there would be a reduction from 16 to 14 hours, effective one year from the date of the enactment of the bill. Hours would be further reduced to 12 hours at the end of this period. The measure also provides for an employee to be given at least 8 hours of consecutive rest in any 24-hour period.

ITF-affiliated unions have been active in the campaign for reduced hours of work for US railwaymen (see ITF Newsletter, No. 8, p. 62).



TRADE UNIONS

INTERNATIONAL

ICFTU Accuses Spanish Government of Violation of Trade Union Rights

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has submitted to the International Labour Office a complaint against the Spanish Government for violation of trade union rights.

In its complaint, the ICFTU refers to the trial in July and October of this year of twenty-two Basque trade unionists, members of the UGT, a clandestine democratic trade union organization. In July, three workers were sentenced to terms of imprisonment arising out of charges of "illegal association". They were accused of having organized UGT sections in Viscaya province, and of having attended trade union training courses in Sweden and in France. Workers tried in October were sentenced on similar charges.

The ICFTU has requested the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association to urgently examine the complaint which provides further evidence that Spanish legislation in practice is in flagrant contradiction of the principles and standards of the ILO.

International Boycott Action in Support of California Grape Pickers

The ICFTU has made a renewed appeal to all its affiliated organizations suggesting that representatives of national trade union centres and all unions involved in the handling of California table grapes meet with the importers and shipping lines concerned in an attempt to persuade them to stop handling all California table grapes until the boycott against them is lifted. The AFL-CIO United Farm Workers' Organizing Committee believes that this would hit the California grapes shipments hardest and would make an actual blockade unnecessary.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

GERMANY

OeTV concludes a new wages deal for Lufthansa employees

The German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union (OeTV) has recently concluded a new wage agreement for the 17,000 employees of the German Lufthansa and Lufthansa Service Ltd.

The agreement includes the following provisions: covering the period which the present salary agreement has still to run (i.e. to 31 December), a lump payment will be made corresponding to 1/3 of the monthly salary of the employee, this sum to be not less than DM 300; salaries to be increased by 10% from 1 January 1970, this new agreement to run for twelve months. All Lufthansa employees are also to receive an extra day's leave from 1 January 1971. The 40-hour week is to be introduced by stages and is to become effective by 1 January 1975.

DM 8.83=£1 (after revaluation)

#### Interim Pay Award for German Seafarers

The German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union (OeTV) - an ITF affiliate - has successfully negotiated an interim pay award for West Germany's 45,000 seafarers. Captains and crew members will receive a special payment of DM 100 a month for October, November and December (when the current wages agreement expires). The union is at present engaged in negotiations for an improved collective agreement for 1970.

#### GREAT BRITAIN

##### 7% Rise for Airport Staff

The Government has given its approval to a 7 per cent pay award agreed between the British Airports Authority and the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union. The award is back-dated to 1 October and will mean at least £1. 10. 0. more a week take-home pay for manual workers, together with substantial increases in shift pay. All other grades, mostly clerical, are to receive the same percentage increase with a minimum of £80 per year. A further 4½% increase based on a pay and productivity agreement comes into force in two months' time.

##### 5% Increase in Minimum Rates for British Lorry Drivers

The wages council of the road transport industry has agreed a 5 per cent increase in minimum rates for 220,000 workers in the road haulage industry. Subject to approval, the minimum basic rate for drivers of lorries of less than 5 tons will be increased by 10s. to £11. 8. 6. in the provinces and £11. 13. 6. in London. Lower-paid workers will get an extra £2, provided this does not bring their earnings above £16 per week. The daily subsistence allowance goes up from £1. 3. 0. to £1. 5. 0. per night. Employees will also be eligible for 3 weeks' annual leave after three years' service.

### New Deal for Lowestoft Fishermen

A new pay and conditions agreement for Lowestoft's 1,000 fishermen has been signed by the local shipowners' association and the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union. The deal guarantees a minimum weekly wage of £21. from 1 November 1969. The TGWU has been campaigning for a basic £21. per week for all fishermen.

### ITALY

#### Italian Railwaymen call off Threatened Strike

Italian railwaymen called off a strike planned for 23 and 24 October when the Italian Government gave its approval to a bill providing for the recruitment of 20,000 railwaymen, bringing the total strength of the labour force in the industry to 200,000. This would enable the working week for railwaymen to be cut to 40 hours by 1972.

### UNITED STATES

#### Machinists accept New Wages Deal

The International Association of Machinists (IAM) - an ITF affiliate - has accepted United Air Lines' offer of a new wages deal providing for a more than 35 per cent increase in rates of pay spread over three years. The vote came on the eve of a strike deadline. Some 18,000 mechanics, ramp and stores employees have won an 11 per cent increase back-dated to 1 January of this year; a further 6.5 per cent back-dated to 1 July; additional increases of 4 per cent on 1 February and 1 August 1970; and a final 5.66 per cent on 1 May 1971. Other benefits include: full pension payment for eligible employees from 31 May 1970; vacations up to six weeks after 25 years' service; premium pay for line-aircraft service workers; a working day of 7.5 hours for night shifts starting at 5 p.m. or later up to 6 a.m.; and unlimited travel passes for employees with 15 years' service. Employees are also guaranteed severance pay if they lose their jobs as a result of mergers.

#### UTU Claim for a 30% Increase on Basic Rates

The United Transportation Union (part of the Railway Labor Executives' Association, an ITF affiliate) has served demands for a 30% increase on basic rates of pay over two years on all US railroads. The UTU is calling for a 15% increase on 1 January 1970 and a further 15% on 1 January 1971. Existing contracts expire at the end of this year. Under a cost-of-living clause proposed by the union, basic rates would be tied to increases in the US Consumer Price

Index and adjustments would be made every three months with effect from 1 March 1970.

Any increase that might be sanctioned would benefit almost a quarter of a million UTU members in the US.

PERSONALIA

Karl Weigl, one of the pioneers of the Austrian trade union movement, celebrated his ninetieth birthday on 15 October. Weigl began his long period of association with the Austrian Transport Workers' Union when he was elected its Central Secretary in 1911. He later succeeded Franz Domes as President of the Austrian Chamber of Labour, with which he had been connected since its foundation in 1920. Weigl was arrested in 1934, but he was released later in the same year and immediately joined the illegal Social Democratic Party and although under police surveillance played an active part in the free trade union movement. After a period of exile, he returned to Austria in 1946 at the request of the Federal President. In the same year Weigl was elected President of the Austrian Transport Workers' Union and held this post until his retirement in 1954.

Fritz Prechtl, President of the Austrian Railwaymen and a member of the ITF Executive Board, has been appointed President of the Austrian Chamber of Labour.

Floyd E. Smith, President of the US International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and Charles Luna, President of the US United Transportation Union, have been elected vice-presidents on the AFL-CIO Executive Council.

R. Spruhan, former national organiser, has been appointed Acting Assistant General Secretary of the British National Union of Seamen. He will replace A.A. Gibson who has resigned for health reasons.

George Chambers has been elected President of the British National Union of Railwaymen.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Civil Aviation Section Committee Meeting

Utrecht, 10-11 December 1969

Road Transport Workers' Section Safety Sub-Committee Meeting

London, 17-19 December 1969

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



STOP PRESS

Successful Outcome to the Dispute over Single-Manning on Japanese Railways

Following a 17-hour strike on 31 October and 1 November, agreement has been reached between the railway management and two ITF-affiliated Japanese railwaymen's unions (Doro and Kokuro) on the long-standing dispute over single-manning (see also ITF Newsletter No. 7, p. 56). As the result of negotiations, the parties have agreed that 3,500 of the 9,000 assistant drivers faced with redundancy should be retained and that maximum daily hours for engine drivers should be reduced by 15 minutes from 5 hours 30 minutes.

