



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. 7

July 1973

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

News and Views from the ITF

Executive Board recommends action against French nuclear tests

82

Transport

ICAO investigation condemns Israel for attack on Libyan airliner

84

Norwegian seafarers' unions seek research into safety

84

Trade Unions

German unions against restrictions on public service workers

84

Social and Industrial News

Collective agreement for Austrian seafarers

85

Guaranteed minimum wage for Chilean port workers

85

Negotiations with Danish ferry companies

85

Danish merchant marine officers plan strike

86

French railwaymen's wages agreement for 1973

86

French transport workers' protest actions

87

International support agreed for German seafarers

87

German travel bureau workers get pay rise

88

Increases for tanker drivers in the Netherlands

88

Pay agreement for Singapore air transport workers

88

US Transport Workers' Union in dispute with KLM

89

New pay agreement for San Diego bus workers

89

News in Brief

89

Personalia

90

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

INTERNATIONAL

=====

Executive Board recommends action against French nuclear tests

At its meeting on 6, 7 and 8 June in Innsbruck, the ITF Executive Board considered the intention of the French government to conduct further atmospheric nuclear tests in the Pacific area and decided unanimously to recommend ITF affiliates:

- (a) to make the strongest representations to the diplomatic representatives of the French Government in their country against the French Government's plans to test nuclear devices in the Pacific;
- (b) to organize appropriate action against French transport services in support of these representations ;
- (c) where direct action is impossible, in other appropriate ways to demonstrate effectively and publicly their abhorrence of the French Government's policies in this regard; and
- (d) where appropriate, to act in collaboration with their national centre.

The reasons for this recommendation were contained in a document submitted to the Board by the ITF Secretariat which stated that:

"The danger to the life and health of mankind of atmospheric nuclear weapons testing has been recognized for more than fifteen years. Recognition of the validity of world-wide public protests on this issue led to the abandonment by the USA and the Soviet Union of this form of testing more than a decade ago.

"Despite knowledge of these facts and despite the incorporation by the nations and peoples of the world of their opposition to such tests in treaties, resolutions and other forms of objection, the French Government, with complete disregard for the interests of others, has been testing nuclear weapons in the atmosphere for thirteen years. With the Sahara denied to it after 1961, France

increased the remoteness from its own soil by developing between 1963 and 1966 a centre for testing nuclear weapons on the islands of the Tuamotu Archipelago in the South Pacific and conducting atmospheric test series there in 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971 and 1972. In the face of hitherto unparalleled international opposition, the French Government now asserts its intention to explode even larger devices in the near future.

"Each time that these atmospheric nuclear tests occur, every individual in the southern hemisphere is exposed to irradiation from nuclear fallout; a portion of this fallout subsequently encompasses the whole globe. No body of scientific opinion is prepared to assert that there is a threshold below which an irradiation dosage is safe. For example, the International Commission on Radiological Protection has stated that "the assumption is made that, down to the lowest levels of dose, the risk of inducing disease or disability increases with the dose accumulated by the individual. The disease and disability include genetic birth defects and all forms of cancer and leukemia.

"Exposures for the total population to fallout from the tests are cumulative and irreversible -- the effects cannot be undone. Indeed, Professor Linus Pauling, double Nobel Prize winner, has estimated that the explosion of a 20-megaton nuclear bomb over the Pacific could involve for Australia alone the birth of 1,700 deformed babies and the contraction of leukemia and other forms of cancer by another 1,700 Australians, but the impact of fallout from the tests is even greater on the people of the Pacific islands and South America than it is in Australia and New Zealand.

"Whatever the arguments about the effects, the French Government has never been able to answer the simple question of why, if there is no danger involved, the tests are not conducted in France itself?"

All affiliates are being urgently requested to act immediately and as fully as possible on the above recommendation and to collaborate with other trade unions on a national basis in order to bring home to the French government the enormity of the crime against humanity which it intends to go on committing. At the same time the ITF will coordinate transport trade union action at international level and cooperate with the ICFTU and other International Trade Secretariats.

TRANSPORT

INTERNATIONAL

=====

ICAO investigation condemns Israel for attack on Libyan airliner

The Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has strongly condemned Israel for shooting down a Libyan airliner over the Sinai Desert last February. The Council stated that Israel had no justification for bringing down the aircraft and causing the death of 108 of the 113 people aboard.

Although the report of an ICAO investigating team found that the Libyan airliner was well off course, the Council - ICAO's governing body - has said that it is "convinced that such actions (as Israel's) constitute a serious danger against the safety of international civil aviation".

NORWAY

=====

Seafarers' unions seek research into safety at sea

The four ITF-affiliated Norwegian seafarers' unions - the Seamen, the Mates, the Masters and the Engineers - have made a renewed joint approach to the government for an inquiry into safety provisions and life-saving equipment on board ship. An earlier request for a meeting on the subject came to nothing; the unions point out that this year there have been four serious shipping accidents with the loss of 70 lives, and these tragedies have highlighted the need for the development of new and better equipment.

TRADE UNIONS

GERMANY

=====

Unions against restrictions on public service workers

Leaders of both the ITF-affiliated German Railwaymen's Union and the Transport and Public Service Workers' Union have stated their organizations' firm opposition to any restrictions on the democratic rights of public service workers to play their rightful part in determining their own conditions. Attacking proposals made in the report of the Study Committee for the

Reform of the Public Services Legislation, they have voiced opposition to any changes which would adversely affect the right to full participation in collective bargaining and the right to strike of public service workers. Any such attempt would be fought with all the means at the unions' disposal.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

AUSTRIA

=====

Collective agreement for seafarers

The ITF-affiliated Commercial Transport Workers' Union reports that it has reached agreement with the Austrian Shipowners' Association on a provisional collective agreement. At the present time preparatory work is being done in Austria on a Shipping Act and this collective agreement, laying down minimum wages and basic conditions, will operate as an interim solution until the law becomes effective. The union has made sure that the agreement remains open for amendment if practical experience should prove this to be necessary. The union has also obtained an undertaking that, with effect from 1 January 1973, the Austrian social insurance legislation is to be applied to shipping so that employees are covered for sickness, accident, unemployment and pension rights.

CHILE

=====

Guaranteed minimum wage for port workers

As a result of the work of a joint committee set up in 1970, on which were represented the government, the employers and the ITF-affiliated Chilean Maritime Confederation, port workers will now benefit from a system of minimum guaranteed pay. This is to be based on the actual wages earned by union members in the years 1969 and 1970, adjusted automatically each year from the beginning of 1971 by the percentages applied to basic rates as negotiated by the unions.

DENMARK

=====

Negotiations with ferry companies: two agreements, one dispute

Negotiations between the ITF-affiliated Danish Seamen's Union and two ferry companies have successfully led to the conclusion of agreements, but in another case deadlock has been reached and strike action planned for 15 June.

With Mols line, the Union agreed on 14 June on a new rate for able seamen of 4,295 kr per month (an increase of 550 kr) and a formula under which one hour's overtime could be "paid for" by two hours' time off; in addition, mealbreaks are from now on to count as working hours.

With the Langeland-Kiel Ferry Company, the Union agreed on 14 June on an annual rise of 11,000 kr, a reduction in the working week to 38 hours (reducing again to 36 from 1 December 1974) and full adjustments to cover cost-of-living increases.

However, the Jysk Ferry Co. (routes Grenå-Hundested and Juelsminde-Kalundborg) has refused to reach a satisfactory agreement and following the breakdown of negotiations the union despatched its strike notice, effective 15 June.

Strike planned by merchant marine officers

The three ITF-affiliated Danish merchant navy officers' unions - Mates, Radio Officers and Engineer Officers - have notified the ITF of their intention to go on strike on 24 June (postponed from the original strike date of 10 June) following the breakdown of negotiations with the shipowners on claims for improved contract provisions for leave and days off. ITF affiliates have been requested to recommend their members not to accept employment on board Danish Shipowners' Association vessels during the period of the strike.

FRANCE
=====

Wages agreement for 1973

The French railwaymen's unions - among them the ITF-affiliated FO Railwaymen's Union and the Independent Supervisory and Technical Union - have signed a wages agreement for 1973 with the French National Railways (SNCF). This provides that, in addition to the 1.9% pay rise applied on 1 January 1973 as part of the exercise for the previous year, the following increases are to be made in basic wages:

- 1.5% with effect from 1 January 1973, rising to
- 3% from 1 June, 4% from 1 October, and
- 6% from 1 December.

In addition, a cost-of-living safeguarding clause has been agreed, under which rises in the prices index between December 1972 and December 1973 are compensated on a sliding scale formula.

Holiday pay is increased to 110 Fr. with the family supplement going up to 15 Fr. for the first and second children, and 20 Fr. for the third and subsequent children. Increases have also been agreed for other allowances and pensions.

FRANCE

=====

Transport workers' protest actions

Members of the ITF-affiliated FO Transport Workers' Federation participated in two days of protest action - on 15 June for urban transport workers and 18 June for road haulage workers - in support of a whole series of claims for improved working conditions, including a basic guaranteed minimum wage; payment for all time spent at the disposal of the employer; reduction of working hours; lowering of pensionable age; job security; extension of trade union rights; and improved safety provisions.

GERMANY

=====

International support agreed for German seafarers

On 29 May 1973 an International Conference of Dockers' and Seafarers' representatives was held in Hamburg under the auspices of the ITF under the Chairmanship of ITF General Secretary Charles Blyth and attended by delegates from ITF-affiliated unions in Denmark, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom as well as from the German host, the Transport and Public Service Workers' Union.

The Conference agreed unanimously to support the measures contemplated by the German union with a view to forcing a number of German shipowners, who are not prepared to negotiate with it, to conclude collective agreements for the seafarers employed on their vessels. The actual measures envisaged by the Conference range from assisting German union representatives in locating and visiting ships in foreign ports to direct boycott action against vessels of the above-mentioned shipowners. Several dockers' and seafarers' unions within and outside Europe who were unable to send a delegate to the Conference have nevertheless given assurances of their support and solidarity.

The ultimate aim of the campaign consists in raising the wages and conditions of seafarers employed on vessels of non-negotiating owners to the level of the collective agreement concluded between the union and the German Shipowners' Federation. The approx. 90 owners who have left the Shipowners' Federation in order to circumvent the obligation to negotiate must now expect considerable disruptions in the operation of their vessels unless they are prepared to sign union agreements forthwith. Lists of vessels not under agreement have been circulated to ITF affiliates, and the owners have been given until midnight on 21 June to notify their intention to negotiate.

Travel bureau workers get pay rise

The ITF-affiliated German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union has negotiated a new pay agreement for the 20,000 employees of private travel bureaus, effective 1 June 1973 for one year.

The new agreement gives a rise on the pay scales of 9.2%. In addition holiday pay, previously set at 20 DM per day, goes up to 23 DM. Trainees' pay is increased by 20 DM per month on all scales.

NETHERLANDS

=====

Increases for tanker drivers

The ITF-affiliated Netherlands Transport Workers' Union has negotiated the following improvements in the pay of tanker drivers for 1973:

Wages: increase in pay as at 31 December 1972 of 4.3%; contractual increase with effect from 1 January 1973 of 3%; increase of 2.75% in anticipation of cost-of-living rises during 1973; this will be made up to the full amount of the 1973 cost-of-living increase at the end of December.

Holiday pay: goes up from 6.8 to 7.2% and the number of days' leave is increased by one to 19. With effect from 1 April, the working week is reduced by one hour to 41 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours.

Overtime pay: for operating staff, with effect from 1 April, is set at 125% for overtime on Mondays to Fridays; 140% for overtime on Saturdays; and 175% for overtime on Sundays.

Other improvements affect compensation for night work and irregular hours, diploma bonuses and pension arrangements.

SINGAPORE

=====

Pay agreement for air transport workers

The ITF-affiliated Singapore Air Transport Workers' Union has successfully concluded negotiations with Singapore Airlines in respect of wage increases and an annual wage supplement for 1973. A 9% wage increase and an annual wage supplement of one month's basic salary will be paid at the end of July 1973.

UNITED STATES
=====

Transport Workers' Union in dispute with KLM

The ITF-affiliated US Transport Workers' Union has notified the ITF that, in its dispute with KLM over the conditions of catering staff at Kennedy Airport mediation efforts have failed and strike action is planned for 1 July. ITF affiliates servicing KLM are being asked to exert pressure on the airline to bring them to terms with the TWU before that date, and to pledge their support should strike action become necessary.

New pay agreement for San Diego bus workers

A recent agreement negotiated by the San Diego branch of the ITF-affiliated Amalgamated Transit Union provides for the first time a top rate of over \$6 per hour for bus operators.

The agreement provided for an 82 cents per hour wage increase, applicable in three stages on 1 April 1973, 1974 and 1975 which will bring the rate to \$6.10 per hour. A cost-of-living clause has also been reintroduced providing for quarterly adjustments. Other improvements include higher company contributions to medical and dental insurance funds; pay for time lost on jury service (new provision); extra paid leave; sick leave entitlement extended; and better pension provisions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The unofficial strike of dockers in the port of Antwerp ended on 4 June when strike leaders failed to obtain the required majority for a continuation of the strike.

The Finnish Locomotivemen's Union has been presented with an ITF plaque on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its foundation in 1898.

5,000 Finnish dockers went on strike on 8 June in support of claims for higher pay and shorter hours.

The French government has given its approval for work to start on the first commercial hovertrain line, on a commuter route into Paris.

German air traffic controllers and technical airport staff at nine civil airports have been operating a work-to-rule/go sick campaign since 31 May in support of their claims for better conditions and higher pay; air traffic has been seriously disrupted both in Germany and over Europe as a whole.

Claims have been submitted in Germany on behalf of public service workers for the payment of a thirteenth month's salary (at present two-thirds of a month) and relaxation of the conditions under which it is granted.

The threatened strike of Japanese dockworkers is still being postponed; talks are deadlocked in particular on the claim for a minimum guaranteed monthly wage of 100,000 yen.

Pilots on the Panama Canal operated a work-to-rule from the end of May until the middle of June in support of claims concerning pay, pilot recruitment and safety regulations. The action was ended after Canal officials offered to appoint a former pilot supervisor to study their demands.

PERSONALIA

Dirck Kloosterman General Secretary of the Argentinian Machinists' and Auto Workers' Union and Vice-President of the International Metalworkers' Federation, was assassinated on 22 May outside his home in Buenos Aires. He was 40 years of age. The ICFTU and many other trade union organizations both nationally and internationally have expressed their condemnation of this cold-blooded action and sent their condolences to Kloosterman's family and trade union colleagues.

Finn Löwert has been elected Chairman and Treasurer of the Danish Ships' Catering Union.

Shannon Wall has been elected President of the US National Maritime Union in succession to Joe Curran who retired in March. Mel Barisic takes over Shannon Wall's former post as Secretary-Treasurer.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

=====

ITF Management Committee - London, 24 August 1973
Flight Engineers' Technical Committee - London, 25 and 26 October 1973

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

-----ooo00oo-----