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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

ITF protests against its exclusion from air security press conference

As will be seen from the Press Release attached to this Newsletter as a Supplement, the ITF has made a strong public protest against the fact that it was prevented from taking part in a joint Press Conference on airline security held in Amsterdam on 12 June as the result of opposition from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), representing the world's airlines.

The Joint Press Conference was organized by IATA and the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) in order to emphasize the urgent need for governments to take effective action against air sabotage and hijacking during the ICAO Extraordinary Assembly which opened in Montreal on 16 June, at which the ITF is being represented by a strong delegation led by the General Secretary, Charles Blyth.

The ITF was invited to participate in the Amsterdam joint press conference by the Executive Secretary of IFALPA, Capt. C.C. Jackson, in line with the resolution adopted by the IFALPA Conference in March calling upon the IFALPA Principal Officers (Executive) to "enter into immediate consultations with other appropriate international labour organizations with a view to exploring all possible forms of cooperation and joint action in the campaign against hijacking and sabotage". ITF participation was, however, vetoed by IATA's Director General, Mr. Knut Hammarskjöld. Subsequent exchanges between him and the ITF's General Secretary failed to produce any satisfactory explanation for IATA's opposition, and it was therefore decided that the ITF should make a public protest concerning this.

The ITF's release was issued at a press conference which took place in Amsterdam on 11 June and in which all Dutch organizations representing civil aviation personnel participated. The ITF was represented at this by J.K. Post, Chairman of the ITF Civil Aviation Section, with the General Secretary also in attendance. Post made a vigorous protest against IATA's attitude towards the ITF, and also gave details of the extremely comprehensive proposals on airline security which have been submitted by the Federation to the ICAO Assembly. It was, he said, completely incomprehensible that the largest international organization speaking on behalf of airline employees should have been prevented from participating in the joint Press Conference due to be held on the following day concerning this very grave problem.

Post also attended the IATA/IFALPA Press Conference on behalf of his own union's paper and asked Mr. Hammarskjöld publicly why he had opposed ITF participation in this. Mr. Hammarskjöld replied to the effect that he had a delicate political task on this issue and that it could be jeopardized by public cooperation with a trade union organization such as the ITF, since there were countries which did not recognize trade unions. Post commented that it was perfectly true that the ITF only represented trade unions in free countries and he did not think that there was any need to apologize

for this. He also stressed that the Press Conference as constituted was not representative of the airline industry as a whole.

TRANSPORT

INTERNATIONAL
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Tribute to departing ILO Director-General David A. Morse

Tribute to David A. Morse, departing Director-General of the ILO, was paid by members of the ILO Governing Body in a special session held on 29 May. Morse's resignation, after nearly 22 years as Director-General, is effective from 31 May. His successor (as reported in the last issue of the ITF Newsletter) will be Wilfred Jenks, Principal Deputy Director-General since 1967.

In their tributes to David Morse, members of the Governing Body spoke of the considerable change in the emphasis of ILO activities during his tenure of office. From being a body primarily concerned with the setting of international standards the ILO had developed into an organization in which the emphasis was now placed on operational and educational activities, with particular reference to the developing countries. The ILO was very active in the field of technical cooperation and was assisting in some 90 countries with vocational training, management development, promotion of co-operatives and small-scale industries, social security, workers' education, labour administration and occupational safety and health.

The award of the 1969 Nobel Peace Prize to the ILO was attributed by some members to the contribution made by the ILO during Morse's tenure of office to the improvement of the social and economic well-being of the world's working peoples. His role in formulating and launching the ILO's World Employment Programme was also cited.

FRANCE
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New hijacking law in France

France is to punish hijackers more severely. Under a new law, persons convicted of hijacking offences will receive prison sentences of 5 to 10 years. Hijacking with violence will be subject to a statutory 10- to 20-year prison sentence.

GREAT BRITAIN
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Encouraging air safety figures in UK

Not a single passenger was killed or seriously injured on British airlines during 1969, according to a recent British Board of Trade report. The BOT is responsible for the regulation of civil air safety standards in Britain.

NETHERLANDS

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First married stewardess with KLM

Mrs Trudy Smits is the first married stewardess to fly with KLM. The airline introduced a new rule in April which allows women to continue their career as stewardess after marriage.

UNITED STATES

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US court rules in favour of Greek seaman

The US Supreme Court has upheld a lower court ruling that Zacharias Rhoditis, a Greek national serving in a Greek-registered vessel, is entitled to \$6,000 compensation under US law for injuries which he sustained while his ship, the Hellenic Hero, was docked in the port of New Orleans in August 1965. The court based its decision on the circumstance that the owner of the vessel, Pericles Callimanopoulos of Hellenic Lines, has been resident in the United States since 1945 and is consequently - although an alien - bound by US law.

The case creates a precedent. No foreign seaman sailing in a foreign-flag ship has previously claimed benefits other than under the law of the state of registry of the vessel.

\$2.40 = £1

TRADE UNIONS

INTERNATIONAL

=====

ICFTU calls for the restoration of trade union rights in Spain

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) has sponsored a resolution calling upon the Spanish government to restore free and democratic trade unionism and the full respect for civil liberties in Spain. The resolution will be submitted to the 54th Session of the International Labour Conference which opened in Geneva on 3 June.

The ICFTU resolution points out that the repeated recommendations made by the ILO since 1957 to the Spanish government to bring its labour legislation and practice into conformity with ILO principles and standards have had no effect. Spanish workers are still subjected to repressive measures such as arrests, imprisonment and persecution for activities which in other countries would be regarded as legitimate trade union activities. The resolution requests the Director-General of the ILO to keep the labour and trade union situation in Spain under constant review and to report regularly to the ILO Governing Body and the International Labour Conference on developments relating to trade union rights in Spain.

IRISH REPUBLIC

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Irish Transport and General Workers call for fairer shares

Addressing the Annual Conference of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (9 to 12 June), the General President, Fintan Kennedy, made a strong appeal for a fairer distribution of the country's wealth. He said it was clear that the overwhelming majority of the Irish people were completely dissatisfied, both with the general distribution of national income and with the very wide range between the lowest and best salaries. "It is quite futile and irrelevant for people to talk about equality of opportunity without taking account of uniformity or near-uniformity of income. How can there be equality of opportunity for education, for decent housing accommodation, for proper medical and hospital services and so on without equality or near equality of income?" He also gave a qualified welcome to the introduction of an incomes and prices policy but certainly did not see it as a panacea. He went on to announce that the union was pursuing energetically the rationalization of the Irish trade union movement and was already engaged in discussions with other organizations with a view to achieving a closer relationship with them. The Irish Transport and General Workers' Union is the strongest in the country and has been affiliated with the ITF for many years. Harold Lewis, Assistant General Secretary represented the ITF at the Conference as an observer.

UNITED STATES

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Urgent need for national transport policy in the US, says union leader

President Charles Luna of the ITF-affiliated US United Transportation Union, addressing the UTU Conference on Transportation held recently at the University of Chicago, spoke of the pressing need for a national transport policy for the US. Luna said that there had been no effort to coordinate the different modes of transport with a view to obtaining the maximum operating efficiency. The alternative was to witness the chaos in transportation that had already begun to develop.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

DENMARK

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Danish seafarers to be paid war risk bonus for the Middle East

The Danish seafarers' organizations have reached agreement with the Shipowners' Association on the introduction of a war risk bonus for ships sailing to the Middle East. Under the terms of the agreement,

normal rates (including bonuses and allowances) are increased by 75% for the period during which the vessel stays in the ports of Alexandria and Port Said and in all Egyptian ports in the Gulf of Suez north of latitude 28°N. The new rate applies from 20 May.

In the event of death or permanent incapacity arising from acts of war, compensation of 50,000 kr will be paid, with an extra 20,000 kr for each child under the age of 18. This benefit will apply to an area defined by a line from the border between Libya and Egypt to the intersection of latitude 34°N and longitude 33°E, and from there to the border between Turkey and Syria and in the Red Sea north of latitude 23°N, including the Gulf of Aqaba.

GERMANY

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Higher rates of pay for employees in private travel agencies

The ITF-affiliated German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union (OeTV) has negotiated improvements in the remuneration of some 10,000 employees in private travel agencies. The new agreement, which came into effect on 1 June, provides for an 8% salary increase and an increase in the holiday bonus from 5 DM^x to 17.5 DM per day.

^xDM 8.83 =£1.

INDIA

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Committee to study health hazards affecting dock workers

The Indian government has appointed a four-man committee which will examine conditions in major Indian ports. The survey will include an appraisal of health hazards which are likely to give rise to occupational diseases among dock workers and it will advise on the nature of medical investigations and standards needed to protect dock workers against these diseases. It will also advise on the modifications which should be made to the Workmen's Compensation Act as it applies to dock labour. The Committee includes one labour member from the ITF-affiliated Indian Transport and Dock Workers' Union.

NORWAY

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New agreement for seafarers in the Norwegian coastal trade

The ITF-affiliated Norwegian Seamen's Union has negotiated a new collective agreement for seafarers in the coastal trade. Under the terms of the agreement, which came into effect on 9 May:

- the monthly rate of ABs is increased by 251 kr.^x, which is equivalent to an extra 20.1% on the basic scale;

- the monthly rate of young seamen and apprentices is raised by 8% plus 101 kr., giving deckhands an increase of 29.8% and ordinary seamen an increase of 19% on basic rates;
- overtime rates are increased by the same proportion as monthly rates;
- the supplementary leave allowance is fixed at 16 days (previously 14 days);
- and all seafarers will now work an 8-hour instead of a 10-hour day. Duty in excess of 8 hrs. per day will be calculated at overtime rates.

The agreement also introduces new and more flexible regulations on the drawing up of duty rosters which allow greater freedom in assigning duties to suit individual crew members. With effect from next year, increases in basic rates will be tied to the cost-of-living index.

^xNorwegian Kr. 17.16 = £1.

PHILIPPINES
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Strike of Philippine airline pilots

Philippine airline pilots on domestic airlines staged a twenty-four hour strike on 14 May. The pilots were demanding the modernisation of aviation facilities, including the immediate installation of improved communications and navigational and lighting aids. The pilots agreed to resume work when the President of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, invited them to submit their plans.

SWEDEN
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Transport workers in Sweden face considerable health hazards, according to a recent report

Seventy-five per cent of Swedish Transport workers are concerned at the effects which their conditions of work have on their health. This is the disturbing result of an investigation into health hazards to transport workers undertaken recently by the ITF-affiliated Swedish Transport Workers' Union.

Drivers of road transport vehicles said that they were worried most by excessive noise levels as these had been known to lead to hearing defects. The effects of inhaling exhaust fumes over long periods were felt to be no less damaging. Silicosis, lead poisoning and eczema were all mentioned as dangers to which transport workers might be exposed in the course of their work.

The findings of the investigation drew a comment from a spokesman of the ITF-affiliated Norwegian Transport Workers' Union. There was, he said, no reason to believe that conditions

were any better in Norway. He would ask the Swedish transport workers to put their material at the disposal of his union and it would be used to the benefit of Norwegian transport workers.

UNITED STATES
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New York dockers sign new container agreement

The ITF-affiliated US International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) has reached agreement with the New York Shipping Association on the movement of containers at the port. Under the agreement, the Shipping Association will raise its penalty from \$250 to \$1,000 for each full-load container which is not handled by deep-sea members of the union within a 50-mile radius of the port.

The ILA has also lifted its restrictions on the handling of full-load containers.

PERSONALIA

Erwin Frühbauer, vice-chairman of the Austrian Railwaymen's Union, has been appointed the Austrian Minister of Transport.

Adolph Kummernuss, president of the German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union for nearly twenty years and a former member of the ITF Executive Board, celebrates his 75th birthday this month.

Abe Spradling, president of the US Amalgamated Transit Union from 1946 to 1959, has died at the age of 84.

Elmer Walker, a former secretary-treasurer of the US International Association of Machinists, has died, aged 69.

Adam Anderson, national organizer of the Scottish Commercial Motormen's Union, died this month following a heart attack.

Sam McGluskie has been appointed National Organiser of the British National Union of Seamen.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS
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- Urban Transport Sub-Committee Meeting - London, 14-15 July, 1970
- Flight Engineers' Technical Committee Meeting - London, 16-17 July 1970
- Management Committee - London, 28 July 1970
- Civil Aviation Section Conference - Miami Beach USA, 28 Sept. - 2 October 1970
- Seafarers' Section Conference - Geneva, 12-13 Oct. 1970
- Executive Board Meeting - London, 27-28 November 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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IATA OPPOSES JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) wishes to draw public attention to the fact that the international airlines, as represented by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), have opposed participation by the ITF in a joint airline/pilot/airline employee Press Conference concerned with the problem of hijacking and air sabotage due to be held in Amsterdam on Friday, 12 June. The facts of the case are as follows:

Some two weeks ago, the ITF had discussions with the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) on the subject of a joint publicity campaign and general liaison between the two International Federations on the hijacking and sabotage issue. During these, we were informed of the proposed IATA/IFALPA Press Conference and the ITF was invited to participate in this, an invitation which we accepted without reservation. To our surprise, however, we were later informed that IATA was not prepared to accept such

participation, despite the fact that the ITF includes among its six million members more than two hundred thousand civil aviation flying and ground staff and is thus by far the largest single international organization catering for such employees.

We therefore wrote to Mr. Knut Hammarskjöld, IATA's Director General, expressing our concern at this inexplicable rebuff to the majority of the world's organized aviation employees and the hope that it was due to some misunderstanding of the position. We also suggested a meeting between Mr. Hammarskjöld and the President of the ITF, Mr. Hans Düby, to discuss the question. This proved impossible, owing to Mr. Hammarskjöld's attendance at a meeting in Warsaw. However, in a message sent to the ITF's General Secretary, Charles Blyth, Mr. Hammarskjöld maintained his position on the joint Press Conference, stating that he believed there were reasons (which were not disclosed to us) why a two-pronged (IATA/IFALPA) approach could be more effective than a three-pronged one (IATA/ITF/IFALPA).

For our part, we cannot accept that there can be any valid argument for excluding the largest group of international airline employees from a Press Conference on such a vital public issue. The strangeness of the situation is heightened by the fact that the ITF has been extremely active on this problem over a very long period, many of the proposals now put forward by international organizations and governments for its solution having been first suggested by ourselves. This

is true, for instance, of the call for an international conference under UN auspices on hijacking and sabotage which we first made a year ago and which will to some extent be satisfied by the Extraordinary Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (a UN specialized agency) which opens in Montreal on 16 June. It was in other words the ITF - not IATA, IFALPA or any other organization - which took the lead in pressing for such a world conference. The same is true of the proposal to create national aviation security committees to combat crimes against civil aviation, which was made by the ITF only a few days after the Swissair Coronado disaster in February and which has since been endorsed by a number of other international aviation bodies and governments.

There is in fact little or no difference between the expressed policies of the airlines and those of the pilots and ourselves on the urgent need for governments to tackle this world-wide problem quickly and effectively, nor on the methods which should be employed to do so. That is why we strongly deplore the attitude adopted by IATA towards a common public statement by the three organizations. At a time when there is the greatest possible reason for a united and unified approach by airlines and airline employees to ensure that the world's governments act promptly and resolutely to protect the safety of airlines, their passengers and their employees, completely unnecessary dissension has been caused by IATA's apparent reluctance to cooperate publicly with the

airline employees' trade unions.

We naturally very much regret that this has happened, but it will in no way weaken our determination as airline workers to ensure that the government representatives meeting in Montreal next week do everything within their power to reduce and remove the existing threat to the safe and peaceful operation of civil air transport.