



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. 5

May 1972

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

News and Views from the ITF

ITF expresses sympathy with relatives of passengers and crew of the Royston Grange	63
ITF unions propose interim arrangements for trawlers in Icelandic waters	63
Spanish workers' leaders on trial - further labour disturbances	64

Transport

Ceylon joins IMCO	64
British government grants £1m aid to curb hijacking	64
US Senate votes operating aid to mass transit systems	64

Trade Unions

Bangladesh trade union committee is formed	65
Court action against T & GWU continued - threat of British national dock strike	65
British seamen hold their annual conference	66
Two-year pattern agreement for Israeli workers	67
ILO protests to Portuguese government about gaoled trade union leader	67
Swedish unions attack plans to limit strikes	68
United Farm Workers win full AFL-CIO status	68

Social and Industrial News

New two-year agreement for Australian dockers	69
Belgian port workers win two-year agreement	70
Improvements in pay for Belgian busmen	70
Canadian railwaymen draw up claims	71
Quebec labour leaders imprisoned following strike of public service employees	71
British railwaymen's dispute: no end in sight	72
Improved pay and conditions for British Road Services drivers	72
New pay deal for British garage workers	73
Cost-of-living increase averts Heathrow airport stoppage	73
Israeli seamen call off proposed strike action	73
Japanese seamen's strike; railway unions stage nationwide walk-out	73
New collective agreement for dockers in Netherlands	74
US Pay Board reduces East Coast dockers' increase	75

News in Brief 75

Personalia 76

Forthcoming Meetings 77

Supplement

Meeting of the ITF Executive Board, Valletta 3 - 5 May 1972

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

ITF expresses sympathy with relatives of passengers and crew of the Royston Grange

All 74 passengers and crew aboard the British cargo liner Royston Grange tragically lost their lives when the vessel collided with the Liberian tanker Tien Chee in the Rio Plata estuary on 11 May. 8 members of the crew of the Tien Chee also died.

On hearing news of the disaster, the ITF sent the following cable to the British National Union of Seamen, the Radio and Electronic Officers' Union and the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association, all of which had members aboard the vessel:

"On behalf of seafarers' unions throughout the world, the ITF expresses its regret at the appalling Royston Grange disaster. Please convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved."

INTERNATIONAL
=====

ITF unions propose interim arrangements for trawlers in Icelandic waters

ITF General Secretary Charles Blyth met representatives of fishermen from Iceland, Great Britain and Germany in Reykjavik earlier this month for joint discussions on the implications for trawler fishermen of the proposed extension of Icelandic territorial waters^x. Bros. J., P., and P. Sigurdsson (Icelandic Seamen's and Fishermen's Union), Jack Jones and Dave Shenton (British Transport and General Workers' Union) and Fritz Annerl (German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union) agreed that special measures should be taken to avoid confrontations between the unions when Iceland declares its 50-mile limit on 1 September.

At the close of the meeting, the unions issued a joint statement in which they urged that interim arrangements should be made to allow British and West German trawlers to fish inside the new boundary. It was agreed that each union would strongly press its respective government to convene, with all possible speed, a joint conference, covering the three countries, of trade union and employer interests in the fishing industries directly affected, together with government representatives and appropriate scientific and other experts to advise on possible interim arrangements to apply after 1 September 1972.

^xFor further details of the earlier discussions see ITF Newsletter No. 4, p. 47

SPAIN

=====

Workers' leaders on trial - further labour disturbances

There have been more labour disturbances in Spain following the strike of shipyard workers at E1 Ferrol in which two workers were killed. 5,000 building workers in and around Madrid struck on 24 April (some of their leaders having been arrested at a meeting two days earlier) and on 1 May there were strikes and demonstrations - several of them involving clashes with the police and arrests - throughout the country.

25 workers arrested at El Ferrol have been charged with sedition and other political offences such as illegal propaganda, illegal association and creating public disorder. Those on sedition charges will face trial before a military tribunal.

TRANSPORT

CEYLON

=====

Ceylon joins IMCO

The government of Ceylon has deposited its acceptance of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization Convention, thus becoming IMCO's 75th member.

GREAT BRITAIN

=====

British government grants £1m aid to curb hijacking

The British government is to contribute £1 million a year towards protecting airliners from hijackers. The subsidy will help towards the costs involved in screening passengers (and their baggage) carried by British and foreign airlines at all British airports catering for international traffic. The aviation industry will continue to bear the remaining £2m per year. Announcing the government subsidy, which will be allocated by the National Aviation Security Committee, the British Minister for Aerospace, Michael Heseltine, said that it would "help protect our national carriers against politically motivated activities."

UNITED STATES

=====

US Senate votes operating aid to mass transit systems

The US Senate has passed break-through legislation which would allow the Federal government for the first time to provide operating subsidies of up to \$800 million over the next two

years for private and publicly-owned mass transit systems. The Transportation Secretary would be allowed to use funds for transit capital improvement grants to cover operating deficits.

The vote was welcomed by Matthew Guinan, International President of the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Union of America, who has long held the view that the survival of mass transit lies in Federal operating assistance. "Congressional testimony has shown", he said, "that the fare box alone cannot pay for the transit system nor can the Federal government continue to ignore the desperate needs of mass transportation. The time has come for the government to subsidize mass transit just as it does for highways."

The amendment now goes to the House of Representatives.

TRADE UNIONS

BANGLADESH

=====

Bangladesh trade union committee is formed

A trade union committee comprising representatives from all the national trade unions in Bangladesh was formed last month. It is expected that the committee will outline recommendations on: the formulation of a labour policy consistent with the government's pronounced aim of promoting a socialist economy; worker participation in nationalized industry; and the settlement of the outstanding demands of workers in the context of the prevailing economic situation.

GREAT BRITAIN

=====

Court action against T & GWU continued - threat of national dock strike

After consultations with the TUC, the ITF-affiliated Transport & General Workers' Union reluctantly decided to pay the £55,000 fines imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court (NIRC) for contempt of its order to stop union members blacking container lorries in Liverpool. The union has also, on the Court's order, issued instructions to its members in Liverpool, and in other ports to which the dispute over the stripping and stuffing of containers has spread (Hull, London and Manchester), to discontinue blacking container lorries.

In their first appearance before the NIRC, lawyers representing the Transport and General Workers' Union have stated that while the union has done and will continue to do what it can to persuade the dockers to call off their ban, it cannot absolutely guarantee that they will do so. To the Court's judgment that, if local stewards do not obey the Union's instruction, they must be removed from office, the Union has replied that such action would only ensure the aggravation of industrial relations in the docks.

Meanwhile, attempts have been made in talks with port employers' organizations, road haulage interests and other concerned bodies to reach a settlement of the container dispute, so far without success. In addition to the container issue, other national dockers' claims are outstanding - among them demands for four weeks' annual leave and a substantial increase in fall-back pay - and the Union has given 28 days' notice to end all current agreements after which a national dock strike may be called if a satisfactory settlement is not reached.

GREAT BRITAIN

=====

British seamen hold their annual conference

Delegates to this month's conference of the ITF-affiliated British National Union of Seamen voted in favour of accepting the 10.6 per cent pay offer made by the British Shipping Federation. The increases, which come into effect on 2 July, give a foreign-going AB an increase of £2.03 per week on his basic rate. The corresponding hourly overtime rate goes up by 5½p to 55½p. (This means that a foreign-going AB with 5 years' service will earn a basic weekly rate of £21.98.) All other ratings receive pro rata increases. The conference also recommended that the union should press for a basic rate of £25 for a 40-hour week in the 1973 round of pay talks.

The conference endorsed the decision of the NUS executive to register under the Industrial Relations Act. Speaking in favour of the decision to register, general secretary Bill Hogarth said: "The choice lay between applying for an approved closed shop agreement or the inevitable emasculation of trade unionism within shipping."

"Some ship-owners would have liked the union to de-register", said Bro. Hogarth. "This would have meant a 'free for all' which would allow them to employ who they liked, to employ what nationals they liked, and to sail their ships in the main with non-union or cheap labour."

The conference also instructed the union executive to resist the inclusion in crew agreements of clauses allowing the automatic deduction from a seafarer's wages of 'fines' imposed by shipowners for alleged breaches of contract.^x It was decided that members should be instructed not to sign crew agreements incorporating such clauses.

^xThese deductions, which are provided for under the 1970 Merchant Shipping Act, have been strongly opposed by the union (see ITF Newsletter No. 12, 1971, p. 134).

ISRAEL

=====

Two-year pattern agreement signed

Israel's trade union centre, Histadrut, has recently negotiated a two-year wages agreement which is to form the pattern for settlements in the individual branches of industry. The agreement provides for an 8% cost-of-living increase on basic wages with effect from 1 January 1972, which will be tax exempt. One of the major gains is the establishment of a minimum wage of I£ 425 a month or I£ 17 a day to be introduced in two stages by the end of 1973 as circumstances in individual industries permit. Trade unions have also been authorized to claim 6% general wage increases in 1972 and 1973.

In addition to the benefits arising from the wage agreement, the Compulsory Savings Loan for workers (but not for employers) and the Defence Levy are to be abolished; this, Histadrut estimates, will mean a further improvement in net monthly wages of about 4%.

PORTUGAL

=====

ILO protests to Portuguese government about gaoled trade union leader

The International Labour Organization has upheld the ICFTU complaint against the Portuguese government concerning the case of Daniel Cabrita. It will be remembered that Cabrita, General Secretary of the Lisbon Bank Employees' Union, was arrested by the Portuguese authorities after signing a letter of complaint to the ILO charging that the Portuguese workers' delegation to an earlier ILO meeting had been unrepresentative.^x

The ILO has pointed out to the Portuguese government that governments which take reprisals against trade unionists who protest against the appointment of workers' delegates to national or international meetings are guilty of infringing trade union rights. The ILO also takes the government to task for having held Cabrita without the benefit of counsel for a long period. It emphasizes that the law of the land must be applied but that it must not be such as to infringe the principles of freedom of association. Nor was it compatible with such principles to have trade union leaders suspended from their functions and replaced by management committees through administrative decisions, as had been the case in a number of trade unions in Portugal.

^xSee ITF Newsletter No. 2, p. 23.

SWEDEN
=====

Unions attack plans to limit strikes

Swedish public service workers' unions have attacked the new strike regulation provisions proposed by the public employers' organization. Under these proposals, strike or lockout action could be undertaken only after mediation has been conducted and the mediator has declared the negotiations to have definitively broken down. Required strike notice would also be extended from 7 to 14 days. What the unions are particularly objecting to is the long list of jobs and services - involving about 200,000 employees, approximately half the total - for which it is proposed that industrial action should be avoided on the grounds that they are essential to the community. The unions claim that the net effect of the proposals would be to make strikes permissible only where they were ineffective.

UNITED STATES
=====

United Farm Workers win full AFL-CIO status

The United Farm Workers' Organizing Committee (UFWOC), which some years ago organized a highly successful boycott of California grape growers, has been given full AFL-CIO status. It will now be known as the United Farm Workers' Union, AFL-CIO.

Meanwhile, the UFWU has launched an all-out attack against what the union charges is an attempt on the part of the Nixon administration to destroy it. The National Labour Relations Board, which has recently been taking a tough line against the unions, is currently seeking a federal injunction against UFWU to prevent the union from engaging in further boycott action. This means that the union will then come within the terms of the Taft-Hartley Act, although the farm workers' leader Cesar Chavez claims and with good reason that agricultural workers have always been specifically exempt from the act. Chavez charges that the government is using the NLRB to deny farm workers, who are among the poorest and most exploited US workers, the benefits and protection of the law, while imposing on them all its restrictions and penalties.

If the NLRB succeeds, the UFWU will be unable to continue its boycott against lettuce growers and also against the Nestlé-owned Beringer Company, which has consistently refused to agree to the demands of the workers for UFWU recognition and has followed a policy of intimidation of active union members.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA

=====

New 2-year agreement for dockers

Members of the ITF-affiliated Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia have voted overwhelmingly to accept the agreement negotiated with the waterfront employer groups for a new two-year contract, to become effective on 6th May.

The major gains are as follows:

- Redundancy: to be achieved only by voluntary means except where stevedoring in a particular port ceases altogether and some or all of the dockers there refuse to be transferred. Where a docker applies to transfer to the nearest suitable port, he will receive the cost of travel to the new port for himself and his family and the cost of his removal expenses. Where a docker opts for voluntary redundancy, he will receive compensation as follows:

(a) up to 30 September 1972: notice or payment in lieu of two weeks plus 1½ weeks for each year of service up to a maximum of 25 weeks, plus a lump sum ranging from A\$500 to A\$2,500 according to age;

(b) after 30 September 1972: for those aged between 60 and 64 years 9 months, notice or payment in lieu of 3 weeks plus 3 weeks for each year of service with a maximum equal to half the number of weeks remaining between the date he applies for de-registration and the date of his retirement at age 65; for those between 50 and 60 years of age, 3 weeks plus 2 weeks for each year of service with a maximum of 60 weeks at age 59, reducing to a maximum of 42 weeks at age 50; for those under 50 years of age, 3 weeks plus 2 weeks for each year of service with a maximum of 35 weeks.

- Wages: increase for permanent dockers of A\$8 per week plus a further A\$4 per week with effect from 6 May 1973; for casual dockers, increase of 26.67 cents per hour plus 13.33 cents per hour from 6 May 1973. Guaranteed wages are increased proportionately.

- Standard working week is reduced from 40 hours to 35 hours where the latter does not already apply. These hours may be worked in either of two different three-shift systems (slight variations in starting and finishing times and distribution of rest/meal breaks).

- Pension benefit is increased by 30% from A\$240 per year to A\$312 (A\$4.60 per week of service up to A\$6 per week), and these benefits will be adjusted every two years to maintain their value against inflation and to keep pace with other pension levels. The present contribution ratio of 60% from the employers and 40% from the dockers becomes now 2 : 1.

- Sick leave: a dockworker who accepts voluntary redundancy or retires is entitled to be paid the equivalent of 50% of any untaken sick leave.

The new agreement also provides improved machinery for regulating disputes and studies into extending decasualization.

BELGIUM

=====

New two-year dockworkers' contract

The ITF-affiliated Belgian Transport Workers' Union has negotiated a new two-year agreement for port workers in Antwerp, effective 1 May 1972. The main provisions are:

Pay: increases on basic rates of 30 Bfr. from 1 May 1972 and 40, Bfr. from 1 May 1973.

Hours: Warehousemen's working week reduced from 42½ hours to 42.

Fall-back pay: between 70% and 75% of basic pay.

End-of-year bonus: ranging in 1972 from 25.40 Bfr. per shift to 32.50 Bfr. depending on age and number of shifts worked during the year; in 1973, from 32.30 Bfr. to 40 Bfr.

Early retirement bonus: ranging from 15,000 Bfr. at age 60 to 9,000 Bfr. at age 64 (men) and ages 55 and 59 respectively (women).

Improvements in pay for Belgian busmen

The ITF-affiliated Belgian Public Service Workers' Union has negotiated further improvements in the 1972 collective agreement for the members of its public transport workers' section. In accordance with the decision of the relevant sub-committee, the monthly bonus for busmen goes up from 925 Bfr. to 980 Bfr. (for the purposes of calculation of overtime payments this bonus is valued at 5.50 Bfr. per hour); and the bonus for one-man operation is increased from 6.25 Bfr. to 7.75 Bfr. per hour. These increases came into effect on 1 April 1972.

In addition, a special working party is to be set up to look into the rates of pay for work performed on Sundays and public holidays by garage personnel.

CANADA

=====

Railwaymen draw up claims

The ITF-affiliated Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport & General Workers has recently drawn up the claims which it will present in railway negotiations later this year. Specific wage increase claims will be determined nearer the negotiating date (November 1972) but among the claims already formulated are the following:

Improved job security: no layoffs of employees with two or more years' service, and an end to contracting-out of work traditionally performed by union members;

Sick leave: accumulative sick leave at the rate of 1½ days per month, 18 days per year; unused sick leave credit to be paid in a lump sum on retirement or resignation; and better hospital and medical insurance provisions;

Annual leave: to be at the rate of 3 weeks after 5 years' service; 4 weeks after 15 years; 5 weeks after 25 years; and 6 weeks after 30 years.

Improvements are also to be sought in pension provisions.

Quebec labour leaders imprisoned following strike of public service employees

There has been widespread labour unrest in the Canadian province of Quebec following the sentencing on 8 May of three Quebec labour federation leaders. Marcel Pepin, president of the Confederation of National Trade Unions, Louis Laberge, president of the Quebec Federation of Labour and Yvon Charbonneau, president of the Quebec Teachers' Corporation were each given twelve-month prison sentences after being found guilty of contempt of court for inciting union workers to disobey injunctions ordering the maintenance of essential services during an 11-day strike by 200,000 provincial public service employees in April. The strikers were seeking salary increases of 8.3 per cent and guarantees of security of employment.

Operations at the province's three major ports, Montreal, Quebec and Three Rivers were suspended on 9 May after the ITF-affiliated International Longshoremen's Association instructed its members to stop work in support of the imprisoned labour leaders. The port workers later resumed normal operations after management obtained a court injunction ordering the men back to work.

Workers in many parts of the province demonstrated their solidarity with the public service employees and their leaders by stopping work and staging sympathy actions.

GREAT BRITAIN

=====

Railwaymen's dispute: no settlement in sight

Negotiations between the three ITF-affiliated railwaymen's unions - the National Union of Railwaymen, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association - and the British Railways Board failed to produce a settlement within the 14-day cooling-off period ordered by the National Industrial Relations Court. It is understood that the Board's latest offer was 12½% and the introduction of a minimum wage of £20, to be effective from 5 June, but the unions were seeking an implementation date of 1 May.

At the end of the cooling-off period the unions decided to reimpose their work-to-rule with effect from 12 May. Thereupon the government asked the National Industrial Relations Court to order a secret ballot of railwaymen to see whether, despite the unions' rejection, the men were willing to accept the last offer. The Court granted the ballot request. However, the conducting of a ballot has been postponed until such time as the Appeals Court ruling on the submission of the rail unions that the industrial court has no right to impose a ballot is known. All three rail unions have called off their work-to-rule following a Court order.

Meanwhile, agreement in principle has been reached between the railway unions and London Transport that underground workers will receive the same percentage eventually agreed on for British Rail and that it will be made effective from 1 May 1972.

Improved pay and conditions for British Road Services drivers

The ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union has negotiated improved pay and conditions of service for drivers with the British Road Services group of companies. Under the agreement, the basic rates of adult workers are increased by £2 and the 24-hours subsistence allowance is increased to £2 with effect from 15 May. The BRS management has agreed that a standard arrangement should be made with regard to the rate of pay and the subsistence allowance of crews of vehicles on continental services. This matter has been referred to the Standing Committee for detailed examination. The management has also accepted in principle that drivers of articulated vehicles up to 19 tons gross laden weight of the Parcels Company should be made an additional payment.

In addition, all staff with two years' continuous service will receive three weeks' annual leave from January 1973 and from January 1974 staff with one year's service will be eligible for three weeks' leave. The management has agreed to examine the possibility of introducing four weeks' annual leave on a length of service basis in 1974.

New pay deal for garage workers

Unions including the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union have negotiated a new agreement, valid for one year from June, for garage and service station workers. The minimum rate for a 40-hour week for skilled workers goes up by £2 to £22, for semi-skilled to £18.96, and for other men to £17.32. Women workers receive a proportionally higher increase on the minimum rate - from £12.67 to £14.24 - as a step in the plan for equal pay by 1975. General increases on rates above the minimum average 7-8%.

The Transport & General Workers' Union is at present engaged in a national campaign to organize garage and service station workers.

Cost-of-living increase averts Heathrow airport stoppage

A threatened 24-hour strike by ground staff of BEA and BOAC at London's Heathrow airport was averted when an improved cost-of-living pay increase was offered by the Corporations. This provides for a rise of £1.65 per week backdated to 1 October 1971, with a further 10% on basic pay from 1 October 1972, the agreement to run to the end of 1973.

Earlier, ground and cabin staff of British Caledonian accepted an increase of £1.70 per week, which averages 5% on basic rates, effective 1 January 1972, plus a further 65p from 1 October 1972.

ISRAEL
=====

Israeli seamen call off proposed strike action

Towards the end of last month, the ITF-affiliated Israeli Seamen's Union cancelled a proposed one-day protest strike against the Zim Israel Navigation Company. The Union, which strongly advocates a national fleet policy, had originally called the strike when Zim announced that it would register its two new container vessels under the West German flag. However, the Union has now succeeded in reaching agreement with the company that the national merchant marine should be developed under the Israeli flag and that Israeli vessels should be manned by Israeli seamen. The two sides have issued a joint statement calling on the government to set up a national shipping council, on which they have agreed to cooperate.

JAPAN
=====

Japanese seamen's strike continues; railway unions stage nationwide walk-out

The strike of seamen belonging to the ITF-affiliated All-Japan Seamen's Union, which was due to continue until 5 May,

has been extended to 25 May^x, after negotiations with the management failed to produce a satisfactory pay settlement. On 28 April, the union also widened its action to include coastal and ocean-going car ferries and added a number of Japanese ports to its strike list (for further details see ITF Newsletter No. 4, p. 57).

Railway workers throughout Japan staged a 12-hour work stoppage on 27 April in support of their claim for higher wages. The strike paralysed traffic in Tokyo and many major Japanese cities. 320,000 railwaymen employed by Japan National Railways and 200,000 private railway employees (who also man the Tokyo underground) failed to report for work. Crews of rail-operated buses and ferries also joined in the strike action. A partial walk-out by taxi drivers and a strike of lorry drivers added to the traffic chaos. The private railway workers returned to work after accepting a 14 per cent pay offer equivalent to ¥ 10,200 per month on standard rates. JNR employees later accepted a similar offer.

^xPreviously, the strike had been extended to 15 May.

NETHERLANDS
=====

New agreement for dockers

The ITF-affiliated Netherlands Transport Workers' Union has negotiated a new agreement for Rotterdam dock workers, effective 1 March 1972.

Working hours: System A - day shifts only, Monday to Friday (40 hour week); System B - two weeks on day shifts, one week on evening shift plus one Saturday every three weeks (40 hour week + Saturday). Night shifts are worked on a voluntary basis only, and Sundays only in case of urgency, when the permission of the unions and the Dock Labour Inspectorate is required.

Wages (including transport allowance 5.43 fl. per day and inconvenience allowance 2.00 fl. per day):

	System A Weekly average	System B Weekly average
Dockworker (starting rate)	277 fl.	339 fl.
Dockworker (6-12 months)	282	345
Dockworker II (certificate)	285	348
Dockworker I (2 years)	289	354
Forktruck driver (certificate, 1 year)	294	360
Gang leader (certificate, 2 yrs)	307	377
Crane driver (18 months)	318	390
Tallyman (certificate, 2 yrs)	306	377
Supervisor - minimum	314	385
- maximum	402	495

Cost of living : Wage rates are increased by 2% each time the cost of living index rises by 2% (maximum 6% for 1972).

Penalty rates (overtime, etc.): evening, 30%; night, 45%; Saturday, 50%; Sunday, 100%; Public Holidays, 200%; indemnity for certain cargoes, from 10 to 20%.

Holidays with pay: 3 weeks 4 days, plus 1 day for 15 years' service, 2 days for 25 years and 3 days for 30 years or 1 day at age 55 or over. Holiday pay is 3.8 weeks' pay and special bonus payments are made in April/May (2 weeks' pay) and at Christmas (1 week's pay). These weekly pay rates are calculated on the basis of 10 hourly wages per day instead of the normal 8 working hours.

UNITED STATES
=====

Pay Board reduces East Coast dockers' increase

The US government Pay Board has ordered cuts in the pay increases agreed for East and Gulf Coast dock workers. (Last month four trade union members of the Board resigned when it decided to cut the West Coast dockers' pay rise.) Both the ITF-affiliated International Longshoremen's Association and the North Atlantic Shipping Association (employers) had asked the Board to approve their agreement and said that productivity gains would offset the pay increases. The cuts have reduced pay rises to between 9.8% and 12%, depending on the port.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The State of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have joined the the International Labour Organization, bringing the total membership of the ILO to 122 States.

The German airline pilots' association, Vereinigung Cockpit, has turned down a 6% pay increase negotiated for Lufthansa flying staff by the ITF-affiliated Union of Public Service and Transport Workers (OeTV); instead the association wants agreement on new duty time and rest period provisions. This difference between the two organizations has resulted from the pilots' demand for direct participation in contract negotiations which both the OeTV and Lufthansa reject on the grounds that only the OeTV has bargaining rights.

The BEA pilots' work-to-rule has been called off while talks between the airline and the British Airline Pilots' Association (BALPA) resume under the independent chairmanship of George Woodcock, former TUC General Secretary. In a separate but related dispute, 21 pilots dismissed by BEA for refusing to begin training on the Trident 1E until agreement had been reached on

pay and scheduling for the aircraft are suing the airline for wrongful dismissal. The High Court ordered BEA to reinstate them for 14 days if they agreed to fly the aircraft while negotiations proceed.

The US Airline Stewards' and Stewardesses' Association (affiliated to the ITF through the Transport Workers' Union) is suing Caribair and Eastern Air Lines for \$6 million damages for failure to negotiate a new contract in good faith. Contract talks with Caribair began in August 1969 and had reached the mediation stage when Eastern took over the management 15 months ago, since which time the company has been applying stalling tactics.

Wage increases have been announced for Malta public transport workers, effective from 10 April. Minimum wages for drivers are £8 per week, for ticket inspectors £7 15s. and for bus conductors £7 5s.

Legislation is being proposed by the Norwegian government which would provide 4 weeks holiday a year and 9½% pay for fishermen.

Northeast Airlines stewardesses have won a case brought before the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination with the result that stewardesses dismissed for pregnancy between August 1965 and August 1970 may apply to be returned to flying duties, and will be given first choice of future stewardess vacancies.

The Uruguay trade union centre CNT called a 24-hour general strike on 19 April in protest against the death of seven trade unionists in clashes with the military, the arrest of many union leaders and the 30-day state of emergency ordered by the government.

Ground personnel at Orly and Le Bourget airports, Paris staged a 24-hour strike on 4 May in support of their demand for higher pay. The stoppage compelled Air France to cancel the majority of its medium-range flights out of Paris.

PERSONALIA

A. Philip Randolph has been presented with the Murray-Green Award, the highest honour of the AFL-CIO. Randolph, a veteran union leader and civil rights fighter, was the chief founder of the Sleeping Car Porters and has been a vice-president of the AFL-CIO since 1955. Bro. Randolph celebrated his 83rd birthday on 15 April.

Hans Rasmussen has been elected to succeed Otto Brenner as president of the International Metalworkers' Federation.

Anton Prokosch, former general secretary of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions and a former Austrian Minister for Social Affairs, celebrated his 75th birthday on 21 April.

Jon Sigurdsson, president of the Icelandic Seamen's Federation, celebrated his 70th birthday on 12 May.

Matthew Guinan, International President of the Transport Workers' Union of America, has been appointed to the Board of the newly-formed Council for Airport Opportunity. The Council has been established to provide additional employment and training facilities for certain categories of employees at Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark Airports. The Board includes representatives of management and labour, as well as federal, state and local government agencies in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area.

Berndt Uula (Johansson), secretary of the Finnish Seamen's Union, celebrated his 60th birthday on 16 May 1972.

Arvo Heiniö, a vice-president of the Finnish Seamen's Union since 1968, has retired at the age of 62.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS
=====

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ITF Fishermen's Section
Subcommittee on Safety of
Fishermen and Fishing Vessels | - | Oslo, 19-20 June 1972 |
| Conference of ITF European
Affiliates | - | October 1972
(dates and venue to be
confirmed) |
| ITF Management Committee | - | London, 14 November 1972 |
| ITF Executive Board | - | London, 14-15 November 1972 |

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

_____ooo000ooo_____

MEETING OF ITF EXECUTIVE BOARD, VALLETTA, 3 - 5 MAY 1972

The ITF Executive Board met in Valletta from 3 to 5 May 1972. Present were: F. Prechtel (President), H. Aasarød, A. Ayoub, G.J.H. Alink, J.R. Baiden, D.S. Beattie, L. Buonaccorsi, W. Cassiers, J. Elliott, L. Gallardo R., C. Melgarejo, R.S. Oca, D.N. Secord, E. Svensson, Y. Yagol, C.H. Blyth (General Secretary), together with Harold Lewis (Assistant General Secretary).

H. Kluncker (Vice President), S.F. Greene, J.L. Jones, K. Kihata, W. Meier, W.C. Y. McGregor and Ph. Seibert were unable to attend.

The meeting was chaired by ITF President Fritz Prechtel.

Relations with International Organizations

ITF General Secretary Charles Blyth said that the ITF had continued to bring pressure to bear on the ILO with regard to the holding of meetings of Industrial Committees. The United States had now approved a payment to the ILO of US \$ 7.6 million, following which the ILO's Director General had informed him that it might be possible to hold a meeting of the Joint Maritime Commission later in 1972 and that the schedule of meetings of other industrial committees would be restored as soon as possible.

31st ITF Congress

The General Secretary reported that the ITF's Swedish affiliates had agreed to invite the ITF to hold the 31st ITF Congress in Stockholm. It was proposed to hold the Congress at the beginning of August 1974. It was unanimously agreed to accept the invitation.

Cooption of New Executive Board Member

It was agreed to coopt Y. Woschina of Histadrut to succeed Y. Yagol as a member of the ITF Executive Board, with effect from the next meeting of the Board.

Applications for Affiliation

It was agreed to accept the following applications, provided any remaining formalities were satisfactorily completed:

- Bond van Haven en Loodsboot Personeel (Curacao)
- Sindicato de Colectiveros Litoral (Bolivia)
- Singapore Organisation of Seamen
- Sindicato de Choferes Asalariados '1 de Mayo' (Bolivia)

Applications for the Lifting of Suspension from Membership by two Greek Unions

It was agreed that there should be no change in the ITF's attitude towards the Greek unions until there was firm evidence that they were able to operate with the degree of freedom compatible with membership of the ITF.

Resolution of Thanks to Maltese Hosts

At the suggestion of R.S. Oca, it was agreed to adopt a resolution expressing the Board's appreciation of the hospitality extended to them by the General Workers' Union of Malta.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the ITF Executive Board should be held 14 - 15 November in London.

---000000---