



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. 6

June 1971

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

Transport

<i>Symposium on Nuclear Ships</i>	69
<i>IMCO Sub-Committee on Containers and Cargoes</i>	69
<i>IMCO Ad Hoc Working Group on Facilitation</i>	70
<i>Belgian air stewardess loses case on discrimination</i>	70
<i>Japan ratifies the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft</i>	70

Trade Unions

<i>French flight staffs threaten strike action</i>	70
<i>MNAOA leader delivers farewell address</i>	71
<i>TGWU demands legislative action to protect trawlermen</i>	71
<i>BEA pilots call off strike threat</i>	72
<i>Norwegian locomotivemen hold national conference</i>	72
<i>Swiss public service workers to receive extra payment this autumn</i>	72
<i>BRAC holds 24th Convention</i>	72

Social and Industrial News

<i>Argentine crews call off work-to-rule campaign</i>	73
<i>UTU negotiates new two-year agreement for train and yard service personnel in Canada</i>	73
<i>Negotiations in Danish ships' officers' dispute to continue</i>	74
<i>Ships' officers delay sailing of French vessels</i>	74
<i>French cabin attendants' contract talks break down</i>	74
<i>British merchant navy officers to resubmit claim for new leave and salary structure</i>	74
<i>Britain's radio officers accept 16 per cent pay offer</i>	75
<i>Japanese dockworkers win wage increases</i>	75
<i>New agreement for Dutch seafarers in the short sea trade</i>	75
<i>Norwegian seafarers in the home trade receive cost-of-living increase</i>	76
<i>Swissair workers receive cost-of-living increase</i>	76
<i>US railroad signalmen strike for better pay and working conditions</i>	76

Personalia

TRANSPORT

INTERNATIONAL

=====

Symposium on Nuclear Ships

A Symposium on Nuclear Ships, jointly sponsored by IMCO, the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) and the German government in co-operation with two German agencies (KEST and GKSS) and concerned with the maritime application of nuclear power was held in Hamburg from 10-15 May 1971. Captain K. Rude of the Swedish Ships' Officers' Association and A. Selander, ITF Secretariat, attended the symposium.

Apart from technical innovations relating mostly to the construction and operation of nuclear propulsion plant on board ship the real issues debated were the safety, economic viability and legal status of nuclear ships. Altogether fifty-five papers were presented on operating experience, commissioning and maintenance, propulsion plant and ship safety, nuclear ship propulsion engineering and general, economic and legal aspects of nuclear ships. The participants were also invited to inspect the German nuclear vessel "Otto Hahn" and the reactor centre at Geesthacht.

The Secretariat intends to produce a more detailed report on the symposium in due course.

IMCO Sub-Committee on Containers and Cargoes

The twelfth session of the above Sub-Committee of the Maritime Safety Committee was held in London on 3, 4 and 7 May 1971. In the intervening period a Joint IMCO/ECE group met to study the Draft Convention for Safe Intermodal Transport of Containers and to make other preparations for the Joint UN/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic in 1972.

The Sub-Committee on Containers and Cargoes considered the development of international standards for safe loading and carriage of timber deck cargoes and produced a draft code of practice on the subject. It further undertook a preliminary review of the aforesaid convention on container transport and discussed the work to be carried out in preparation for the UN/IMCO container conference. A. Selander (ITF Secretariat) attended the Sub-Committee meeting as an observer. The Sub-Committee hopes to be able to meet again in early 1972.

IMCO Ad Hoc Working Group on Facilitation

The above Working Group met for the fifth time in London from 24-28 May to discuss, among other things, the status of the Convention on Facilitation, standard model forms to facilitate maritime transport, facilitation aspects of container transport, cruise shipping and further measures of facilitation for crews. A. Selander, ITF Secretariat, attended as an observer. The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for May 1972.

BELGIUM  
=====

Belgian air stewardess loses case on discrimination

The stewardess with the Belgian airline Sabena, who appealed to the Court of Justice of the EEC alleging discrimination by the airline against female employees in the sphere of salaries and pensions, has lost her case<sup>x</sup>. The stewardess based her case on the fact that the airline requires female employees to retire earlier than their male counterparts. However, the court ruled that the state pension paid to the stewardess on reaching the compulsory retirement age for Sabena stewardesses of forty did not constitute an integral part of salary paid indirectly by the employer and therefore the 'equal pay for equal work' clause of the Treaty of Rome did not apply in her case.

-----  
<sup>x</sup>see ITF Newsletter No. 5, p. 50

JAPAN  
=====

Japan ratifies the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft

Japan has become the first country to ratify the Hague Convention. The convention, which is intended to be truly universal, treats hijacking as an internationally recognised offence regardless of the motive for which it is committed and makes it the obligation of contracting states to prosecute offenders within their territory regardless of whether the actual hijacking offence took place within that territory.

TRADE UNIONS

FRANCE  
=====

French flight staffs threaten strike action

The French Federation of Civil Aviation Flight Staffs -- the Federation groups pilots, flight engineers, stewards and stewardesses -- has protested against a French government decree increasing the number of hours flown by French flight

staffs. The decree raises the maximum number of flight hours from 8 to 10 hours per day and the spreadover from 12 to 14 hours. The Federation believes that this measure could endanger flight safety and has threatened strike action if the decree is not withdrawn.

GREAT BRITAIN  
=====

MNAOA leader delivers farewell address

Brother D.S. Tennant, general secretary of the ITF-affiliated British Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association (MNAOA) since 1943, delivered his farewell address to members of the association attending its General Meeting in Glasgow last month.

In a colourful speech, Brother Tennant spoke of the progress made by the association in the years during which he had been at its helm and looked forward to the future when it would be called upon to meet new demands, look for new solutions and face new responsibilities in its efforts to deal with the rapid changes affecting MNAOA members in the shipping and aviation industries.

Referring to the rôle played by the association in the international sphere, the MNAOA general secretary spoke of the close connections which his association had maintained over the years with both the Seafarers' and Civil Aviation Sections of the ITF. Brother Tennant added that he was grateful to the members of the association for realising the importance of the international contribution which the association was able to make and for enabling him -- as a former chairman of the Joint Maritime Commission and chairman of the Seafarers' group at last year's Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference -- to participate in international work on behalf of seafarers.

TGWU demands legislative action to protect trawlermen

Delays in implementing the safety measures recommended two years ago by the Holland Martin inquiry into a series of trawler accidents in northern waters have led the fishing section of the ITF-affiliated British Transport and General Workers' Union to demand legislative action against the trawler owners. A delegation from the section is seeking the support of MPs to bring pressure on the British government to implement three key safety proposals. These are: the setting up of a tripartite National Health and Safety Committee to co-ordinate the work of local safety committees; the provision of longer range helicopters for rescue work (the present helicopters, which operate from Scotland for picking up crew members in need of attention, have a limited range of flight and fishing vessels may be required to bring injured crew members within range of the rescue aircraft); and a continuous rest period of at least six hours aboard ship, which the inquiry considered a necessary minimum for safe operation.

BEA pilots call off strike threat

The British Air Line Pilots' Association (BALPA) called off a threatened strike of 1,300 BEA pilots after the association was given written assurances by the airline that pilots would not suffer from its proposed reorganization plans. The pilots had feared that the plans would adversely affect the career structure and conditions of service of BEA pilots.

NORWAY  
=====

Norwegian locomotivemen hold national conference

Among the items discussed by the national conference of the ITF-affiliated Norwegian Union of Locomotivemen at the union's national conference last month were the current industrial situation in Norway and the wages and working conditions of railwaymen. The conference instructed the union executive to take up with the railway management the possibility of a reduction of night-working for drivers of goods trains; the lowering of the voluntary retirement age from 62 to 60 years; and the granting of six weeks' annual leave to railwaymen over the age of fifty. The conference also decided to postpone the question of a merger with the Norwegian Railwaymen's Union (also an ITF affiliate) until the next conference of the union in 1975.

SWITZERLAND  
=====

Swiss public service workers to receive extra payment this autumn

As reported in the March issue of the ITF Newsletter<sup>x</sup>, public service workers in Switzerland will receive an increase in real salary in 1972 through the introduction of a system of thirteen salary payments per year. In order to bring about an improvement in salaries in the current year, the Swiss government has now announced that it is also to make a single payment of between Sfr. 500 and 700<sup>xx</sup> (calculated according to place of work) to all serving public service employees in the autumn of this year.

-----

x p.24

xx Sfr. 9.89 = £1

UNITED STATES  
=====

BRAC holds 24th Convention

The ITF-affiliated Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC) held its 24th Convention in Miami in May. In his presidential address to the 1,300 delegates representing union members in the railroad, airline and steamship industries in both the United States and Canada, BRAC President C.L. Dennis

spoke of the need for unity among unions in the transport industry if transport workers were to bargain effectively with the employers. This was particularly true of the airline industry, he said, and the union was now conducting a massive organizing campaign among airline employees. Referring to the need for more effective legislation to protect transport workers, President Dennis pledged renewed union efforts to win retirement benefits for railroad workers at age 55 after 30 years' service; an all-out fight against compulsory arbitration in the transport industry; and a drive against airline mutual aid insurance agreements, which have led to long and damaging strikes.

The convention was attended by ITF General Secretary Charles Blyth.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

ARGENTINA

=====

Argentine crews call off work-to-rule campaign

Argentine crews in the port of Buenos Aires called off their work-to-rule campaign towards the end of last month after local shipowners agreed to talks aimed at improving working conditions on board Argentine vessels. The dispute delayed the departure of a number of vessels from the port.

CANADA

=====

UTU negotiates new two-year agreement for train and yard service personnel in Canada

The ITF-affiliated United Transportation Union (UTU) has negotiated a new two-year agreement for train and yard service personnel on Canada's major railways. Under the terms of the settlement, UTU members receive an eight per cent pay increase backdated to 1 January 1971, with provision for a further increase of seven per cent on 1 January 1972. The wage increases are compounded, thus giving employees a total 15.8 per cent gain on existing rates. Improvements in company-paid benefits in the deal include: a rise in the monthly medical allowance to \$5.50 for a single person and \$11.50 for married persons (with the exception of Quebec province, where a flat rate of \$10.00 per employee will be paid by the railways); a thirty per cent increase in the weekly sickness and injury benefit to \$82.00, payable for up to 26 weeks for any one period of illness or injury; and an increase of \$2,000, to \$4,500 in life insurance coverage for railroad employees. In addition, the contract makes provision for improvements in lay-over rules and a reduction in the hours worked between rest periods.

The offer is subject to approval by the union membership.

DENMARK  
=====

Negotiations in Danish ships' officers' dispute to continue

The mediator in the dispute between the Danish ships' officers' unions (all ITF affiliates) and the Danish Shipowners' Association has ordered that the strike action by the unions for 8 June should be postponed and that negotiations with the shipowners should continue. The unions had threatened strike action in support of their demand for a new contract to replace the previous agreement, which expired at the end of 1970. In particular, the unions are seeking a 10 per cent salary increase and nine free days per month for all ships' officers.

FRANCE  
=====

Ships' officers delay sailing of French vessels

Ships' officers belonging to the ITF-affiliated French Ships' Officers' Union FO are operating sailing delays of two to three days on French vessels leaving port. The action, which began on 18 May, has been taken to back up union demands for improved salaries and working conditions.

French cabin attendants' contract talks break down

Contract talks between the ITF-affiliated French Cabin Attendants' Union (SNPNC) and the three French airlines Air France, Air Inter and UTA have broken down. The talks were aimed at establishing a long-term agreement fixing pay and conditions of service and a career structure for air stewards and stewardesses with the three companies. The SNPNC is also demanding that equal pay and conditions clauses for male and female cabin staffs be incorporated into the agreement.

GREAT BRITAIN  
=====

British merchant navy officers to resubmit claim for new leave and salary structure

Union delegates attending last month's biennial conference of the ITF-affiliated Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association (MNAOA) passed a resolution condemning the shipowners' panel on the National Maritime Board for rejecting their claim for a complete reconstruction of the leave structure of merchant navy officers. The claim, which seeks to establish a leave structure which would give officers an average working week of 40 hours over the year, will now be resubmitted.

It will be remembered that the officers were awarded pay increases with a total value of 16 per cent in April (see ITF Newsletter No. 4. p. 45).

Britain's radio officers accept 16 per cent pay offer

The executive of the ITF-affiliated British Radio and Electronic Officers' Union (REOU) has accepted the sixteen per cent pay offer made to the union in May by the National Maritime Board in response to the REOU pay claim. Details of the offer were given in the May issue of the ITF Newsletter (p. 55).

JAPAN  
=====

Japanese dockworkers win wage increases

Following a series of strikes at the ports of Kobe, Yokohama and Tokyo, Japanese dockers have been awarded monthly wage increases of ¥ 9,937<sup>x</sup>, ¥ 10,491 and ¥ 12,900 respectively.

-----  
<sup>x</sup>Japanese ¥ 870 = £1

NETHERLANDS  
=====

New agreement for Dutch seafarers in the short sea trade

The ITF-affiliated Dutch Seafarers' Federation has signed a new one-year agreement for seafarers in the short sea trade. Under the terms of the agreement:

- seafarers currently earning a monthly salary of less than Fl 833.75<sup>x</sup> receive an increase of seven per cent on 1 May and those with monthly earnings in excess of this figure receive a three per cent increase plus Fl 33.75;
- ordinary seamen and junior ABs are awarded an increase of approximately sixteen per cent;
- the annual leave allocation is increased by one day;
- Sundays spent abroad at sea and in port are compensated by one working day;
- all seafarers in the short sea trade will receive a two per cent salary increase on 1 November, plus a cash payment equivalent to six per cent of the salary payable in October. There is also provision for the payment of a cost-of-living bonus of up to 2.5 per cent, calculated according to rise in the cost-of-living during the first six months of the agreement.

-----  
<sup>x</sup>Dutch fl 8.62 = £1



NORWAY

=====

Norwegian seafarers in the home trade receive cost-of-living increase

The Norwegian Seamen's Union, together with the Norwegian Mates' Union and the Norwegian Ships' Engineers' Union (all ITF affiliates) has reached agreement with the shipowners on a cost-of-living rise for seafarers in the home trade. The new rates, which came into effect in April and are incorporated into the existing agreements, provide for a 6.1 per cent increase on the basic rate, an improved overtime rate and an increase in the monthly victualling allowance from 390 to 408 kr<sup>x</sup>.

-----

<sup>x</sup>Norwegian kr 17.26 = £1

SWITZERLAND

=====

Swissair workers receive cost-of-living increase

The civil aviation section of the ITF-affiliated Swiss Public Service Workers' Union (VPOD) has negotiated a 6.1 per cent cost-of-living increase for its members with Swissair. The increase came into effect on 1 May 1971.

UNITED STATES

=====

US railroad signalmen strike for better pay and working conditions

A strike of 13,000 railroad signalmen -- members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (part of the Railway Labor Executives' Association) -- paralysed rail services throughout the United States for two days last month. The strike was called off after Congress passed emergency legislation ordering the men back to work until 1 October and providing for interim increases averaging 12.5 per cent for highly-skilled workers. Negotiations for a new contract for signalmen are to continue. In particular, the union is seeking higher rates of pay for experienced signalmen and the payment of expenses for signalmen who are required to live away from home when employed on construction work.

PERSONALIA

Sir Tom Yates, who was general secretary of the British National Union of Seamen from 1948 until his retirement in 1960, celebrates his 75th birthday on 25 September. In the international sphere, Brother Yates has rendered valuable services to the ITF as a former chairman of the Management Committee and the Seafarers' Section and as a member of the Executive Committee (now Executive Board) and the General Council. The ITF joins its affiliates in extending their sincere congratulations.

Douglas S. Tennant CBE retired from his post as general secretary of the British Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association at the end of last month. Brother Tennant is a founder member of the union and has been its general secretary since 1943. He has also served as chairman of the ITF Seafarers' Section and vice-chairman of the Civil Aviation Section and is a former member of the Management Committee. He is succeeded by John W. Slater.

Anton Peham, national secretary of the Austrian Transport Workers' Union, is sixty on 19 June.

Raimond Gryc, a member of the executive of the Austrian Transport Workers' Union, celebrated his sixtieth birthday on 13 May.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

=====

Executive Board Meeting	- Vienna, 26-27 July 1971
ITF Congress	- Vienna, 28 July - 6 August 1971

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

\_\_\_\_\_000000\_\_\_\_\_

Internationally accepted standards of training and certification for seafarers major items at the IMCO Working Group on Technical Co-operation and the IMCO Council

The means of establishing international standards of training and certification of seafarers were discussed first by the Working Group on Technical Co-operation and later by the IMCO Council which approved the Working Group's report on the subject. A Selander (ITF Secretariat) and E. Nevin (Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association, Great Britain) attended the meetings of the aforesaid IMCO bodies.

The main issue was whether the international standards should be mandatory or not. However, the Working Group which met on 3 June, agreed that urgent steps had to be taken in order to improve the standards of training and professional qualifications of seafarers and to protect the marine environment. It was also felt that any advances made in this respect should be immediately communicated to seafarers in developing nations. Several valid arguments were raised against the mandatory application of international standards, one being the extremely complex operation of aligning existing national provisions. In this connection one member state reported on the failure of attempts to reach agreement on common standards on a regional basis. Although not being opposed to the very commendable idea of mandatory international provisions, the ITF felt that the lack of basic qualifications of seafarers serving in ships registered in certain non-traditional maritime nations which had been involved in incidents that had recently hit the headlines would be more speedily and effectively remedied if certain minimum provisions of a very high standard were to be applied immediately on a mandatory basis. It also felt that this task should be undertaken by the already existing Joint ILO/IMCO Committee on Maritime Safety Training, the capabilities of which had been amply verified in connection with the production of the "Document for Guidance".

In its conclusions, the Working Group paid due attention to the views expressed during the discussion. It concluded that there is a need for internationally accepted standards of training and certification of seafarers in order to improve the safety at sea and to prevent pollution, that the problem of establishing such standards is complex, that the matter should be referred to the Maritime Safety Committee for further urgent attention in preparation of further action by the Joint ILO/IMCO Committee on Training and that once standards of training and certification of seafarers have been established, recommendations should be made with respect to technical assistance for the benefit of developing nations.

The IMCO Council, which met from 7-11 June, apart from approving the Report of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation, agreed to extend the oil pollution compensation fund conference to be held in December, 1971 from two to three weeks and to hold a brief conference on the carriage of nuclear substances some time within the same period and to hold the International conference on the revision of the international regulations for preventing collisions at sea in 1972 (two and a half weeks).

---

### ITU Space Conference under-way in Geneva

The World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications is meeting in Geneva under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union and is scheduled to go on until the latter part of July. The Agenda covers the revision of existing administrative and technical provisions of the Radio Regulations, including new provisions for the use of space radio techniques by the Aeronautical Mobile and Maritime Mobile Services, the revision of the existing Table of Radio Frequency Allocations in the Radio Regulations in relation to the use of space radio techniques and the revision of existing provisions pertaining to the procedures for frequency sharing between space and terrestrial services.

On the first day of the Conference the ITF was granted observer status and its representative, K.A. Murphy, General Secretary of the British Radio and Electronic Officers' Union, in a statement welcomed the advent of Maritime Satellite Communications as an additional weapon in the armoury of radio and electronic officers, although he felt it was far too early to allocate satellite frequencies for an overall safety system which would replace the present well tried system, the defects of which are known and well appreciated. He added that many years of practical use and tests lay ahead before seamen's lives could be committed solely to such a system. However, he continued, a Maritime Satellite System to back up the present safety system would be welcomed. Early news from the conference lobby are that the VHF allocation for satellite use appears to be a lost cause, whilst many of the IMCO member governments present seem to favour the UHF band. A maritime allocation in the L band is likely to be accepted by the Conference.

----ooo0ooo----