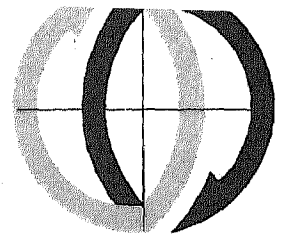


# ITF

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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

INTERNATIONAL

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ITF condemnation of new attacks on civil aviation

The ITF has strongly condemned both the attack by Arab terrorists against innocent passengers at Athens Airport on 5 August and the act of air piracy committed by the Israeli Air Force against a Lebanese civil aircraft over Beirut on 10 August. These two incidents illustrate yet again the nature of the problems facing the civil aviation industry as the result of continued acts of air piracy and terrorism directed against its employees, passengers and equipment.

In the view of the ITF, it is the urgent responsibility of governments everywhere to take firm and concerted action against all persons, organizations and States who threaten air safety; it is even more the responsibility of governments to refrain from any activities which could have such a result. The world's airline workers do not accept that there can be any justification for the hazarding of innocent lives and reject any attempt to do so as special pleading.

The diplomatic conference which is being convened by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Rome at the end of August provides the international community with a new and timely opportunity to agree to enforce exceptional measures against air piracy and terrorism. The ITF will press at the conference for this to be done without further vacillation or delay.

In a direct protest to Israel, the ITF stated that there could be no justification for such acts of air piracy with the attendant risk to innocent lives. The Israeli action could only be seen as a further setback to the consistent fight waged by the airline employees to achieve observance of the rule of law in civil aviation.

Finally, the ITF welcomes reports that the Libyan government is to place on trial the four hijackers of the Japanese aircraft destroyed at Benghazi in July, and that Israel is trying the Libyan hijacker of the Lebanese aircraft on 16 August.

ICFTU condemns explosion of the French bomb at Mururoa

Expressing the indignation of the free trade union movement immediately on hearing of the explosion of a first nuclear bomb at Mururoa on Saturday, 21 July, Otto Kersten, General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, has denounced the attitude of the French government, which "defies world opinion, brutally stifles private protest, and despite the numerous appeals which have reached President Pompidou from all over the world, has begun a series of tests at Mururoa". Basing his argument on the many reports referring to the genetic troubles affecting the populations of this area following the previous tests, Kersten described this act by the French government as the proof of a contemptuous cynicism towards millions of men, women and children and a further aggravation of the dangers threatening their health.

Having carried out an active campaign against the arms race for many years, the ICFTU and the 50 million workers which it represents are more than ever determined to carry on the struggle against all nuclear tests of any kind. The French and Chinese governments stand condemned, and will bear the full responsibility for their acts.

In conclusion Kersten declared "the ICFTU appeals to the conscience of humanity to insist that the billions that today are wasted on the senseless scramble for arms be dedicated to the peaceful pursuit of the liberation of man from misery, ignorance and hunger. The ICFTU repeats the appeal which it launched on the 18th of July last to the highest world authorities, and calls upon them to demand that the Government of France immediately cancels the Mururoa test series."

The ITF is maintaining its call to affiliates for all possible action against French interests throughout the world.

ITF Flag of Convenience campaign

The following vessels have been brought under ITF-approved agreement during the months of June, July and August 1973 in the Federation's continuing campaign against the abuses of convenience-flag registration:

(Li = Liberia; Cy = Cyprus; Pa = Panama; Sg = Singapore; So = Somalia; NA = Netherlands Antilles).

By the Italian Seafarers Federation (FILM-CISL): Li AMELIA TOPIC<sup>x</sup>, Li ANTE TOPIC<sup>x</sup>, Li IVAN TOPIC<sup>x</sup>; Li JELA TOPIC<sup>x</sup>, Li OLGA TOPIC<sup>x</sup>, Li ROSINA TOPIC<sup>x</sup>, and Li SERAFIN TOPIC<sup>x</sup>; by the Swedish Seamen's Union: Cy ANNA V, Cy BELL CRUSADER<sup>x</sup>, Li CAPE MAGDALENA, Cy CARMEN, So GOLDEN BRIDGE, Li RAM, Cy PONTOS, Cy PROSPERITY, Pa PUK, Li STAR BILLABONG, Cy UNITED GLORY, Li GOLAR FREEZE<sup>x</sup>, NA SYLVIA IV and Cy AEGIS LEGEND; by the Norwegian Seamen's Union: Li BERGE ISTRRA and Li DOCE CANYON; by Taiwanese Seamen's Union: Pa BLUE JADE; by Australian Waterside Workers' Federation (WWF): Cy CRETAN LIFE,

Pa MERCURY RIVER<sup>x</sup> and SIAM VENTURE; by Finnish Seamen's Union Pa DRAKOS, Li PENTA, So WINDWARD REEFER and Cy NENI<sup>x</sup>; by All Japan Seamen's Union (AJSU) Li ESSO KUMAMOTO<sup>x</sup>, Li SAN JUAN VANGUARD<sup>x</sup>, Li SAN JUAN VENTURER<sup>x</sup>, Li SAN JUAN VOYAGER<sup>x</sup> and Pa YUKONMART; by the Israeli Sea Officers' Union (ISOU) Pa LEONIDAS A; by the British National Union of Seamen (BNUS) Cy SANASTASIA; and by the ITF direct Li BARON, Sg CAP NORTE<sup>x</sup>, Sg CAP VILANO<sup>x</sup>, So HARMEN OLDENDORFF, Li ITEL TAURUS, Sg KYDOR PIONEER, Cy KYPRIS, Pa LINDBLAD EXPLORER<sup>x</sup>, Li LYRA, Li MARITA, Sg NAD PRINCE, Sg OCEAN INTREPID, Li RUNO, Pa SAN MORITZ and Sg UNION STAR.

In the British Industrial Relations Court, Hanseatic Ship Management failed to obtain an injunction against the ITF in respect of the "Samossand", the object of boycott action by Swedish affiliates in Hälsingborg, on the grounds that the action constituted an "unfair industrial practice". The court ruled that the ITF could not be held accountable for the blacking of the ship since, although the Swedish unions were acting under the terms of ITF policy, they retained their autonomy and were not and could not be ordered by the international federation to implement the policy. (The "Samossand" has since been brought under ITF agreement.)

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x) Renewal agreement

TRANSPORT

INTERNATIONAL

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Automatic couplings postponed until 1985

At a recent meeting the International Railway Union (IUC) agreed on a plan for the introduction of automatic couplings on European railways. However, the previous timetable (commencement of conversion programme 1981-1985) has been abandoned as impracticable and introduction will not now commence until 1985, although an attempt is to be made to reduce the changeover period as much as possible. In a statement to the European Transport Ministers, the ITF has stressed the need for automatic couplings to be installed and in particular for the changeover period to be as short as possible in order to reduce the enhanced dangers connected with the changeover as far as shunting staff are concerned.

JAPAN

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Seamen's union calls for ship safety checks

The ITF-affiliated All Japan Seamen's Union has urged the government and maritime authorities to recheck all large ocean-going vessels for elimination and repair of defects. This followed its own safety inspection report which revealed that all 58 ships of over 30,000 tons surveyed by the union had been found to have some defects which should be repaired as soon as possible. They include 32 oil tankers, 19 ore carriers and 7 bulk carriers. The government is also being asked to improve and strengthen the present ship safety checking system.

SWEDEN

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Public employees' resolution on transport policy

In a resolution adopted at its recent Congress, the ITF-affiliated Swedish Public Employees' Union has welcomed the government's plans to work out a new transport policy at national, regional and local level. Recognising that the problems of public transport are difficult to solve, the Congress considered that national and local government authorities should be aware of the needs of the community, particularly with regard to environmental and safety aspects, and should attempt to attain a proper division of traffic between the various forms of transport. In addition, the highest priority should be given to continued development of public transport for the benefit of the community as a whole. Finally, the Congress expressed its satisfaction that the trade union movement is to be represented on the committee set up to make recommendations on national transport policy.

The union points out that the Swedish Transport Minister was misreported in the press as having announced government plans for a ban on long distance heavy lorry transport. What he actually said was that national transport policy would recognize that there was no need for road transport over long distances where rail existed as an alternative.

UNITED STATES

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Transport workers call for railway nationalisation

At a recent meeting the leaders of railway workers organized in the ITF-affiliated US Transport Workers Union reiterated the Union's call for nationalisation of the American railway system as the only real solution for the economic problems which face the industry. The TWU has long held that only national management by capable people could return the railways to viability

as a primary means of passenger and freight transport. The creation of a strong, nationalised railway system, in the union's view, is vital to the public as well as to the industry's employees.

TRADE UNIONS

PORTUGAL

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ICFTU expresses shock at police killings at airline trade union meeting

Shock and dismay were expressed by Otto Kersten, ICFTU General Secretary, at the news of a ferocious attack by police troops employed by the Portuguese airline TAP to break up a peaceful trade union meeting. A number of workers were wounded and several were arrested. Two workers were killed and their bodies removed by the police. The TAP workers, who are demanding a new collective agreement giving improved wages and conditions, had been on strike since 12 July when this outrage occurred.

"It is evident", said Kersten, "that the Portuguese regime whose crimes in Mozambique have horrified the world, is using brutal methods to suppress the workers in Portugal itself. The ICFTU keeps in close contact with the labour movement in Portugal and supports the workers in their heroic struggle. We shall spare no effort until democracy and trade union freedom are restored in Portugal."

TURKEY

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Arrest and inhumane treatment of trade unionists

The ITF has protested in the strongest terms to the Turkish government at the treatment of representatives of its affiliate, the Turkish Civil Aviation Trade Union. According to a report received from the union, the President and Executive Board members were arrested by police, beaten, tortured and held in custody without charge for 18 hours while their union office and homes were searched without warrant. In its cable to President Sunay of Turkey the ITF stated that it had learned with horror of the arrest and ill-treatment of these trade unionists and called for an immediate halt to the infringement of basic human and trade union rights in Turkey.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

CANADA

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Machinists strike against Canadian Pacific Air

The ITF-affiliated International Association of Machinists has been on strike against Canadian Pacific Air since 25 July in support of claims for parity with conditions applying to Air Canada employees, equal pay for women and other benefits. The ITF is coordinating international solidarity action against CP Air services operating with supervisory personnel to selected destinations in Europe, South America and the Far East. Some of these services have already been discontinued as the result of action by ITF affiliates, and continuing support is being requested in order to put pressure for settlement on the management.

Earlier, a series of rotating strikes by the machinists against Air Canada during July ended with ratification of a new contract giving an 8% wage increase this year and a further 8% next year, together with many improvements in fringe benefits.

Non-ops stage "rolling" strikes

Because of the failure of long-drawn-out negotiations to achieve agreement on the unions' claims for improved pay and conditions, non-operating employees of all Canadian railways began at the start of August to implement a series of regional 48-hour strikes which have the overall effect of reducing operations to one-third of normal. The unions hope that this pressure will bring the managements back to serious negotiations.

GERMANY

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End of German seafarers' dispute

The ITF-affiliated German Transport & Public Service Workers' Union has reported that it now feels that it has succeeded in its campaign to bring German shipowners under agreement with the union and that action against them can now be brought to an end. No further support is therefore required from ITF affiliates by way of action against vessels on the "black list", and the latter can be regarded as closed.

The German union has expressed its sincere appreciation for all the solidarity action undertaken on its behalf which contributed significantly to the successful outcome of the campaign.

An unfortunate court decision in Stuttgart rejected the Union's appeal against a lower court ruling that no boycott action could be undertaken against four vessel of Seetransport- und Bereedungs GmbH of Elsfleth. However, further appeal is to be made to a higher court and the decision came at a time when it could not endanger the Union's main campaign.

#### Union urges government to act on air safety

The ITF-affiliated German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union has called upon the government to take urgent steps to deal with the acute problems engendered by the continuing go-slow action by air traffic controllers. The union, which has 14,000 members in civil aviation, states that the economic and social safety of all aviation employees is being jeopardized and that many are being faced with short-time working, if not redundancy, as a result of reductions of service brought about by the controllers' action.

The Union is therefore extremely disappointed that the government has not yet convened a meeting of the group of experts which it was agreed on 10 July would be set up to look into flight safety. Once again the union has reiterated its view that this is a subject which must be looked upon as a general problem and that isolated solutions for individual occupational groups would be unacceptable.

GREAT BRITAIN  
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#### Pay increases awarded for lorry drivers

Despite opposition by the trade union side, the Road Haulage Wages Council has agreed to minimum rate increases of between £1.72 and £1.82 per week (an earlier, higher proposed increase having been vetoed by the government Pay Board as exceeding the standard £1 + 4% formula). These increases will apply to approximately 200,000 road haulage drivers not covered by local pay settlements, such as that recently concluded by the ITF-affiliated Transport & General Workers' Union for drivers in the West Midlands employed by about 100 firms. These men will, from 1 September when the new rates become effective, be able to earn between £27.90 and £53.80 per week depending on skill, size of vehicle and hours worked.

#### T & GWU launches "busmen's charter"

The ITF-affiliated Transport & General Workers' Union has issued an eight-point "busmen's charter" calling for a £25 minimum weekly wage for crews and a widespread extension of free public transport. Manpower in the bus industry is 20% below strength because of recruitment difficulties; in some London garages the shortage is as much as 30%. Maintenance mechanics are also scarce, which means that many buses cannot be taken on the road, with the result that services often have to be curtailed.



Other points in the charter include a 35-hour, five-day week, a standard guaranteed seven-hour day, a maximum spell of duty of four hours, a limit on overtime, four weeks' annual holiday and public holidays on New Year's Day and May Day.

The Union believes that the ultimate solution to the problems of the bus industry is a fare-free system for which more vehicles and staff would be required; the scheme can only work if the social necessity of passenger transport is recognised at all levels from public up to government.

ISRAEL  
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Seamen's strike called off - negotiations commence

Following the rejection of its claims for pay increases the ITF-affiliated Israel Seamen's Union called a strike in all merchant navy vessels on 5 August, which in a few days had tied up half the country's merchant fleet. The strike was called off a week later when the national shipping line Zim agreed to further negotiations.

MALTA  
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Bus transport dispute settled

A dispute which arose out of the Malta government's plans to reorganise the country's bus transport system was settled in talks between the government and the bus employers on 26 July 1973. The government plans to set up three public transport companies with effect from 1 September this year, to be merged into one with effect from 1 January 1975. The dispute arose over dismissal notices sent to a number of bus workers, and it has now been agreed that they will receive four weeks' notice and be immediately re-absorbed into employment within the three new public companies after 1 September. In addition, all public transport employees are to receive a cost-of-living increase of £1 (Maltese) per week from 4 August 1973.

The ITF-affiliated General Workers' Union has long been working for the integration of bus services into a single public enterprise and welcomes the government's initiatives in this matter.

NIGERIA  
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Seminar held on cooperatives

A highly successful seminar was held in Lagos, Nigeria, from 24 to 27 July, organised by the ITF African Representative Ben Udogwu for the Credit Union Society of the ITF-affiliated Association of Locomotive Drivers, Firemen, Yard Staff and Allied Workers.

Twenty of the Union's officers from branches where the Society has been established attended the seminar, the programme of which contained instruction on: the history of cooperative societies; general management of cooperatives; cooperative accounting methods; record of loans, repayments and interest; functions of cooperative societies with special emphasis on consumer cooperatives; and, finally, a general discussion on the ITF and its work.

The Union's Credit Union Society, formed fifteen months ago, has made remarkable progress in a short time, with 144 members in nine union branches and many applications for membership, and expects to be registered shortly. The Seminar was attended in its closing ceremony by Mr. O. Somoye, Senior Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies in Lagos State, who offered the Society any assistance it might need in administration.

#### TRINIDAD

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#### Docks dispute settled

Following a strike of shipyard workers employed at Swan Hunter's yard, Port of Spain, over the company's attempt to dismiss 25 workers, docker members of the ITF-affiliated Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Trade Union came out in sympathy with their shipyard colleagues who belong to the same union. The company eventually agreed to reinstate 20 of the 25 dismissed workers and to provide "terminal benefits" for the rest, and the dispute ended on 16 August.

#### UNITED STATES

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#### Transport Workers' dispute with KLM still unresolved

The ITF-affiliated US Transport Workers' Union has asked the ITF to pass on to its affiliates its appreciation for the valuable support given so far throughout the world in its strike against KLM Royal Dutch Airlines which has been in effect since 1 July 1973. Continued solidarity is being requested in order to achieve a satisfactory settlement of the dispute, which is over the dismissal of commissary staff and the employment of violently anti-union contractors. A compromise offer by KLM made during recent negotiations was overwhelmingly rejected by the union's membership in a secret ballot.

#### Panama Canal pilots' dispute

The ITF-affiliated US Masters, Mates and Pilots Organization reports that its members serving the Panama Canal have for some time been seriously concerned over the fact that their advice on safe navigation in the Canal and the requirements of the Canal to meet the needs of technological change in the maritime industry

is consistently ignored. The situation has led to a totally unacceptable workload and results in pilots having to report sick in order to obtain relief from fatigue. Several pilots have left the service for these reasons and, in order to stimulate recruitment, it has now been recommended that the requirement for a Master's certificate be eliminated for those piloting vessels through the Canal. ITF affiliates are being requested to urge the President of the Panama Canal Company to engage in serious discussions with the pilots and to ensure that pilotage conditions in the Canal are maintained at a safe and professional standard.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian railwaymen receive an extra week's leave with effect from 1 January 1973 under an agreement reached in May. All shift workers now receive 5 weeks' annual leave, and day workers 4 weeks.

The claim for a substantial pay increase for its members who will be operating the DC-10 submitted by the aviation sector of the Belgian Public Service Workers' Union has been sent to the National Joint Committee for Civil Aviation for conciliation.

Established employees of the German Federal Railways are claiming the right to a 40-hour standard working week with effect from 1 October 1974; this is to bring them into line with hours provisions agreed last year for lower grades of railwaymen.

PERSONALIA

Steve Federoff, a founder member of the US National Maritime Union and its Secretary-Treasurer from 1958 to 1962, died recently aged 57.

George Leighty, for nearly 20 years Chairman of the former US Railway Labor Executives' Association and President of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers from 1946 to 1965, has died at the age of 77.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- =====
- Flight Engineers' Technical Committee - London, 25-26 October 1973
  - ITF Civil Aviation Ground Staff Conference - Amsterdam, 12-13 November 1973.

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