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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

INTERNATIONAL

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ITF and pilots' international join in anti-hijacking action

Following the recent increase in aircraft hijackings and in particular the murderous attack against passengers and ground staff at Lod Airport, ITF representatives had talks with the governing body of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations in London on 8 June. During the discussions the ITF agreed to participate in and support steps which IFALPA was proposing to take following initiatives taken by its largest single affiliate, the US Air Line Pilots' Association. These plans are as follows:

- (a) An urgent request for a meeting of the UN Security Council to be held by 16 June, which would decide on measures to ensure the implementation of previous decisions by the UN itself and by ICAO, with particular reference to enforcement measures against States offering sanctuary to hijackers and air saboteurs.
- (b) If the UN fails to take effective action on this request, it is proposed that civil aviation workers throughout the world (including pilots, other flying staff and ground staff) will institute a 24-hour protest stoppage of air services on 19 June.
- (c) Plans are being initiated for the boycott of any country which fails to abide by the international obligation to extradite or ensure the punishment of hijackers, saboteurs and their accomplices.

The ITF has appealed to all its affiliates to press for UN Security Council action and, should there be no satisfactory outcome, to hold themselves in readiness to participate in the 24-hour stoppage on 19 June and such other measures as may be necessary. The ITF and IFALPA are meanwhile maintaining close liaison on the organization of the campaign.

Danish seamen request ITF assistance in campaign against coastal shipowners

The ITF-affiliated Danish Seamen's Union is considering industrial action against all coasters belonging to shipowners of the Danish coastal fleet. The union is confident that this action will compel the coastal shipowners, who are currently employing

mixed nationality crews at rates and conditions below those negotiated by the union with the Danish Shipowners' Association, to sign a similar agreement with the union.

The union has requested the ITF Secretariat to arrange a meeting of transport workers' affiliates in Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and Scandinavia (to be represented by the Scandinavian Transport Workers' Federation) in order to discuss the implications of the union's proposed action, which already enjoys the full support of the ITF. In view of the urgency attached to this matter, ITF General Secretary Charles Blyth has decided to call a meeting of the parties concerned in London on 22 June.

TRANSPORT

INTERNATIONAL
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Representation of China at IMCO

The Council of the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization at a recent meeting in London adopted a resolution recognizing the government of the People's Republic of China as the only government having the right to represent China in IMCO.

CANADA
=====

Committee on railway safety to be set up

The Canadian Transport Commission, in an effort to combat railway accidents, has announced its intention to set up an advisory committee on railway safety, which will include representatives of Canadian Pacific and Canadian National railways and the Canadian railway unions. The Committee is to be invited to give its advice on: maintenance and inspection procedures for locomotives and railway cars; maintenance procedures for track signal installations and other operating equipment; railway rules and operating orders; railway safety research.

ICELAND
=====

Governmental talks on 50-mile limit begin

Preliminary discussions have taken place between the Icelandic and British governments on what is to happen when Iceland imposes its 50-mile fishing limit on 1 September this year. No concrete agreement has been reached, but talks are to be resumed before the end of June. (As reported in Newsletter No. 5, page 63, the ITF-affiliated fishermen's unions of Iceland,

Great Britain and Germany met in May under ITF auspices and agreed to press their respective governments to negotiate on the issue instead of having a head-on confrontation.)

TRADE UNIONS

DENMARK

=====

Drivers' union threatens consumer boycott of Esso

The ITF-affiliated Danish Transport & General Workers' Union (DASF) has threatened to organize a consumer boycott of Esso petrol unless there is a satisfactory settlement of a dispute in which six DASF members have lost their jobs. 26 Esso tanker drivers belonging to the DASF went on strike in April in protest against the activities of a rival union member at the Ålborg depot which appeared to be receiving encouragement by the management. When the strike ended on 5 May, only 20 of the 26 were re-engaged; among the six are DASF activists.

INDIA

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Trade union unity move

Leaders of the three national trade union organizations - the Indian National Trade Union Congress, the All India Trade Union Congress and the Hind Mazdoor Sabha - have decided to set up a joint central council to promote understanding, cooperation and coordination in their activities.

UNITED STATES

=====

US federal judge dismisses case against Seafarers

A US District Court judge has dismissed charges of making illegal political campaign contributions against the ITF-affiliated Seafarers' International Union of North America and seven of its top leaders, including President Paul Hall. In granting a motion by the union to dismiss the case, the judge said that the Justice Department had ignored repeated court orders to specify its charges against the union, thereby violating the union's and the officers' right to a speedy trial. The Justice Department had alleged that the union had illegally made contributions of \$40,000 during 1968 and had conspired to spend \$750,000 for political action in presidential, senatorial and congressional campaigns between 1964 and 1968.

Taking note of the dismissal, the SIU said, "from the outset, we have shown that our political contributions to various candidates for public office are made openly. They are made legally. They are reported publicly."

"We don't intend to be scared out of politics", the SIU declared. "We think it is our right and our responsibility to remain active in this field".

The union makes political donations from a special political action fund -- Seafarers Political Activity Donation (SPAD) -- which is funded through voluntary donations. The fund was instituted in 1962.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

ARGENTINA
=====

Agreement on compensation for dismissed seafarers

The Argentine Maritime Federation, the joint negotiating body for the seafaring industry, has recently adopted an agreement providing for compensation for seafarers dismissed without good cause. "Good cause" for dismissal in this context is defined in detail and includes such matters as lack of discipline, drunkenness, unjustified absences, smuggling, and force majeure (e.g. war, blockade, quarantine, seizure or confiscation of the vessel or serious damage to the vessel). Any seafarer dismissed without good cause is entitled to severance pay of 500 pesos for every year of service with the company, plus one month's pay if he has less than 5 years' service or two months' pay if he has more than 5 years' service. To qualify for the compensation, a seafarer must have worked a minimum of 150 days (foreign trades) or 120 days (river and coastal trades) during the preceding year.

AUSTRALIA
=====

Australian waterside workers stage one-day token stoppage

Members of the ITF-affiliated Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia staged a 24-hour strike on 1 June in protest against federal government intervention in the 2-year pay agreement negotiated by the union with the waterfront employer groups earlier this year.* The government is seeking to revoke proposals for a 35-hour week and wage increases which it claims are excessive and difficult to justify.

*For details of the agreement see ITF Newsletter No. 5, p.69.

Australian radio officers again oppose R/T-only container vessel

The ITF-affiliated Professional Radio Employees' Institute of Australasia called off a proposed strike of marine radio officers on vessels of the Australian National Line (ANL) following a compulsory conference in the Commonwealth Arbitration Commission. The executive of the Institute had earlier instructed radio officers to strike from midnight on May 30 to 31 in support of a union demand for the appointment of a radio operator on one of the ANL's vessels, the coastal motor container vessel Echuca, which operates between Melbourne and northern Tasmania. The company presently operates a radio-telephone system from the vessel.

The Institute has been campaigning for some time against an exemption granted by the Department of Shipping and Transport, which allows the ECHUCA to use radiotelephony only for communications.*

*See ITF Newsletter No. 8, 1971, p. 93.

BELGIUM
=====

Improved conditions for seafarers

Negotiations between the ITF-affiliated Belgian Transport Workers' Union and the shipowners have resulted in the following agreement:

- With effect from 1 April 1972, seafarers will receive improved expense allowances for travel from home to the port of embarkation.
- Two extra days' holiday are to be granted during 1972, with a corresponding increase in holiday pay.
- With effect from 1 January 1973, the standard working week for seafarers will be reduced from 45 to 42 hours.

FINLAND
=====

Settlement of navigating officers' dispute

The ITF-affiliated Finnish Navigating Officers' Union called off its threatened strike after reaching a compromise agreement with the shipowners on a one-year contract for the foreign trades on 21 April 1972.

The main points of the settlement, effective from 1 April, are:

- Conclusion of a special agreement for officers serving aboard passenger vessels.
- Improved arrangements for masters' income adjustment (the formula which ensures that a master's annual income is always at least 5-10% higher than that of any other member of the crew). This means that on cargo vessels the adjustment is made automatically (i.e. without the master having to apply for it on each occasion) every year before the end of March; on passenger vessels, adjustments are made monthly, with a final overall annual adjustment.
- The minimum basic salary for 1st and 2nd Mates is increased by a larger than average percentage, i.e. by 10-14% as against a general pay rise of about 7%.

GREAT BRITAIN

=====

Railwaymen win 13½% settlement

The three ITF-affiliated British railwaymen's unions - the National Union of Railwaymen, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and the Transport Salaried Staffs Association - have accepted a settlement of their pay claim which amounts in all to about 13½%. With effect from 5 June a general 12½% increase is to be applied to all rates, and a basic minimum wage of £20 per week comes into effect. In addition, railwaymen will receive lump sums ranging from £10 to £16 in lieu of backdating the award to 1 May as the unions had been seeking.

The settlement, which is seen as a substantial victory for the railwaymen and a defeat for the government's policy of attempting to control wage increases in the public sector, follows the threat of further industrial action which had been due to start at midnight on 13 June. Until the agreement on 12 June no progress had been made in negotiations after the secret ballot ordered by the National Industrial Relations Court on the application of the government - an order upheld on appeal - had resulted in an overwhelming victory for the railway unions.

British dockers postpone threatened national dock strike

Leaders of Britain's dockers have agreed to postpone the start of national strike action, originally scheduled for 2 June, for a period of two weeks, in the hope that a special committee of union leaders, shipowners and port employers will be able to negotiate a satisfactory settlement of the dockers' demands before the revised strike date*. The committee is under the joint chairmanship of Jack Jones, general secretary of the ITF-affiliated British Transport and General Workers' Union, and Lord Aldington, Chairman of the Port of London Authority. It also includes the chairmen of the various port authorities, shipowners' representatives and Tim O'Leary,

*For details of the dockers' demands see ITF Newsletter No. 5, p. 66.

TGWU national docks officer. The trade union side of the committee will report on the outcome of the joint talks to a TGWU national docks delegate conference on 14 to 15 June.

Talks to continue on cabin staff pay

Industrial action by both ground and cabin staff of BOAC and BEA was averted when the Corporations agreed to pay the increases for ground staff (reported on in last month's Newsletter, page 73) without waiting for agreement with the cabin attendants. The latter are seeking higher increases than those agreed for ground staff, claiming that their pay has fallen further behind. Separate negotiations are now to be conducted between the British Airline Stewards' and Stewardesses' Association (part of the ITF-affiliated Transport & General Workers' Union) and the two airlines, "in an atmosphere free from threats of industrial action."

INDIA
=====

Indian port workers stage 24-hour warning strike

Members of the All-India Port and Dock Workers' Federation observed a "warning day" on 16 May by demonstrating in front of the offices of the Bombay Port Trust Dock Labour Board and other employers. The demonstrations were intended as a precursor to an indefinite strike from 7 June if the Federation's major demands were not met by that date. The scheduled strike was called off when negotiations began between the Federation and the appropriate ministry.

JAPAN
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Japanese seamen still on strike; dockers return to work

The ITF-affiliated All-Japan Seamen's Union called off its small coaster division strike on 6 June after accepting compromise wage increases offered by the National Coaster Owners' Association. However, the walk-out by members of the steamship and coastal service divisions continues and a decision has been taken to extend the strike until 21 June^x.

Meanwhile, Japanese dock workers have called off their strike at all ports with the exception of the port of Tokyo after the unions involved reached agreement with the port authorities on the setting up of a joint council. The joint council will continue discussions on the unions' demands for guaranteed job stability and improved pensions.

^xFor further details of the strike see ITF Newsletter No. 4, p. 57 and No. 5, p. 74.

NETHERLANDS
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New agreements for Dutch seafarers

The ITF-affiliated Dutch Seafarers' Federation has recently negotiated three separate one-year agreements on behalf of its members employed by "De Raad van Bestuur voor de Zeevaart" (a group of shipowners covering the major Dutch shipping companies), Shell Tankers N.V. and Chevron Tankers N.V. Below is a summary of the major gains incorporated in these agreements:

De Raad van Bestuur voor de Zeevaart

The agreement is valid for a period of one year, from 1 May 1972 to 1 May 1973.

Wages

- a) With effect from 1 May 1972, wages are increased by 2%.
- b) On 1 November 1972 and 30 April 1973, wages will be raised by a percentage equivalent to the percentage rise in the cost-of-living index, subject to a maximum increase of 6.5% over the life of the agreement.
- c) Resulting from a recent job evaluation survey, the rates of pay of the third officer, electrician, engineroom foreman and the foreman-fitter are increased by from 4 to 8 per cent.
- d) Rates of pay of seafarers under 21 years of age go up by an extra 5 per cent.

Leave

- a) The annual leave allocation is increased by one day, giving a minimum of 23 and a maximum of 34 days.
- b) With effect from 1 January 1973, seafarers will be compensated with one half-day's leave in the Netherlands for every Saturday afternoon worked, either in port or at sea.
- c) From 1 May 1972, seafarers will be repatriated at the owner's costs after 7 months' active service (previously after 8 months).
- d) The holiday bonus is increased from 6% to 6.4% of annual earnings, with a minimum of fl.850.

Shell Tankers N.V.

The agreement is valid for a period of one year, from 1 May 1972 to 1 May 1973.

Wages

- a) With effect from 1 May 1972, wages are increased by 4%.
- b) On 1 November 1972 and 30 April 1973, wages will be raised by a percentage equivalent to the percentage rise in the cost-of-living index, with the exception of the first 0.25% rise in the index.
- c) Rates of pay of seafarers under 21 years of age go up by an extra 5 per cent.

Leave

- a) The annual leave allocation is increased by three calendar days. The allocation for chief engineers, 2nd engineers and chief officers now ranges from 163 to 172 days, according to length of service and that of other officers and ratings from 153 to 162 days.
- b) From 1 May 1972, seafarers will be repatriated at the owner's costs after 4 months' active service (previously after 5 months).
- c) The holiday bonus is increased from 6% to 6.8% of annual earnings, with a minimum of fl. 950.

Chevron Tankers N.V.

The agreement is valid for a period of one year, from 1 May 1972 to 1 May 1973.

Wages

- a) With effect from 1 May 1972, wages are increased by 4%.
- b) On 1 November 1972 and 30 April 1973, wages will be raised by a percentage equivalent to the percentage rise in the cost-of-living index, subject to a maximum increase of 6.5% over the life of the agreement.
- c) Rates of pay of seafarers under 21 years of age go up by an extra 5 per cent.

Leave

- a) The annual leave allocation is increased by 2 calendar days. The allocation for chief engineers, 2nd engineers and chief officers now ranges from 162 to 171 days, according to length of service and that of other officers and ratings from 152 to 161 days.

- b) From 1 May 1972, seafarers wherever possible will be repatriated at the owner's costs after 6 months' active service (previously after 7 months).
- c) The holiday bonus is increased from 6% to 6.8% of annual earnings, with a minimum of fl. 950.

NORWAY

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Two-year agreement reached for public employees

The Norwegian public employees' federation, which includes the ITF-affiliated railwaymen's unions, has reached agreement in direct negotiations with the employers on pay and other improvements for the next two years. Basic pay is increased by 5.7% (with a minimum wage of 1,850 kr.) with effect from 1 May 1972 and by 3.6% a year later. Allowances are increased by 10%. (These increases are slightly above the level set by the national "pattern" agreement earlier in the year.) There will also be a cost-of-living adjustment in the spring of 1973. The unions are recommending their members to ballot in favour of the settlement.

SCANDINAVIA

=====

Cabin attendants' strike planned

The ITF-affiliated Commercial Employees' Union intends to call 900 cabin attendants employed by SAS out on strike on 17 June unless agreement is reached before then on the terms of a new collective agreement. Negotiations on the new contract began on 15 December 1971 and had lasted a total of 20 days (in six separate sessions) when they were declared deadlocked on 28 May, despite the chairmanship at the last three sessions of a state mediator. The chief issues to be resolved, from the union's point of view, are the following:

- Equal rights for stewardesses to obtain promotion to purser;
- Demand that there shall be a purser on all flights which require three or more cabin attendants;
- A fair proportion of cabin attendants' jobs for each of the three SAS nationalities - Danish, Norwegian and Swedish - and cabin attendants normally to be based in their home country;
- Job security provisions which would guarantee ground employment to cabin attendants who can no longer perform flying duties.

Other issues include certain alterations to duty time, and pay increases.

UNITED STATES

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IAM dispute with Alitalia settled

The ITF-affiliated International Association of Machinists has informed us that a settlement has been reached with Alitalia on pay rates for its members employed by the airline in the US, thus terminating a lengthy strike.

At the ITF's request, other aviation affiliates applied pressure to Alitalia in order to promote a settlement of the dispute. Bro. Winpisinger of the IAM writes: "Let me take this opportunity to extend to you and all our ITF affiliates our sincere appreciation for your full support and display of solidarity which we believe played a significant role to the successful conclusion of this strike action."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian dockers are operating a month-long boycott of French vessels in protest against the current series of French nuclear tests in the Pacific.

Canada has ratified ILO Convention No. 87, Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize, and has introduced a new Labour Code in implementation of this decision.

There have been further violent clashes in Spain between workers and police. In the shipyards of Vigo, 3,000 workers were locked out over a pay dispute and their demonstration march dispersed by police; a further demonstration outside the Headquarters of the government-controlled Sindicatos was also broken up by police. Many workers have been injured in these confrontations and numerous arrests have been made.

Air France ground mechanics at Orly airport have been conducting a series of work stoppages in protest against management's failure to settle their pay claims. The stoppages have caused delays to traffic.

Air traffic controllers in Germany who have been working to rule for four weeks in order to press their claims for improved pay and career prospects, and in protest against the rejection by the government of the findings of an expert inquiry into the dispute, are returning to normal working pending new talks with the government.

The German public transport workers' union (OeTV) has offered its cooperation to the regional government of North-Rhine Westphalia in the implementation of a cheap (30 pf.) flat-fare experiment for public transport in one of the region's major cities. The union stresses, however, that a flat-fare experiment must be linked to substantial improvements in the quality of the service offered and to proper planning of traffic movements.

Rome city authorities have begun a new fare-free public transport experiment, under which no payment is required during the morning rush-hour period (0530 to 0830). From 30 June this will also be extended to the evening rush (1700 to 2000).

Amsterdam taxi drivers, members of the ITF-affiliated Netherlands Transport Workers' Union, receive with effect from 1 May 1972 an increased basic wage of 115.50 Guilders per week, plus 25% of the takings.

PERSONALIA

Frank H. Hall, former head of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks in Canada, has died at the age of 78. Bro. Hall was born in England, emigrating to Canada at the age of 20. Soon after joining the Canadian Pacific Railway as a freight clerk he was a local union Secretary and by 1920 was General Chairman of the Brotherhood. A bare five years later he was elected Vice Grand President for Canada, a post to which he was reelected at all subsequent conventions till 1963, when he was appointed to the new position of Canadian executive assistant to the President. He also served as Chairman of the general conference for all non-operating railway unions in Canada from 1947 to 1965 and as Chairman of their joint negotiating committee. He was also prominent in the Canadian Labour Congress and was a member of the ITF Executive Board from 1960 to 1967.

William Hogarth, General Secretary of the British National Union of Seamen, has been made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).

E. Greve Petersen celebrated on 21 May his 25th anniversary as President of the Danish Locomotivemen's Union. There is a tradition of long-serving Presidents in the union, but none has held the post as long as Bro. Petersen.

H. Rake, Secretary of the Seafarers' and Fishermen's Section of the German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union, OeTV, celebrated his fiftieth birthday on 2 June.

Richard Vanderberg has been appointed executive secretary of the Canadian Railway Labor Association.

William W. Winpisinger has been appointed resident vice president and chief of staff at the headquarters of the International Association of Machinists. He is succeeded as vice-president for transportation by Dan Blue.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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- ITF Asian Airline Workers' Conference - Tokyo, 1-10 August 1972
- Conference of ITF European Affiliates - Salzburg, 9-10 October 1972
- ITF Management Committee - Nuremberg, 16 September 1972
- ITF Management Committee - London, 30 October 1972
- ITF Executive Board - London, 30-31 October 1972
- ITF Seafarers Section Conference - Geneva, 17-18 November 1972
- preparatory to ILO Joint Maritime Commission

STOP PRESS

Appeal Court quashes fine on British transport union

The Court of Appeal has overturned the judgment of the National Industrial Relations Court that the ITF-affiliated Transport & General Workers' Union was in contempt of court for failing to prevent its docker members from "blacking" container lorries in Liverpool. The fines, totalling £55,000, are to be paid back to the union. In its judgment the Appeal Court found that shop stewards who organized the blacking were not acting within the terms of their authority as union officials and the union could therefore not be held responsible for their actions.

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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