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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

INTERNATIONAL

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ITF puts emphasis on air safety at ICAO Assembly

The 18th Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization was held in Vienna from 15 June to 8 July. Mohammed Hoda, Secretary of the ITF Civil Aviation Section, attended the Assembly as an observer. In a statement delivered on the opening day of the proceedings, Brother Hoda expressed the profound concern felt by the ITF at the leniency of certain governments towards hijackers. He also asked ICAO and other UN agencies to give financial and technical assistance to countries which are unable to install even basic airport facilities through lack of finance or technical know-how.

The ITF observer also submitted working papers on inadequate airport facilities and airport security to the Assembly and intervened verbally to urge more effective enforcement machinery (sanctions) for ICAO conventions. He further requested that urgent consideration be given to the streamlining of the procedure for formulation and ratification of conventions to enable them to be put into effect without undue delay.

GHANA

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ITF Seminar for Ghanaian Railwaymen

The ITF's African Field Representative, Ben Udogwu, organized a one-week seminar for members of the Ghana Railway and Port Workers' Union in Takoradi from 21 to 27 June. The 29 participants were branch officials who had never previously had the opportunity of any systematic trade union training and the seminar was therefore devoted for the most part to basic trade union practice such as organization; leadership and administration; collective bargaining; industrial relations; grievance handling; trade union finance; and report writing. For the rest, the seminar handled specifically Ghanaian and railway matters, such as the rôle of the railways in Ghana's economy; Ghanaian factory laws; and industrial relations in the Ghanaian railway industry. Aside from taking a leading part in the general trade union topics, Udogwu lectured on the ITF and the international trade union movement and enlisted the help of lecturers from the Ghana TUC Labour College, the Government and the Railway Management. He had the complete cooperation of the Railway and Port Workers' Union, whose General Secretary, A.E. Forson, played an active part in the seminar's organization and proceedings.

TRANSPORT

CANADA

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New legislation benefits marine pilots in Canada

The Canadian government has recently passed legislation making significant changes in the status of Canada's marine pilots. The new law offers marine pilots in each of the four new pilotage regions created by the act the choice of contract or employee status. (Previously, marine pilots, with certain exceptions, have been classed as self-employed persons.) In those regions where pilots elect to assume contract status, the regional pilotage authority will contract with the pilots for the supply of pilots and the pilots themselves will determine how the money paid for this service is to be distributed. Pilots who take up employee status will enjoy full collective bargaining rights under the Canada Labour Relations Act and will be entitled to a public service pension on retirement.

Our Canadian affiliate representing marine pilots -- the Canadian Merchant Service Guild -- has been instrumental in having a number of amendments incorporated into the act, the most important of which is the above-mentioned offer of contract status -- the original bill provided for employee status only.

DENMARK

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Former Danish minister suggests plan for fare-free transport

Ivar Nørgaard, a former Socialist Economics Minister in the Danish government, has put forward a plan for fare-free transport in the Copenhagen area and in the two adjoining districts of Frederiksborg and Roskilde. Arguing that this area is suffering from planning blight, Hr. Nørgaard advocates the creation of a regional council for the entire area, which would be responsible for urban development, the siting of industry and transport planning. In the context of transport planning, Hr. Nørgaard suggests that it may well prove economically feasible and even desirable to have fare-free transport in the Danish capital. This could, he claims, be financed by the money that would be saved by not having to build and upkeep new city roads to take more private vehicles. Instead, the scheme would encourage people to leave their cars in carparks on the edge of the city and to travel into the city centre by public transport.

GREAT BRITAIN

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British government gives second reading to Hijacking Bill

The House of Commons has given a second reading to the Hijacking Bill, under which an aircraft hijacker who is apprehended within the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom would be liable to life imprisonment. The Hijacking Bill will enable Britain to ratify the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, which was drawn up at an international conference held in The Hague last December. In the Bill, hijacking is defined as the unlawful seizure or control, by force or threats of any kind, of an aircraft in flight, regardless of the nationality of the hijacker or the State of registry of the aircraft. The Bill also includes provision for the arrest and extradition of offenders between States which have ratified the Hague Convention and requires states where offenders are found to establish jurisdiction over the offence.

UNITED STATES

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Study panels advocate extensive financial support for US railroads

Two study panels of union and management leaders -- the panels were set up a year ago to look into the state of the US railroad industry -- have agreed that the nation's rail carriers need urgent and extensive financial support if they are to survive. The funding recommendations put forward by the panels include the provision of federal money for track and roadway improvement and maintenance and for research; and aid to carriers under government guarantee to enable them to make specific improvements to railroad facilities and services.

ITF-affiliated unions represented on the panels are: the Congress of Railway Unions; the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks; and the United Transportation Union.

New council formed to promote US merchant marine

The US maritime administration has created a new promotional body for the US merchant marine, to be known as the National Maritime Council. The function of the Council will be to attract more inbound and outbound cargo to US-flag ships and to persuade the US public of the importance of the merchant marine to the national economy. Included on the 11-man Council are the presidents of three ITF-affiliated unions: Thomas W. Gleason of the International Longshoremen's Association; Jesse Calhoun of the National Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association and Joseph Curran of the National Maritime Union of America.

TRADE UNIONS

GREAT BRITAIN

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British seamen want talks with British Rail on channel ferries

The national executive of the British National Union of Seamen (an ITF affiliate) has requested talks with British Rail management on the construction of Channel ferries. The union will ask British Rail to stop building these vessels abroad and to give all future orders for new ferries to British shipyards. The union executive has also decided unanimously to fight any attempt on the part of the British government to 'hive off' sections of British Rail shipping to private enterprise.

SWITZERLAND

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Swiss railwaymen meet in Davos

The ITF-affiliated Swiss Railwaymen's Union held its 53rd ordinary congress in Davos from 14-16 June. The congress passed a number of important resolutions including a resolution calling for renewed efforts on the part of the Swiss government to improve the profitability of the railways and the position of railway employees by giving railwaymen a better career structure -- a measure which would benefit existing employees and attract more skilled personnel into the industry -- and by bringing wages and hours of work in the public sector generally into line with those in private industry.

The Congress was attended by ITF General Secretary Charles Blyth, who paid tribute to the outgoing president Hans Düby (see also personalia item).

Swiss government improves value of extra payment to public service workers

The Swiss government has raised the minimum value of the extra payment which it is to make to public service workers in the autumn by Sfr 100 to Sfr 600. All serving employees will now receive a single payment of either Sfr 600 or Sfr 700, calculated according to place of work (see ITF Newsletter No. 6, p. 72).

UNITED STATES

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US seafarers hold convention

The 15th biennial convention of the ITF-affiliated Seafarers' International Union of North America was held in Washington in June. The 200 delegates to the convention adopted a resolution denouncing the attempt made by the US administration to pass

legislation banning strikes in the transportation industry. The convention also adopted a report submitted by SIU President Paul Hall in which he emphasised the part played by the union in making the Merchant Marine Act a reality and urged union members to ensure that the act -- which would mean more jobs for seafarers -- was fully implemented.

US pilots and air traffic controllers urge tighter safety rules

US pilots and air traffic controllers have urged the Federal Aviation Authority to update in-flight control of all aircraft in order to reduce the danger of mid-air collisions. In a joint statement, the US Air Line Pilots' Association and the Professional Air Traffic Controllers' Organization have pointed out that with the increased volume of military and commercial air traffic the long practised 'see and be seen' principle of visual flying is now obsolete.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

FRANCE
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French ships' officers step up campaign for higher salaries

Ships' officers belonging to the ITF-affiliated French Ships' Officers' Union (FO) are to step up their campaign for improved salaries and working conditions. The union has announced that it is to operate sailing delays of four days on French vessels leaving port. The action will begin on 14 July and extend until the end of September.

In a previous action, the union operated sailing delays of two to three days (see ITF Newsletter No. 6, p. 74).

French airline strike is averted

The French Federation of Civil Aviation Flight Staffs -- the Federation groups pilots, flight engineers, stewards and stewardesses -- has called off a protest strike against the three French airlines Air France, Air Inter and UTA. The strike warning issued for 8 - 9 July was withdrawn after the French Minister of Transport, Jean Chamant, gave a written assurance that flight crews would not be immediately affected by a French government decree extending the number of hours flown by French flight staffs, which the Federation alleges to have been issued at the insistence of the airlines^x.

^xFor details of the dispute see ITF Newsletter No. 6, p. 70.

ISRAEL

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Israeli aviation workers stage lightning strike

Israeli aviation workers staged a four-hour lightning strike on 1 July in protest against a government refusal to implement social benefits provided for in a contract signed in May. The strike disrupted both internal and international flights.

JAPAN

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Japanese railway workers strike for higher pay

Members of two ITF-affiliated Japanese railway unions - the National Railway Workers' Union (Kokuro) and the Nippon National Railway Motive Power Union (Doro) -- have accepted a tentative settlement of their dispute with Japanese National Railways. The settlement was reached by arbitration following a work-to-rule campaign which culminated in a three-day nationwide strike of railway workers belonging to the two unions. Under the settlement, railway workers receive an average monthly increase of ¥ 7,785^x and an annual increase of ¥1,995. The increases are backdated to the beginning of April.

^x¥ 870 = £1.

Japanese road transport workers win pay increase

The ITF-affiliated All Japan Express Workers' Union has negotiated an agreement giving road haulage drivers and clerical workers monthly increases of 14.26 per cent. The award followed a four-day strike.

Higher pay for travel bureau employees in Japan

The ITF-affiliated Japan Travel Bureau Trade Union has negotiated a 21 per cent pay increase for its members following a twenty-four hour strike.

SINGAPORE

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Singapore air transport workers receive assurances on continuity of employment

Members of the ITF-affiliated Singapore Air Transport Workers' Union (SATU) have been given assurances by the management of Malaysia-Singapore Airlines (MSA) -- which has been split by decision of the two governments concerned into separate airlines -- that all employees with the airline will be offered continuity of employment. SATU members will be given the opportunity of joining either the Singapore National Airline or the Malaysian National Airline (see ITF Newsletter No. 3, p. 29).

SWEDEN

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Swedish unions win new three-year contract

Following protracted negotiations, the Swedish Employers' Federation (SAF) and the Swedish Trade Union Federation have reached agreement on a new three-year contract for some 800,000 Swedish workers. The two sides have accepted a final mediation proposal providing for increases in pay and benefits totalling 27.9 per cent over the life of the contract. The settlement averted a threatened strike of Swedish workers in all branches of industry.

UNITED STATES

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Flight attendants with American Air Lines win new contract

Following protracted negotiations, the American Air Line Stewards' and Stewardesses' Association -- part of the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Union of America -- has signed a new agreement for flight attendants with American Air Lines. Major benefits include:

- increases of \$186 - \$195 in the basic pay and \$3.02 - \$3.16 per hour in incentive pay, calculated according to length of service;
- an improved expense allowance for meals of \$11.50 per day (previously \$8.91);
- a vacation allocation of three weeks after five years' service, rising through four weeks after fifteen years' to five weeks after twenty years' service;
- the introduction in January 1972 of a company-paid Dental Insurance Plan for flight attendants and their dependents;
- an improved pension plan for all flight attendants over the age of 25 who will have completed one year's service with the airline by 1 January 1972.

PERSONALIA

ITF President Hans Düby retires from his post as president of the Swiss Railwaymen's Union at the end of this year. Hans Düby was appointed general secretary of the union in 1954 and has been its president since 1960. The ITF joins its affiliates in wishing Brother Düby a long and happy retirement.

Werner Meier succeeds Hans Düby as president of the Swiss Railwaymen's Union. Brother Meier has been editor of the union's German language paper since 1954. He is also a member of the executive of the Swiss Public Service Workers' Federation and a member of the Canton of Berne General Council.

Louis Joye has been re-elected vice-president of the Swiss Railwaymen's Union.

Hermann Leuenberger, former president of the Swiss Transport Workers' Union (VHTL), celebrates his 70th birthday on 15 July. Brother Leuenberger was also president of the Swiss Federation of Trade Unions from 1958 to 1968.

Roger Dekeyzer retired from his post as president of the Belgian Transport Workers' Union in June. Brother Dekeyzer was appointed general secretary of the union in 1946 and became its president in 1949. Dekeyzer was ITF President from 1960 to 1962 and is currently a member of the ITF Executive Board and the Management Committee, as well as being chairman of the ITF Fishermen's Section. He is also a former chairman of the ITF Dockers' Section.

Ward Cassiers succeeds Roger Dekeyzer as president of the Belgian Transport Workers' Union. Brother Cassiers was previously the national secretary of the Seafarers' Section of the union. He is also an active member of the ITF Seafarers' Section.

Harm Buiter resigns for health reasons from his post as general secretary of the ICFTU at the end of August. He will take up a key post in local government in the Netherlands, his home country.

Börje Heggstad, vice-chairman of the Swedish Commercial Employees' Union (HTF), has been awarded the union's gold badge in recognition of his services to the union.

Stina Pettersson, secretary of the Swedish Commercial Employees' Union (HTF), has been awarded the union's gold badge for her services to the union.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS
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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

LATE ITEMS
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RHODESIA
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Railwaymen's union opposes move to outlaw strikes

The Rhodesian Railway Associated Workers' Union, an ITF affiliate, is vigorously opposing a move to designate Rhodesia Railways as an essential service. The proposal is part of an attempt to amend the Industrial Conciliation Act and would have the effect of making railway strikes illegal. The union has pointed to a long record of industrial peace on the railways and maintains that there is absolutely no justification for restricting the union's rights. It claims that the proposed amendment would seriously weaken its position at the bargaining table at a time when its members -- overwhelmingly African -- for the most part have no opportunity to exert any political influence. The ITF has informed the union of its full support for the stand it has taken.

LIBERIA
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ITF comments on Liberian maritime inspection service

The Liberian government has announced that its proposed Maritime Inspection service, details of which were given earlier this year^x, will come into being on 1 August 1971. The maritime inspectors appointed by the Liberian government to implement the system will be particularly concerned with ensuring adequate standards of navigation and seamanship on board Liberian-flag vessels. The first inspector, Captain Alister Crombie, will be based in London and similarly qualified seafarers will be appointed at the ports of Southampton, Rotterdam and Hamburg. The Liberian government also plans to establish an inspection service in New York to serve the Eastern seaboard of the United States.

The ITF draws the attention of its affiliates to the proposed inspection service and requests them to contact the relevant inspector in all cases of difficulty with regard to Liberian-flag tonnage. Although the ITF has been pressing for the introduction of such a service for many years, it points out that the service as envisaged still compares unfavourably with the comprehensive and thorough inspection services of traditional maritime countries.

^xSee ITF Newsletter No. 5, p. 48

PRIORITY FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT

An international seminar organized by the ITF-affiliated German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union (OeTV) held at the OeTV College in Mosbach/Baden (W. Germany) from 5 July to 9 July 1971 and attended by 50 representatives of European urban transport workers' unions was devoted to the major problems arising in conjunction with the provision of adequate public transport services in urban areas. These problems were examined both with regard to the current operating difficulties of urban transport undertakings in the face of traffic congestion and increasing competition from private cars and from the point of view of obtaining better working conditions for employees in public transport. The meeting also gave considerable attention to the environmental, social and political aspects.

In conjunction with the seminar, the OeTV put forward its own programme for public transport at a special conference held in Bonn on 8 July, which was attended by representatives of national and local government transport authorities, urban transport undertakings and scientific experts.

The main points of the programme, which is entitled "Priority for Public Transport", are as follows:

1. The chaotic traffic conditions in towns are due to misconceived transport policies over the past 20 years, the major adverse factor being a legal obligation to cover costs by receipts;
2. In order to cover growing transport needs in urban areas, the best possible use must be made of the limited space available, which means giving priority to public transport over private cars;
3. At the same time, priority must be given to providing an attractive fares structure and to improving the quality of public transport services;
4. This means, in the first instance, a departure from the principle that receipts must cover costs and, in order to attract private car users back to public transport, the OeTV suggests a flat fare which, under present circumstances, should not exceed 30 Pfennings;
5. Suggested measures to improve the quality of service include more frequent services, increased seating capacity, better equipped vehicles, reserved lanes for public transport vehicles and more intensive research into advanced transport techniques;
6. Public financing of urban transport services would be fully justified by the overall social and economic benefits accruing to the community;

7. Organizational measures include voluntary cooperation between separate transport undertakings and the creation of associations or merging of undertakings in regional passenger transport bodies;

8. Due emphasis is placed finally on the need to assure optimum conditions of employment for workers in public transport in order to attract and retain the necessary qualified staff, with particular reference to training and status, the health aspects of shift-working, inconvenient working hours and provision of adequate weekly rest as well as to frequent medical examinations, early prophylactic measures to counteract a tendency to premature disablement of vehicle crews, progressive pension arrangements and far reaching worker participation in management.