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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

ITF calls special meeting of its Civil Aviation Safety Committee

The ITF has called a special meeting of its Civil Aviation Safety Committee which will be held from 14-15 May in London. The meeting will discuss the recent wave of attacks against civil aircraft and will prepare a brief for ITF representatives attending the International Conference on Air Security convened by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The latter conference, called in response to international pressure for a world meeting on the subject, will take place in Montreal from 16-30 June.

ITF dockers hold discussions on a model international agreement for dock work

The first meeting of the ITF Committee on a Model International Agreement for Dock Work took place in Rotterdam on 6 and 7 April. Representatives of dockers' unions in France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and the United States took part and Tim O'Leary, Chairman of the ITF Dockers' Section, presided. The aim of the meeting was to consider for the first time the drawing up of a model agreement that would lay down basic principles which national organizations could apply on matters such as hours of work, pay, manning, security of employment and changes in working methods and techniques. The discussions had as their background the rapid and widespread introduction of new cargo handling techniques, in particular containers, with all the consequences that these carried for dock workers. The meeting's conclusions are to be formulated and distributed among the unions concerned.

TRANSPORT

INTERNATIONAL
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International Labour Office to hold maritime seminar in Singapore

The International Labour Office is to hold a maritime training seminar in Singapore from 23 April to 6 May. The meeting is one of a series being organized by the ILO in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme with the object of upgrading the training of seafarers in the developing regions of the world. It will examine maritime training conditions in Singapore and will pay special attention to the development of a model pre-sea training course for use in national pre-sea training centres.

The Seminar will be attended by tripartite delegations from the following countries: Republic of China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Turkey.

EUROPE

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Agreement reached on new AETR

At the Forty-Second (Special) Session of the ECE Inland Transport Committee held in Genoa from 1-3 April last agreement was reached on the revised European Road Transport Agreement (AETR).

Provision has been made in the AETR for a transitional period, ending on 31 December 1973, during which the total driving time between two consecutive daily rest periods shall not exceed 8 hours, whatever the vehicle or combination of vehicles driven. This exempts drivers of vehicles registered in countries outside the European Communities from the 8-hour maximum daily driving period prescribed in the Community Regulations. Drivers of vehicles registered in Member States of the European Communities will, of course, continue to be bound by the Communities' own regulations.

A Statement from the ITF emphasising the desirability of including in the revised AETR a provision regulating working hours was placed before the Sub-Committee. In spite of strong support from the ILO representative and the British Government delegation, the Sub-Committee could not agree to insert in the Protocol of Signature an undertaking by the contracting parties to begin without delay negotiations with a view to including an appropriate provision on working hours. However, the Sub-Committee did agree to accept an alternative proposal by the ECE delegations, which is worded as follows:

"The Contracting Parties declare that this Agreement is without prejudice to such provisions as may subsequently be drawn up in the matter of the duration and spreadover of work."

The ECE Secretariat has taken steps to promote consideration of drivers' working hours in the Inland Transport Committee and the ITF will continue to support these efforts.

GREAT BRITAIN

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New rules for AB certificates

New regulations have been introduced for the issue of AB certificates of competency. The principal changes in the regulations which came into effect on 16 March are in the length of qualifying service. Service at sea is widened to include service in a general-purpose rating in addition to service in a deck rating. The extent to which courses at prescribed training schools and establishments can count towards qualifying service is also altered.

TGWU pay policy for road haulage industry

The ITF-affiliated British Transport and General Workers' Union's commercial services group committee has called for the Road Haulage Wages Council to be wound up because it believes that employers are using it to keep at a low level the wages of an industry which is a lifeline of the British economy. The union committee said that members who challenged the Council's rates in an effort to secure adequate living standards would be given their full support.

UNITED STATES

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Engineering officers call for the expansion of the US merchant fleet

The ITF-affiliated US Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (MEBA) which organizes licensed engineering officers of the US merchant marine passed a resolution at its recent 90th Convention calling for the expansion of the nation's merchant fleet, which, it charged, was being allowed to "deteriorate quantitatively and qualitatively". The union urged the speedy passage through Congress of the Nixon Administration's proposed shipbuilding programme which it called the "first and long overdue step towards rebuilding the American merchant marine".

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

BELGIUM

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New agreement for SABENA personnel

Improvements in the new 1970 agreement for SABENA flying personnel include: an increase in the bonus for work performed on Sundays and public holidays to 60 per cent from 1 January and a further increase to 75 per cent from 1 November; a reduction in hours of work from 42 hours to 41 hours 40 minutes from the beginning of November; an increase in the basic rate of hourly-paid workers of 2.59 Belg. Fr. ^x per hour and an increase of 477 Belg. Fr. per month for salaried staff; and an annual bonus of 6.537% of the January salary level, which is payable on 20 December and must not be less than 700 Belg. Fr.

x) Belg. Fr. 119 = £1.

Belgian railwaymen to be paid improved rates for Sunday work

The ITF-affiliated Railwaymen's Sector of the Belgian General Public Services Centre has reached agreement with the Belgian Railways on the introduction of double pay for work performed on Sundays. Previously, railwaymen had received the normal hourly rate plus a bonus of 10 Belg. fr. an hour for this work.

CHILE

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Chile dockers call off strike

The ITF-affiliated Maritime Confederation of Chile (COMACH) has called off a strike scheduled for the last weekend in March. Representatives of the union, the shippers and the labour ministry have agreed to set up a tripartite committee to look into the workers' demand for a guaranteed wage.

GREAT BRITAIN

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Railwaymen accept record offer of 11% wage increase

British Rail's offer of an 11 per cent increase to 190,000 railwaymen has been accepted by the three railwaymen's unions, the National Union of Railwaymen, the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, all ITF affiliates.

The award, believed to be the biggest in the history of the industry, gives an increase of 8% from 4 May with a further 3% from 3 August, the second increase to be paid either in cash or in the form of bonus consolidation and the improvement of certain fringe benefits:

The award would increase the lowest basic rate for railwaymen to just over £15 per week; provided the full 11% is paid in basic increases. This meets union demands for a £15 minimum wage.

British Rail later extended its offer to 58,000 workshop staff.

Interim pay award for merchant navy officers

Pay rises averaging twenty per cent have been accepted by the ITF-affiliated British Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association (MNAOA) on behalf of its merchant navy officer members. The increases will take effect from 1 June of this year and apply for a period of twelve months.

To implement the increases, a system of banding has been adopted. Under this system, chief engineers in the foreign-going trade will receive an extra £30 per month, chief officers and second engineers will have an extra £25 per month and other officers will receive an extra £20. Weekly-paid officers in the home trade will have slightly lower banded increases. A sub-committee is to meet to consider how the settlement is to be applied to cadets.

The increases are applicable to all officers on company rates. In the case of the small number of companies where salaries are reviewed at given intervals, there will be discussions to ensure that any difference is applied quickly.

A joint working party has also been set up to negotiate on the complete revision of the officers' and cadets' pay and leave structure for which a claim was lodged on 11 February (see ITF Newsletter No. 3, p. 27).

Marine radio officers accept pay award

The ITF-affiliated Radio and Electronic Officers' Union has accepted salary increases averaging 20 per cent and varying between £120 and £426 a year on behalf of Britain's 3,000 marine radio officers.

Seamen turn down 19% pay offer

The British National Union of Seamen, an ITF-affiliate, last month turned down a 19% pay offer made by the British Shipping Federation. This was the Federation's second offer to the union (see ITF Newsletter No. 3, p. 26).

NUS General Secretary Bill Hogarth said that the latest offer still would not close the wages gap between seafarers and shore workers. He hoped that the employers would come forward with a substantially improved offer when the two sides next met on 24 April.

Seamen's union opposes new shipping law

A last-minute attempt by the Labour Peer Lord Blyton in the House of Lords to move the deletion of the penal clauses from the Merchant Shipping Bill before it finally becomes law was defeated without a division.

The ITF-affiliated National Union of Seamen has consistently opposed the bill in its passage through the lower and upper Houses because it imposes penal sanctions for breaches of discipline.

In particular, union leaders object to regulations which would allow automatic deduction of damages from a seamen's wages for offences such as being absent without leave. The union accepts that special discipline is necessary at sea, but believes that it can best be imposed by ship tribunals and shore-based disciplinary committees.

Transport workers' union wants new minimum rate for lorry drivers

The ITF-affiliated British Transport and General Workers' Union is to press for significant increases in the minimum rates of pay for Britain's 220,000 lorry drivers. Ken Jackson, National Secretary of the union's Road Transport Commercial Group, has proposed a new minimum rate for the drivers of the lowest-rated vehicles (up to five tons) of £16.10s for 40-hour week. He claims that the claim is in line with the rate already being paid by employers who have negotiated with the union on an individual basis.

British airline stewards maintain 747 training ban

The British Air Line Stewards' and Stewardesses' Association, which forms part of the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union, has advised its members not to attend training courses on the Boeing 747 jet until the union reaches agreement with BOAC on pay and conditions of service.

The British Air Line Pilots' Association (BALPA) operates a similar ban. The pilots are insisting that the new aircraft requires a three-man flight-deck crew, while the airline believes that only two men are needed.

Airline managers demand higher rates of pay

The ITF-affiliated British Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs has lodged a pay claim on behalf of air transport managers employed by BEA and BOAC, which the union's General Secretary Clive Jenkins hopes will lead to "the best collective contract for managers ever seen in this country".

SCANDINAVIA

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Scandinavian seafarers want war risk bonus for Middle East

Members of Scandinavian seafarers' unions meeting in Copenhagen have agreed on their joint approach to the shipowners' associations to secure the introduction of a war risk bonus for the Middle East. The unions are demanding that the crews of all ships within the area between the Lebanon-Israel border and the Libya-Egyptian border should be paid a 100% war risk bonus. The same increase is also being sought for the area of the Red Sea north of 23°N.

SWEDEN

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Provisional settlement for Swedish dockers

The ITF-affiliated Swedish Transport Workers' Union has recently concluded an agreement for its members in the port of Gothenburg. The settlement applies on a trial basis and its main features are:

- a greater flexibility in the allocation of duties on the docks;
- a fresh attempt to achieve decasualization by attaching dockers to individual employers or terminals, special agreements on shift work to apply to those employers who have accepted workers on a permanent basis;
- more facilities for older and partially disabled workers to perform less demanding duties (such jobs and types of work to include: winch and crane operator, preparation of unit

loads, cleaning work and auxiliary work at goods terminals), the preferences of workers to be taken into consideration by the employer when allocating jobs;

- greater security of employment - permanent workers who have been employed by the same company for a minimum period of two years and who are laid off during the winter season for at least five days during five consecutive calendar months are now to receive lay-off pay;
- greater regularity of pay - permanent men for whom it is impossible to allocate work during normal working hours to receive an hourly guarantee of Sw. kr^x 13.75 (plus on-call allowance);
- and a narrowing of pay differentials.

The two parties to the agreement have also decided to appoint a Joint Industrial Committee consisting of two employers' and two workers' representatives to reach agreement on matters connected with dock work, especially with regard to disabled workers and workers with specialized training and their duties. One of the workers' representatives on the committee will assist with the planning of work by the Gothenburg dock labour board. (xSw. kr.12.39 = £1).

Swedish railwaymen to amalgamate in State Employees' Union

Following protracted negotiations with the Swedish Railways (SJ), the ITF-affiliated Swedish Railwaymen's Union has succeeded in winning "established status" for 4,500 of its members (permanent-way men and those employed on railway operated road transport) who will now be included in the salaried staff and will gain improved social benefits. Government approval has already been secured for the changes which will be introduced on 1 July 1970.

The railwaymen's union is one of nine unions which have decided to amalgamate this year in the State Employees' Union. This will be given formal expression at a conference on 1 July next and the railwaymen's union will be holding a special conference in May to confirm its adherence to the new amalgamation.

UNITED STATES

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Tentative agreement in National Airlines dispute

The ITF-affiliated US International Association of Machinists (IAM) has reached a tentative agreement with National Airlines on the reinstatement of nearly 1,000 IAM mechanics locked out by National in January of last year. The settlement came a few days before a strike deadline set for 2 April. (See ITF Newsletter No. 2 pp.19,12).

Implementation of the settlement depends on: final negotiation of a new three-year contract retroactive to 1 January 1969 covering the locked-out employees in New York, Newark, Philadelphia and Miami; and the satisfactory conclusion of National's dispute with the Air-Line Employees' Association (ALEA) which shut down the airline at the end of January this year. The Association represents ticket and reservation agents and other clerical staff.

Under the provisions of the return-to-work agreement:

- i) all employees dismissed by National shall be reinstated with the same seniority as at the time of their dismissal;
- ii) all IAM members shall be recalled within twelve days of the resumption of services by National following settlement of the dispute with the Air Line Employees;
- iii) employees shall lose none of the benefits earned up to the time of dismissal;
- iv) no lay-offs shall be made during the term of the three-year contract and all work lost to IAM employees shall be returned to them;
- v) back wages, seniority pay, health and welfare benefits and other payments for the period of the lock-out shall be governed by the decision of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals now hearing the case. The lockout period shall extend from the date on which the mechanics were dismissed until 31st January of this year, when the ALEA stoppage caused a complete shut-down.

It will be recalled that British affiliates of the ITF "blackened" National services to London following a call by the Federation for sympathetic action in support of the IAM.

New York tugmen win improved contract

A two month old strike by 4,000 New York tugmen, members of the ITF-affiliated National Maritime Union of America, ended at the beginning of April when the men voted to accept a new three-year contract. The package deal offers a salary increase of 20 per cent in the first year, a 10% salary increase for each of the remaining two years and increases in fringe benefits totalling 13 per cent.

US air traffic controllers stage protest walk-out

Members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers' Organization (PATCO) staged a nation-wide protest walk-out at the end of last month to back their demands in a long-standing dispute with the Federal Aviation Agency over conditions of work and safety standards. Some controllers reported sick, others complained that they were suffering from fatigue as the result of overwork.

The members of the union, which represents over half of the nation's 14,000 air traffic controllers, are banned from strike action because they are classed as government employees.

The East of the United States was most seriously affected by the walk-out. A fifty per cent cut had to be made in air traffic out of New York, Chicago and Newark airports in order to ensure essential safety standards.

On 31, April, Lee Bailey, executive director of the controllers' union called on union members to end the walk-out. The back-to-work call came after the US government had threatened the men with dismissal and has asked the Federal courts to forbid the stoppage.

LATE ITEMS

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GREAT BRITAIN

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Hull trawler strike over

The nine-week old Hull trawler strike is over.^x The men, who are member of the ITF-affiliated British Transport and General Workers' Union, have accepted an offer giving them a sea-going basic of £19 0s 4d per week. Talks on holiday pay and shore pay are to continue. These rates are at present lower than the rates which obtain at sea.

^xSee ITF Newsletter No. 2, p. 18 and No. 3, p. 24.

Pay rise for Britain's ships' pilots

A pay rise of 16 per cent has been awarded to Britain's 1,600 ships' pilots with effect from 1 June. The agreement has been reached between the British Chamber of Shipping and the United Kingdom Pilots' Association and the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union, to which some of the pilots belong. (See ITF Newsletter No. 2, p. 18).

PERSONALIA

Einar Carlbring, president of the Swedish Commercial Workers' Union (HTF) from 1937-1942, has died at the age of 89.

Mathew Bayless, recently-elected Assistant Secretary of the US Marine Cooks' and Stewards' Union, has died at the age of 59.

Albert Eggli, Central Secretary of the Swiss Transport Workers' Union (VHTL), has won a seat on the Winterthur town council, during local elections in the Canton of Zürich.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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| Executive Board | - | Brissago, Switzerland
3-4 June 1970 |
| Road Transport Section
Sub-Committee Meeting | - | Zürich, 8-10 June 1970 |
| Fishermen's Section Meeting | - | Bremerhaven, 15-16 June
1970 |

AFFILIATED UNIONS REQUIRING FURTHER
INFORMATION ON ANY ITEM IN THIS
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