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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

INTERNATIONAL

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ITF protests at fêting of hijacker

Following reports that Christian Bellon, the French national who recently hijacked a TWA Boeing to Beirut, had been released on bail and was being treated as a hero in the Lebanon, the General Secretary, Charles Blyth, cabled a protest to the Lebanese President on 16 January. The text of the cable read as follows:

"International Transport Workers' Federation, speaking on behalf all categories airline personnel throughout world, strongly deplores release on bail of international criminal who hijacked TWA Boeing and risked lives of crew and passengers. Lenient treatment of persons carrying out such acts -- universally condemned by all sectors civil aviation industry and responsible governments -- encourages further crimes against civil aircraft and their occupants. Would respectfully remind you that all countries operating civil airlines have equal interest in deterring hijackings by severely penalizing offenders regardless of alleged motives and refusing to treat them as heroes."

Later, it was learned that Bellon had been re-arrested on 23 January and charged with offences against both the occupants of the Boeing and the aircraft itself. A French judge is also reported to have issued an international arrest warrant against the hijacker.

New national moves to combat hijackings were announced last month. In Belgium, the Government has now introduced a draft law on ratification of the 1963 Tokyo Convention. Colombia has adopted a new penal law which will be used against hijackers. This provides sentences ranging from 2 to 10 years for adults convicted of depriving others of their freedom, or for kidnapping for personal reasons or profit. The United States and New Zealand have signed a new extradition treaty which covers aircraft hijacking.

Chilean airline ground and flying staff went on strike for 12 hours on 8 February in protest against a gun battle which followed the boarding by police of a hijacked Caravelle operated by the Chilean state-owned airline L.A.N. During this, four people were wounded -- including stewardess Scarlett Burgos who was trying to protect passengers -- and one of the hijackers was killed.

### ITF reacts to Munich Airport attack

As this Newsletter was being finalized, a new attack -- this time against the passengers and crew of an El Al aircraft -- was reported from Munich Airport. The attack, which is believed to have been the prelude to an attempted hijacking of the aircraft, was carried out by nationals of Arab countries. Grenades were thrown into an airport bus and the transit lounge, killing one passenger and wounding eleven other persons, including, it was understood, the aircraft's captain and flight engineer, together with one of the hijackers.

In a cable to both U Thant and the Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization, the ITF's General Secretary expressed deep horror at this unprovoked attack on airline passengers and crew members. "Urgent and drastic measures", Blyth continued, were needed on the part of all governments and airlines to arrest the continued increase in the number of attacks on civil aircraft, aviation employees and passengers. The utmost international pressure should also be exerted on any government harbouring or supporting groups responsible for such crimes. Airline workers organized in the ITF, he said, "would welcome and back effective international action aimed at preventing the civil aviation industry from becoming a battleground".

Argentina

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### ITF expresses condolences on Argentine rail accident

In a cable to its affiliate, the Argentine Locomotivemen's Union (La Fraternidad), the ITF has expressed its sympathy with those bereaved as a result of the collision on 1 February between an express and a local train in which some 130 people were killed. The crash occurred at the Buenos Aires suburban station of Benavidez.

### New agreements signed for flag-of-convenience vessels

Through the ITF-affiliated Italian Seamen's Union (FILM), ITF agreements have been renewed for the Panamanian vessels San Nicolas, Gaiety, Probita, Terry, Asterus, Theo, Ninfeo, Equity, and Fortuity and the Liberian vessel Miramar. A collective agreement signed by the Italian union and the Trieste Maritime Finance Agency provides additional benefits for the crews of the 10 vessels. These include: new monthly rates effective from 1 September 1969; improved hourly overtime rates, giving an extra L 75<sup>x</sup> per hour to the 1st mate and 1st engineer, L 70 to the 2nd mate, 2nd engineer and radio officer and scaled increases to other members of the crew; the repatriation of crew members at the company's expense after 12 months on board ship away from Italian ports (previously 18 months), any seamen wishing to extend his service beyond this term being entitled to extra payment corresponding to 15% of his basic wage; and special rates payable for the cleaning of tanks.

x) L1,510 = £1

In addition, a collective contract has been concluded between the same union and the Victoria Steamship Company Ltd. of Monrovia in respect of the Liberian-flag vessel Victoria. The vessel is manned by an Italian crew. Under the terms of the contract, guaranteed overtime is raised by one hour per day for catering and cabin staff and by ½ hour per day for all other personnel; the monthly bonus for cadets, petty officers and ratings is increased by \$2,<sup>x</sup> a monthly bonus for galley and storeroom personnel in the amount of \$10-18 being introduced for the first time; chief Radio Officers are entitled to wear three stripes (previously two) and other Radio Officers are to wear two stripes instead of one; and 45 days' leave is to be granted during the cruising season to all those entitled to it, with travel expenses to and from New York paid by the company.

x) \$2.40 = £1.

TRANSPORT

GREAT BRITAIN

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Hauliers fined for permitting employees to work excess hours

Two directors of a London haulage company were ordered last month to pay fines and costs totalling £82,000 when the Court found them guilty of encouraging drivers to work up to 18 hours per day and of falsifying their records in an attempt to evade detection. It was alleged that lorry drivers employed by the company had been required to make one long-distance journey after the other, separated by no more than a loading break. One man had driven 108 hours in all in the course of one week. The prosecution claimed that the company had started what amounted to a "forgery factory" when a Ministry of Transport inspector asked to see copies of their records.

In a comment on the case, Ken Jackson of the Road Transport Commercial Group of the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union recommended drivers who were encouraged to exceed legally permitted hours to contact their union representative who would report all justified cases to the Ministry of Transport. He hoped that the new control books and shorter maximum hours regulations required by the 1968 Transport Act (which comes into effect next month) would help stamp out this abuse.

TRADE UNIONS

UNITFD STATES

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North American railway unions create new organization

Developments within the Railway Labor Executives' Association (RLEA) have led to the withdrawal from it of unions representing the bulk of its membership and a decision by the RLEA to terminate its affiliation with the ITF. The unions which left the RLEA, and which speak on behalf of at least 75 per cent of the organized workers in the railway industry, are however continuing their ITF affiliation through a new organization, the Congress of Railway Unions. Membership of the Congress is at present made up of the United Transportation Union (UTU); the Brotherhood of Railway & Airline Clerks (BRAC); the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees; the Seafarers' International Union; and the Hotel and Restaurant Employees.

In a joint statement on the creation of the new body, its three principal officers said:

"The Congress of Railway Unions will seek to develop better representation in the economic, legislative and political fields for the men and women employed on America's railroads and express agencies.

"We welcome the affiliation of other railroad unions which like us believe that in the 1970's railway labor must move to ensure better protection for the workers and a rising share of the wealth that American productivity makes possible."

The Chairman of the new organization is UTU President, Charles Luña; the Vice-Chairman, Harold Crotty of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees. C.L. Dennis, President of the Brotherhood of Railway & Airline Clerks becomes Chairman of the CRU's important Committee on Railroad Retirement. Donald S. Beattie, former Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the RLEA and a member of the ITF Executive Board, is the Congress's Executive Secretary.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA

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Dockers act in sympathy with ITF affiliate

The Australian Transport Workers' Union decided in February to put a ban on all wharves and container depots in the Port of Sydney as the result of a dispute between the ITF-affiliated Federated Clerks' Union and Thomas Nationwide Transport, thus stopping the delivery of goods by the company to and from Sydney's waterfront.

AUSTRIA

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Employees criticize proposed staff reductions by Austrian Airlines

At a meeting held last month, representatives of Austrian Airlines flying staff, salaried employees and hourly-rated employees (a large number of whom are organized by the ITF-affiliated Austrian Transport Workers' Union) strongly criticized and rejected plans to reduce staff by the airline. They complained that they had not been properly informed of the extent of the proposed cut-backs and emphasized that their own proposals on ways of safeguarding and extending job opportunities had either not been answered or had been rejected out of hand. The company plans would have their greatest effect on technical staff, but the employees point out that the quality of work performed by such staff is equal to or better than what can be achieved abroad and certainly considerably cheaper.

It was also underlined that AUA's plans to close down certain international routes include some which have a utilization factor of up to 78 per cent, although the European average is around the fifty per cent mark. The proposed taking out of service of AUA's four Viscount aircraft was also criticized as being based on completely false economic considerations, and attention was drawn to the fact that conversion courses for this type of aircraft were still being carried out when the union meeting was held.

The AUA staff representatives have called for an inquiry into the management's proposed cuts.

CEYLON

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Ceylonese dockers achieve wage settlement

It is reported that unions involved in the 62-day Ceylon port strike, including the ITF-affiliated Independent Harbour Workers' Union, ended their stoppage on 12 February following a satisfactory wage settlement.

FINLAND

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Increases won for Finnish foreign-going seafarers

Finnish seafarers employed in the foreign trades benefit from substantial wage and salary increases as from the beginning of 1970. Monthly rates for all grades go up by one per cent plus Fmk. 38.80.<sup>x)</sup> Competency allowances are increased by Fmk. 3 per month and other allowances by between 4.7 and 6 per cent. The tanker allowance, amounting to 10 per cent of monthly rates, will now also be paid for any dangerous or harmful cargoes and not simply where oil cargoes are involved. Overtime rates have been fixed at 1/102 of the monthly rate for weekdays and at 1/63 for overtime worked at weekends or on holidays.

The ITF-affiliated Finnish Seamen's Union calculates that the new agreements will, in the case of its members, provide increases of 14 per cent on the lowest rates; nine per cent for an AB; and approximately 7 per cent for junior officers.

x) £1 equals Fmk.10.05

GERMANY

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German Transport Workers' Union achieves demands for public service workers

The ITF-affiliated German Transport & Public Service Workers' Union has achieved a settlement which effectively meets its claim that workers employed in public service should receive an increase of at least DM 100. The settlement, arrived at in January, provides both for straight wage and salary increases plus structural changes in the public service which will increase earnings, as well as non-cash benefits (vermögenswirksame Leistungen) of DM 13 per month for employees who do not earn more than DM 1,000 per month.

Significant improvements won for German railwaymen

Following a fourth round of wage talks between the German Federal Railways (DB) and the ITF-affiliated German Railwaymen's Union (GdED), the 180,000 members of the union are to receive an 8% increase in rates of pay with effect from 1 January 1970. Railway workers whose salary does not exceed DM 1,000<sup>x)</sup> per month even with this increase are to be awarded an additional non-cash emolument of DM 13 per month. This measure is intended to ensure that the salaries of lower-paidworkers do not fall below the level of the last three months of 1969 (when railwaymen were made an award of DM 100 per month to cover increases in the cost-of-living). Additional improvements include: increased bonuses for productivity and for difficult work; improved social benefits; and a payment of DM 1.20 per shift to staff responsible for the inspection of carriages to cover their expenses. This last is an improvement which the union has been seeking to introduce for some years.

x) DM 8.40 = £1.

GERMANY  
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First contract signed for KLM employees in Germany

The ITF-affiliated German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union (OeTV) has successfully negotiated the first ever salary agreement for German employees of the Dutch airline company KLM. Under the terms of the one-year contract, which came into effect on 1 January 1970, employees receive an 11.5% increase in salaries; the shift premium for Sunday work is raised; employees who had previously received the lowest increments are to have them increased; and the maximum Christmas bonus goes up from DM 1,800 to DM 2,000 in 1970 and to DM 2,200 in 1971.

GREAT BRITAIN  
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Amendment to British Merchant Shipping Bill

An amendment to the British Merchant Shipping Bill was carried during a House of Commons debate last month. The bill originally laid down that not less than £30 of the total wages payable to a seaman under a crew agreement must be paid at the time of discharge. This figure has been amended to a minimum of £50, payable within two days of the ship reaching port. The company employing the seaman will now be required to pay the balance within a further seven days. If payment is not effected by the end of this period, the seaman may claim an extra day's pay for every day up to a maximum of 56 days that the balance remains unpaid. Any amount remaining unpaid after 56 days would carry interest at the rate of 20 per cent per annum.

Shipowners support union membership for merchant officers

An agreed statement issued by the British National Maritime Board last month gives shipowner support for union membership by merchant marine officers. The statement agreed between the British Shipping Federation and officers' organizations represented on the Board's officers' panel (including the ITF-affiliated Merchant Navy & Airline Officers' Association and the Radio & Electronic Officers' Union) says inter alia that the Shipping Federation "firmly supports the view that it is in the best interests of the industry as a whole, and of the individuals concerned, for officers to be members of one or other of the (officers') unions or associations". In a comment on the statement, Douglas Tennant, General Secretary of the MNAOA and Chairman of the ITF Seafarers' Section, described it as "a major step forward".



Ships' pilots demand higher rates of pay

A meeting is to be held shortly between the Marine Pilotage Services Branch of the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union, the United Kingdom Pilots' Association and the British Chamber of Shipping to discuss the dissatisfaction of ships' pilots with the general level of their earnings. A recent conference of marine pilots, which included representatives of the ITF union, unanimously adopted a resolution calling for immediate action to re-establish the standard of pilots' earnings. The pilots' pay is regulated by a national agreement based on the awards of the National Maritime Board to navigating officers as a yardstick for adjustments. The exclusion, however, of the pilots from certain elements of the officer awards has meant that the traditional position of pilots' earnings has gradually been eroded.

British trawlermen will take strike action

As this issue of the ITF Newsletter was finalized, trawlermen in Hull were preparing to go on strike following the breakdown of talks between their union, the ITF-affiliated Transport & General Workers' Union, and the owners. Dave Shenton of the T & GWU indicated that the strike could be a long one unless the owners began negotiating realistically on the men's claims, which are primarily concerned with wages comparable to those already achieved for trawlermen at Aberdeen last year, where a basic weekly rate of £21 is applied.

INDIA

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Impressive new deal for Indian officers

Negotiations between the ITF-affiliated Maritime Union of India (MUI) and the shipowners' association on the terms of an agreement for foreign-going vessels over 3,001 tons GRT have now reached a satisfactory conclusion. The agreement (which is retrospective to 1 January 1969 and lasts for three years) includes: a new basic wages scale; a rent allowance of 10% of the basic rate; a 1% increase in the various tonnage allowances; a bonus for each certificate held; the payment of full shorthand money to pursers who perform dual duties; a scheme designed to provide medical insurance cover for officers and their wives during periods of leave; and a war risk bonus of 100% of basic rates for the Middle East.

NEW ZEALAND  
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New Zealand dockers must be consulted on containerization

Mr. John Marshall, New Zealand's Minister of Labour and Minister for Overseas Trade, in a statement issued this month concerning labour re-deployment arising out of large-scale containerization of shipping, said that men whose livelihood was at stake had every right to be consulted and accommodated into the new pattern. The Government, he went on, had a responsibility to ensure that the introduction of container traffic was accomplished to achieve the maximum benefit without unduly harmful or lasting social effects.

UNITED STATES  
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Machinists apply for writ of mandamus

The ITF-affiliated US International Association of Machinists, (IAM) 1,000 of whose mechanics were locked out by National Airlines in January of last year, has taken the unusual step of applying for a writ of mandamus<sup>x)</sup> against US District Court Judge C. Clyde Atkins of Miami, and National Airlines. Judge Atkins was instructed by the Fifth US Circuit Court of Appeals of New Orleans in September to ensure that the locked-out mechanics were reinstated in accordance with its own decision. Last December, Judge Atkins over-ruled the higher court and decided in favour of the airline, as he had in fact done in his original ruling against the Machinists. Announcing the union decision, IAM Chief Counsel Plato Papps said that the mandamus action takes precedence over all other matters before the Circuit Court.

The ITF Civil Aviation Section Committee, meeting in Utrecht in December, pledged the support of ITFaviation affiliates to the IAM.

x) A mandamus is in effect a command to, inter alia, a lower court or public officer requiring performance of something appertaining to their office.

Machinists call off strike threat to TWA

The ITF-affiliated US International Association of Machinists (IAM) has reached a tentative agreement with Trans World Airlines only seven hours before a strike deadline. The union is seeking substantially improved rates of pay and better fringe benefits for 15,000 ground service personnel along the lines of recent agreements with several other airlines. Details of the settlement will be released when it has been put to the union membership. The strike threatened TWA's domestic service and would eventually have affected international flights.

Purser pharmacist mates with US Lines win contracts

Following a recent six-day strike, the Staff Officers' Association of America AFL-CIO has won a standard contract for purser pharmacist mates with United States Lines. The strike came after five months of negotiations with US Lines had failed -- the company insisting that it retain the right to decide whether to carry purser personnel aboard its vessels.

There were indications as the year progressed that the company was planning to sell or transfer ownership of the majority of its vessels, in which event it seemed unlikely that purser pharmacist mates would be included in the manning scales.

As it was the SOA which has persuaded the US federal government to reintroduce the purser pharmacist mate rating against the prevailing trend towards job simplification, the union was all the more concerned that any new company contract should ensure that purser personnel remained with their vessels during the life of the union agreement, even if the vessel were sold or transferred. When the company tentatively agreed to this demand, the strike was called off.

The SOA was supported in its action by the US International Longshoremen's Association, the International Association of Masters, Mates and Pilots, the National Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association and the National Maritime Union of America (all ITF affiliates).

An article on the SOA pharmacist mate training programme appeared in the ITF Journal (Summer 1969).

PERSONALIA

Hilbert Asklund, former representative of the ITF-affiliated Swedish Transport Workers' Union in Gothenburg and member of the union's council died in January at the age of 71.

George Chambers, who is employed by British Rail as a locomotive driver, has been elected as new National President of the British National Union of Railwaymen.

Oskar Deubler, former Vice-President of the Austrian Transport Workers' Union, died on 1 January at the age of 77.

Albert Griffiths, General Secretary of the ITF-affiliated British Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) and a member of the General Council of the ITF, died on 13 February, aged 61.

Fritz Schreiber, Treasurer of the German Railwaymen's Union and a well-known figure in the ITF, retired from his union on 5 February on reaching the age of 65. We wish him a very long and pleasant retirement. Bro. Schreiber has been succeeded by Erwin Plaumann.

Oiva Lappalainen, long-time member and officer of the Finnish Seamen's Union and well-known in Finland as a poet and writer on the sea and seafarers, died on 4 February at the age of 62. He contributed to the union journal "Merimies" for some 40 years and recently acted as co-editor of an anthology of Finnish seamen poets published under the auspices of the Seamen's Union (see article in Winter 1969 issue of the ITF Journal).

David A. Morse, Director General of the International Labour Organization, has announced that he will be retiring from this post on 31 May 1970.

Emil Winther, former National Secretary of the Transport Group of the Danish Transport & General Workers' Union, celebrated his 80th birthday on 20 January.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS  
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- Road Transport Workers' Section  
Safety Sub-Committee Meeting - London, 25-26 February 1970
- Flight Engineers' Technical  
Committee Meeting - London, 23-24 March 1970

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

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LATE ITEM  
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UNITED STATES  
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New developments in National Airlines dispute

The ITF-affiliated International Association of Machinists has just informed us that US Court of Appeals has denied the Association's request for a writ of mandamus (see item elsewhere in this issue) and has stated that the petition will be expedited through the regular appeals procedure. In another court case arising from the Association's dispute with National Airlines, an Appellate Court has upheld the claim of the National Mediation Board that there had been insufficient meetings for the Board to be compelled to end its mediation efforts. Further meetings have therefore taken place between the Association and the airline. The IAM expects that within a short time the Board will discontinue its efforts and thus enable the IAM to engage in a legal strike. The Association therefore requests continued support in its dispute from the ITF and its affiliates.

National Airlines is now also engaged in a conflict with striking members of the Air Line Employees' Association and is completely shut down.

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