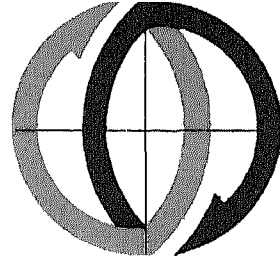


ITF

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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

INTERNATIONAL
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ITF seeks action following new terror attack on aviation

As a result of the horrifying and cowardly attack by Palestinian terrorists at Rome Airport, the ITF is seeking an immediate meeting with the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) to consider joint international action by airline employees. The International Air Transport Association (employers) has also been invited to support such action.

The ITF believes that the Rome outrage, with its senseless and indiscriminate massacre of airline passengers and staff and the deliberate shooting of hostages by the hijackers, has added a new and terrifying dimension to the problem of politically-motivated air piracy. It also believes that the stepping up of acts of terror by the air pirates is a direct result of the abject failure by world governments to take decisive and concerted steps, including the use of international sanctions, on the problem at the recent ICAO Conference on air law held in Rome (August/September 1973), and adds new point to the bitter criticism levelled against governments at the time by representatives of both the airline industry and airline employees. This latest act also underlines once again the ineffective and haphazard manner in which security precautions and checks at airports are being implemented - a situation on which airline employee representatives have constantly expressed grave concern.

New minimum rates for Asian seafarers

Agreement was reached in London on 27th November 1973 between the International Shipping Federation and the ITF relating to the employment of Asian seafarers. In a joint statement the two sides expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the discussions.

The understanding reached is that Asian seafarers will, as from 1st January, 1974, be paid on scales providing at least £48 per month for an A.B., subject to special arrangements for seafarers from the Indian Sub-Continent. These take account of the economic situation in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, and provide for employers in those countries to pay the rates of pay agreed by the local National Maritime Boards (which will be at least £32 per month by 1st January, 1974). Other employers of these seafarers will pay the difference between the local rates and the £48 rate into funds - to be established in the countries concerned - for the benefit of the seamen according to the following programme:-

in respect of passenger ships - 50 per cent. on 1.1.74
with the remaining 60 per cent. on 1.7.74
in respect of all other ships - 100 per cent. on 1.1.74

It was also agreed that, if a ship is to be manned for the first time after December 1st, 1973, by Asian seafarers, this will first be discussed by the owner with the union(s) of the flag state, except in those countries where this matter is the subject of legislation or legal decision.

The ITF has undertaken to recommend to its affiliates that no action shall be taken against ships that meet the terms of the matters covered by the understanding.

During these discussions the ITF emphasized that their ultimate aim was that the flag rate should apply in all except flag-of-convenience ships.

GREECE
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Appeal by ITF for return to democracy

Upon learning of the military coup in Greece which ousted the government of Colonel Papadopoulos, the ITF General Secretary, Charles Blyth, sent the following message to Lt. Gen Gizikis:

"On behalf of millions of transport workers throughout the world, the International Transport Workers' Federation calls upon the new government immediately to restore Greece to the family of free nations by the holding of genuine elections and the granting of full trade union rights and civil liberties."

TRANSPORT

CANADA
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Union protests at exemptions to hours regulations in shipping

The ITF-affiliated Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers is presenting a submission to a government inquiry into relaxation of the shipping regulations protesting against exemptions to the labour code's hours of work clause granted to east coast vessels. The Union has charged that the consistent exemptions to the regulations "make a complete mockery of the Labour Code as it applies to the shipping industry."

The CBRT&GW has repeatedly objected to the long hours forced on its members in the maritime services. Its submission states: "The shipowners in the Atlantic provinces were made aware as far back as 1965 that minimum hours of work legislation was being planned ... They have done nothing since the hours of work standards were enacted other than to demand commissions of inquiry and ask for deferments. We suggest that, as long as their requests for deferments are dutifully (and almost automatically) granted, they will have no incentive to comply with the Code or make any plans to comply with it at any future time."

GREAT BRITAIN
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Radio Officers protest against exemptions

The ITF-affiliated Radio and Electronic Officers' Union has complained in strong terms to the Department of Trade and Industry over exemptions from carrying radio officers being granted to home trade ships of 1,600 grt and over. The exemptions are being granted, the Union states, on the false premise that no radio officers are available, which is not the case. Although a certain marine wireless company had given the shipowners concerned a letter to this effect, no approaches had been made to ascertain if the union had radio officers available, when in fact it had. The Department of Trade and Industry have agreed to ask future applicants for exemption if they had contacted the REOU regarding the availability of radio officers. The Union will circulate home trade shipowners on the probability of obtaining a radio officer through its freelance department.

TRADE UNIONS

CHILE
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Campaign to rescue Chilean trade unionists

Acting upon an initiative of the Danish Trade Union Federation (LO), the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has launched an appeal to its affiliated organizations all over the world calling upon them to contribute to the collection of funds for the relief of Chilean trade unionists being persecuted by the military regime. In this appeal, the ICFTU underlined that the repression not only shows no signs of abating, but is on the contrary becoming even more harsh without the glimmer of a hope for the moment of any return to a normal state of legality. Dozens of trade union leaders have been executed and hundreds more have been arrested.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

FRANCE

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Flight Engineers reject "no relief" long-haul flights

The ITF-affiliated French Flight Engineers' Association SNOMAC reports that a conflict which has been latent since 1971 between its members and Air France is now entering an active phase. The dispute centres on the airline's attempts to dispense with a second flight engineer being carried for relief purposes on long-haul flights (in excess of 10 hours block to block). Air France has now ruled that with effect from 1 January 1974 flight engineers on these flights will have either no relief or be relieved by a pilot not in possession of the flight engineer licence. Such practices would be contrary to many ITF policy resolutions and the French union is refusing to agree to them. It has therefore called its members out on strike from 20 to 24 December inclusive in protest against Air France's action, which is based on a government ruling obtained during the 1971 lockout.

On SNOMAC's behalf the ITF is requesting solidarity action from other ITF affiliates in the form of refusal to provide any increased capacity or supplementary services which could be used to help Air France; requests to national airlines and civil aviation authorities to persuade Air France to abandon their plans as being detrimental to air safety; and direct protests to Air France.

GERMANY

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First contract for Pan American ground staff

The ITF-affiliated German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union has successfully negotiated the first general conditions agreement for approx. 1,500 ground staff employed by Pan American World Airways in Germany. The agreement goes into effect on 1 January 1974 and runs for 2 years.

The contract provides for substantial improvements in current conditions, among them increased leave, additional days off in compensation for night work, and up to three weeks' leave per year for trade union training of which one week will be paid. Additionally, the guidelines have been drawn for plans to mitigate the adverse effects of rationalisation and structural or organizational changes. A pay agreement is currently under negotiation.

Pay claim for railwaymen

The ITF-affiliated German Railwaymen's Union is submitting a claim for a 15% pay increase on behalf of its members employed by German Federal Railways, to be applied from 1 January 1974. The increase should be subject to a minimum amount of 185 DM per month, and there should in addition be a lump sum holiday bonus of 300 DM.

Wage claims submitted for seafarers

Claims for higher wages have been submitted on behalf of approx. 33,000 seafarers by the ITF-affiliated German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union. Basic demands are for a 15% increase on basic rates and overtime pay for work on Sundays and Public Holidays. Notice of termination of the current pay agreement has been effective 31 December 1973.

Details of the claims are:

1. Increase in pay and allowances of 15%, subject to minimum increase of 230 DM for certificated men and 180 DM for uncertificated;
2. Increase in allowances of 15%;
3. Overtime rates to be paid for Sundays and public holidays spent at sea for watchkeepers, catering and service personnel;
4. Increase of 230 DM for crew members under training.

GREAT BRITAIN
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Train drivers' work-to-rule disrupts services

The ITF-affiliated Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) is operating a work-to-rule campaign and ban on rest-day working in protest against the British Rail board's failure to meet the union's claims in connexion with the restructuring of railwaymen's pay scales. The campaign began on 12 December and had an immediate effect, in particular on commuter services.

INDIA
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Lockout of Indian Airlines' employees

Employees of Indian Airlines, including members of the ITF-affiliated Indian Flight Engineers' Association, have been locked out since 24 November in a dispute over pay and conditions claims. The Association reports that the airline management intends to use senior ground engineers as trainees under the supervision of Sud Aviation flight engineers for the F/E station on ferry and passenger flights of Indian Airlines Caravelles. The ITF has informed its French flight engineer affiliate with the request that it use its influence to prevent this (although Sud Aviation engineers are not among its members) and has also approached the Flight Engineers' International Association with the same object.

JAPAN
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Travel bureau workers get agreement on accident compensation

An agreement was signed recently between the ITF-affiliated Japan Travel Bureau Workers' Union and the management of the Japan Travel Bureau which provides for accident compensation, retroactive to 1 April 1973, to be paid in addition to any amount due from the occupational accident insurance fund. The sum of up to 10 million yen is provided for cases of death or disability, with a minimum amount of 300,000 yen, the amount payable being in proportion to the degree of disablement, classified in twelve steps.

An additional benefit is the payment of a flat rate lump sum of 6 million yen to those who have received hospital treatment for a period longer than the statutory maximum period of 3 years.

UNITED STATES
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Agreement possible in TWA flight attendants' strike

Tentative agreement has been reached between the ITF-affiliated US Transport Workers' Union/Air Line Stewards' and Stewardesses' Association and Trans World Airlines on a new contract. This settlement, if ratified by the membership, would end the strike which began early in November after 17 months of bargaining had failed to produce a contract to replace the one which expired in July 1972. The agreement follows action by the strikers to extend picket lines to Pan American and American Airlines terminals at New York's airports in protest against support being given by these airlines to TWA under the industry's mutual aid pact.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian pilots of Trans-Australia Airlines struck during November in protest against the dismissal of a pilot for alleged breaches of air safety regulations.

The government of the Bahamas is considering enacting new maritime legislation which would enable the country to offer flag-of-convenience facilities on a far greater scale than at present.

The government of Cyprus has joined the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization, thus becoming IMCO's eighty-fourth member.

A general strike in France on 6 December in protest against price inflation was joined by transport workers in the railways, bus and underground transport, port and aviation sectors.

German air traffic controllers have called off their six-months' work-to-rule campaign on receiving assurances from the Federal Chancellor of a fair settlement of their grievances.

Flight attendants of the US Southern Airways have approved a new two-year contract negotiated for them recently by the Transport Workers' Union. The agreement provides for improvements in basic pay, incentive pay (for extra hours), expenses allowances, annual leave and sick leave, together with better disciplinary procedures and other fringe benefits.

PERSONALIA

Alvar Åslund has been appointed Vice-President of the Swedish Transport Workers' Union.

Francis Blanchard has been appointed acting Director-General of the ILO until a definitive successor to the late Wilfred Jenks is appointed at the next session of the Governing Body in February-March 1974. Mr. Blanchard was second Deputy Director General to Dr. Abbas Ammar who has headed the Organization since Jenks's death but who did not feel able to continue that responsibility.

William Gill has been elected President of the Flight Engineers' International Association with effect from 31 October 1973.

Werner Meier, President of the Swiss Railwaymen's Union, has been appointed to the Board of the Swiss Federal Railways. This fulfils the union's claim for representation in the management.

Egil Halvorsen, President of the Norwegian Railwaymen's Union, celebrates his sixtieth birthday on 12 January 1974.

Lawrence T. McGowan has retired from his post as General Secretary of the Professional Radio Employees' Institute of Australasia. He had a record of 30 years' service to the organization, as well as experience in the national and international trade union movements. He has been succeeded by C.J. McGrane.

Heribert Maier has been elected as General Secretary of the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical and Technical Employees. Maier was formerly Assistant General Secretary of the ICFTU.

Syndulpho de Avezedo Pequeno died on 9 October 1973 at the age of 67. Pequeno was a founder member of the Brazil Tramway Workers' Union, becoming President of the National Tramwaymen's Federation and later President of the National Confederation of Land Transport Workers' Unions. He was a member of the ITF Executive Board from 1958 to 1960 and prominent within the ILO, serving as a Worker Member of the Governing Body from 1954 to 1960.

Gunnar Tønder has been elected Vice-President of the Norwegian Locomotivemen's Union.

Norman Willis, former National Secretary for Research and Education in the British Transport & General Workers' Union, has been appointed Assistant General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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| ITF Fair Practices Committee | - London, 17 and 18 January 1974 |
| ITF Fishermen's Subcommittee
on Safety of Fishing Vessels | - London, 6 February 1974 |
| ITF Fishermen's Section
Conference | - London, 7 and 8 February 1974 |
| ITF Railwaymen's Section
Conference | - Basle, 19-21 March 1974. |

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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