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Scandinavian Transport Workers' Federation Congress - Helsinki, 11-12 May 1974.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

INTERNATIONAL

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Concern at conditions aboard cruise ships

Representatives of maritime unions met on 1 and 2 April in Miami under ITF auspices to consider labour standards and hiring practices prevailing aboard cruise ships operating out of Miami and other US ports. The meeting was attended by delegates from Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, who made on-the-spot surveys of several cruise vessels in the area and talked with representatives of a number of major cruise lines operating out of Miami.

At the end of the meeting, the following resolution was adopted :

"The ITF Standing Committee on Cruise Ships, meeting in Miami on 1 and 2 April 1974,

HAVING SURVEYED conditions affecting employees on board cruise ships operating out of US East and Gulf Coast ports, and in particular the effects of the practices of catering concessionaire companies and the abuses possible under that system, FINDS that the concessionaire system generally has tended to depress wages and social conditions; to involve intolerable hiring and firing practices; and to hamper national unions in the implementation of agreements signed with the shipping companies concerned.

The Committee STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that the ITF establish minimum international standards in respect of manning, wages and working conditions; as well as social security for all personnel employed on cruise ships;

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that the ITF should set up machinery to coordinate any necessary action by the affiliated maritime unions concerned, to secure the policing and enforcement of such minimum standards;

RECOMMENDS ALSO that the ITF should maintain continual surveillance of the activities of catering concessionaire companies in order to prevent the continuation or extension of abuses involved in their operations.

In the implementation of these decisions the ITF policies in respect of both flags and crews of convenience will be fully observed."

PORTUGAL

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ITF welcomes pledges by military junta

Following the military coup in Portugal which replaced the government of Dr. Caetano by the Junta of National Salvation, the ITF General Secretary sent the following telegram to General Antonio de Spínola :

"On behalf of six million transport workers of the free world, our Federation strongly welcomes pledges by the Junta on freedom of expression and genuine elections. We express the hope that Portuguese workers will now have restored to them the right of trade union organization guaranteed in all democratic countries, enabling Portugal to play its full and rightful rôle as a member of the community of free nations."

SOUTH AFRICA

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British government prepared to back employment code by legislation

The British government has indicated that, if British companies operating in South Africa do not respond to the guidelines on employment practices and wage levels for African workers set out in the parliamentary report on the matter (see Newsletter No. 4, 1974, page 35), it would be prepared to introduce legislation to enforce the proposed code of practice.

The government has accepted the main recommendations of the report and will see to it that the pressures of publicity and moral argument are used to encourage British firms to improve the lot of their African workers. A constant check will be kept on progress.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

DENMARK

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New minimum pay agreement for fishermen

The ITF-affiliated Danish Transport & General Workers' Union has concluded a new agreement on pay and working conditions for its members in the fishing industry. The old three-year agreement expired on 1 March 1974, and the new one runs for two years. It provides that crew members over the age of 18 with at least six months' sailing time as fishermen receive a minimum payment for each day's fishing, equivalent to the maximum daily unemployment benefit. This means at present a daily rate of at least 132 kroner. Members under the age of 18 receive 70% of this amount (92 kr.). The agreement also

defines a fishing day as any day spent between ports, irrespective of the weather. In addition, crew members will receive severance pay if their contract is broken without their agreement.

Further talks are to be held on hours of work and holiday provisions.

FRANCE  
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Dispute over use of new Paris airport continues

Flying staff of Air France, belonging to the ITF-affiliated Air Line Pilots' Union and the Cabin Staff Union, have continued their protest actions over disciplinary action (later confirmed as dismissal) taken against a pilot who landed at Orly instead of the new Roissy airport. The unions are claiming increased allowances for crew travel between the two airports, which are about 30 miles apart. A week-long strike was staged against Air France from 9 to 16 April, followed by a two-day strike of all flying staff, including cabin attendants, against all three French airlines, Air France, UTA and Air Inter, on 22 and 23 April.

In a separate dispute, Air Inter ground staff went on strike on 2 April in support of claims for job security guarantees.

GHANA  
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Pay increase for railway workers

Following government intervention to avert strike action, members of the ITF-affiliated Railway and Port Workers' Union were awarded pay increases of between 27% and 50%, effective from August 1973. The settlement ended lengthy and complicated negotiations which had reached deadlock.

GREAT BRITAIN  
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British Airways overseas cabin crews strike

Cabin attendants employed by British Airways overseas division and belonging to the ITF-affiliated Transport & General Workers' Union began unofficial strike action for an indefinite period with effect from 7 May following a failure to reach agreement on their claims for improved pay and conditions. The union refused to make the strike official since the members had taken industrial action before exhausting all the statutory dispute procedures.

Interim pay settlement for railwaymen pending arbitration

British Rail has agreed to implement, with effect from 29 April, its pay offer of 7-7½% which was accepted by the National Union of Railwaymen and the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association but rejected by the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (all ITF affiliates). The latter union is taking its claim for 12% to arbitration.

Appeal for London Transport settlement outside Phase Three limits

A joint appeal by London Transport management and unions representing underground and bus workers has been made to the Secretary of State for Employment for permission to implement improved pay and conditions outside the limits of the former government's Phase Three, in order to overcome very serious staff shortages.

The plan for improvements was rejected by the Pay Board some time ago as far as underground workers are concerned, but both management and unions are concerned that staff shortages which are preventing the operation of effective services can only be remedied by substantially improved pay and conditions. The Secretary of State has agreed to consider the appeal.

Negotiations on new pay agreements for seamen and officers

Revised offers of pay increases have been made by the British Shipping Federation to both officers -- represented by the ITF-affiliated Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association -- and seamen -- belonging to the ITF-affiliated National Union of Seamen. The latter union is considering the offer, but the officers have said that they are not satisfied and further talks are being held.

GRENADA

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Dockworkers end strike on receiving government guarantees

Members of the ITF-affiliated Grenada Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union, who went on strike earlier this year, in common with other Grenada unions, against the totalitarian and repressive régime of Prime Minister Gairy, went back to work in April after receiving certain undertakings from the government on trade union and human rights. Assistance in their struggle had been provided by the ITF whose affiliated unions not only sent many messages of support but also respected the blacking of Grenada's ports.

Among the points achieved by the union's militant action were the restoration of its headquarters, the resumption of the adjourned Commission of Inquiry into police brutality and the disbandment of the secret police. The union is keeping a close watch on the implementation of these undertakings.

INDIA

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National strike threatened after arrests of railwaymen

On 2 May, the Indian government ordered the arrest of some three hundred officials of Indian railwaymen's unions, including George Fernandes, President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, an ITF affiliate. The arrests were the government's response to the Federation's call for a strike on 8 May in pursuit of its claims for improvements in wages and conditions and for an end to the employment of casual

labour. The union has for months sought a settlement of its claims through negotiations but has been given no satisfaction.

The ITF cabled the Indian Prime Minister with an appeal for the immediate release of all those arrested and the commencement of meaningful negotiations to settle the railwaymen's genuine grievances. However, further provocative action by the government in the form of new arrests of trade unionists brought protest strikes throughout the country and although George Fernandes has written from jail suggesting a phased settlement to the Prime Minister, an all-out national strike by railwaymen is still threatened for 8 May.

#### IRISH REPUBLIC

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#### Strike of Dublin bus workers

A dispute over the conditions attached to the introduction of the five-day week provoked strike action by Dublin bus workers from 5 May. Drivers and conductors, most of whom are members of the ITF-affiliated Irish Transport & General Workers' Union, are refusing to operate the new schedules which lengthen their working day.

#### JAPAN

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#### Settlement of railwaymen's demands after nationwide strikes

Following a series of increasingly widespread strikes, culminating in what was virtually a national 96-hour stoppage by millions of workers in public and private industry throughout Japan beginning on 10 April, a settlement of the union's major claims was reached on 13 April. On the question of restoring the public service workers' right to strike, which has been an item of dispute with the government for many years, it was agreed to set up a high-powered government consultative council to study the relevant labour legislation and a final determination of the issue is to be reached within a year and a half, i.e. by autumn 1975.

In addition, railwaymen were awarded an average monthly increase of 29,283 yen, or approximately 28%. A global amount of 45 million yen has also been made available for payment to low-income groups who have been worst hit by inflation.

The Japanese railway unions have expressed to the ITF their heartfelt appreciation for the international support and solidarity which they have received throughout their struggle.

#### Settlement of home trades pay; strike poll for foreign trades and ferries

The ITF-affiliated All-Japan Seamen's Union has concluded an agreement with shipowners in the home trades on new wages and working conditions effective from 1 April 1974. The main gains are : average increase of 35,500 yen per month (40.7%) on basic wages on board; working week reduced to 42 hours;

leave increased to 106 days per year.

With regard to seafarers in the foreign trades and those employed on car ferries, negotiations are still in progress while the union conducts a strike ballot among its members.

#### Cabin attendants' dispute with JAL

Members of the ITF-affiliated Japan Air Lines Cabin Attendants' Union conducted a 24-hour strike on 11 April in protest against the refusal of the airline management to meet its claims for improved pay and conditions. Further strike action took place, this time of 48 hours' duration from 26 April, in collaboration with other flying and ground staff unions which are also demanding improved working conditions.

#### Settlement of new contract for fishermen

The ITF-affiliated All-Japan Seamen's Union reports the signing of a new collective agreement on 23 April for its members in the fishing industry, bringing a reduction in the working week from 44 to 40 hours over a two-year period, and an average increase in basic pay of 39,997 yen per month for crews of large fishing vessels.

#### NETHERLANDS

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#### Improvements for road transport workers

With effect from 1 April 1974, various improvements are realized for workers in the road transport industry, represented by the ITF-affiliated Netherlands Transport Workers' Union. Legislative provisions have given an increase of 15.00 guilders per month (3.75 guilders per week) from that date, in addition to which there is a cost-of-living increase of 3%, subject to a minimum of 150 guilders per percentage point per year.

These increases give rates of pay as follows :

Administrative personnel: range from 715.15 to 806.65 guilders per month at age 21, and from 904.69 to 1,918.39 guilders per month thereafter.

Operating and non-operating staff age 22 and over : range from 243.97 to 300.88 guilders per week; specialized grades receive from 209.20 guilders per week at age 18 to 348.66 guilders per week at age 23 and older.

Technical personnel : age 22 and over range from 259.50 to 311.37 guilders per week.

Additional benefits include improved provisions concerning overtime compensation, length-of-service bonuses, allowances for those with professional diploma qualifications, compensation for irregular hours of work, holiday pay, pension contributions and travel and subsistence costs.



NORWAY

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Mediation proposals avert transport strike

Last-minute mediation talks resulted in a recommended agreement between the ITF-affiliated Norwegian Transport Workers' Union and the employers on new contracts for land transport and dock workers. The settlement was reached only three hours before strike action was due to commence. The agreement will give road haulage workers an increase of 4.25 kr. per hour over a two-year period, representing about 24% on present basic rates. There is also a special increase for holders of class II driving licences, together with improved rules for overtime compensation after 21.00 hours. Dockworkers receive an hourly increase of 4.50 kr. over the two-year period.

New agreement for fishing industry

A new agreement has been signed between the ITF-affiliated Norwegian Seamen's Union and the Fishing Employers' Union based on a ruling by the state mediator. The agreement was reached only after long and difficult talks and does not have a prescribed lifespan; either of the parties can give 14 days' notice of renegotiation at any time.

Minimum shares are increased across the whole range, and the same applies to sick pay, compensation for overtime, etc. Guaranteed wages are increased by 8% with a bonus of 100 kr. per month for certain adult crew members.

Agreement for seafarers in coastal trades

The ITF-affiliated Norwegian Seamen's Union has reached agreement with the shipping federation on a new two-year pay agreement for approximately 3,000 seafarers in the coastal trades. The first year of the agreement gives a 10% increase plus an allowance for the low-paid of 160 kr. per month. In the second year, there is a general increase of 5% plus a low-paid allowance of 150 kr. per month. Subsistence allowances are also increased, by 45 kr. per month in the first year and 30 kr. per month in the second year. A new formula has also been agreed for compensating rises in the prices index: this gives 10 øre for each point increase between 15 March and 15 November this year. The contract also gives improvements in provisions for sick leave, time off and compensation for work on public holidays.

SWEDEN

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National agreement for dock workers

The ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Union has concluded a new agreement with the port employers covering dock workers throughout Sweden. The agreement put dockers at 24 ports on monthly wages, the top rate being in the port of Gothenburg where the new monthly rate gives an annual income of approx. 50,000 kr., the other 23 ports slightly less. For the remaining ports the mixed system of payment gives overall pay

equivalent to the monthly rates. It has also been agreed that within the next three years, both sides will try to reach agreement on the introduction of monthly pay for the remaining posts.

In addition, the employers' right to allocate overtime has been limited to three hours on weekdays; limits have also been set for Saturday and Sunday work.

UNITED STATES  
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New strike deadline for machinists of United Air Lines...

The ITF-affiliated International Association of Machinists reached a tentative agreement on 6 April with United Air Lines, thus averting possible strike action. The terms of the new contract were, however, rejected by a membership vote, and further talks were held in an attempt to avert strike action planned for 3 May. At the time of writing it is not known whether any settlement has been reached.

Mediation in New York transit dispute

A three-man mediation panel has been appointed by the Mayor of New York to promote a settlement of the dispute between the city's Transit Authority and the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Union over the latter's wage claims. The existing contract expired on 31 March and union members have given their leaders authority to take whatever action is necessary to reach a satisfactory settlement.

The pay claim seeks both to catch up with rapidly rising living costs in New York and to give a "real" wage increase over a two-year period.

New contract for TWU members in Sabena

Substantial improvements in pay and conditions have been secured for members of the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Union employed by Sabena (Belgian national airline) in the United States in a new two-year agreement approved by the membership.

The agreement gives a 6.5% increase effective 1 October 1973, and a further 6.5% rise on 1 October this year. A cost-of-living escalator clause also gives a 1 cent per hour increase for every 0.4 point rise in the New York prices index. Other improvements affect sick leave provisions and other fringe benefits.

Two-year strike of bus drivers persists

250 members of the ITF-affiliated United Transportation Union have been on strike against Safeway Trails Inc. bus company in the mid-Atlantic states since 2 April 1972. The company is continuing some of its services with strikebreakers, in defiance of picket lines which have been manned continuously throughout the strike period. The dispute began over the employers' threat

to cancel welfare benefits in the union's previous contract and its refusal to negotiate on claims for improved holiday pay, guaranteed pensions, health care, disability and sick leave pay, together with wage increases.

The union is publicizing the fact that, through the use of unqualified strikebreakers as drivers, the company's accident rate has more than doubled. A conclusion of the dispute is made particularly difficult by the company's insistence that "replacement" drivers should retain their jobs as a condition of the settlement. The UTU has filed a charge of unfair labour practice with the National Labour Relations Board on the grounds that an attempt is being made to break the union.

#### ITF FLAG-OF-CONVENIENCE CAMPAIGN

In recent weeks, over 150 flag and crew-of-convenience ships have been brought under agreements giving their crews pay and conditions equivalent or superior to those laid down in the ITF Collective Agreement. The majority of these have been concluded voluntarily with the seamen's unions of Japan (22), Korea (72) Republic of China-Taiwan (4) Netherlands (1) and Italy (6) in order to be free of the risk of boycotts such as those which took place in Argentina (1), Australia (11), Belgium (1), Finland (3), Israel (4), Sweden (8) and UK (3) and resulted in the remaining ships being brought under agreement. Action by the Israeli Sea Officers' Union in support of the Philippine crew of the Liberian flag mv TOPAZ, who were not being paid according to the ITF Agreement the owners' agent had signed, resulted in the deposit of a bank guarantee for £25,000 as surety for the settlement of outstanding pay. At the same time, the Dutch Seafarers Federation (FWZ) arrested the Liberian flag mv TOURMALIN, for £35,000 for not implementing the terms of the ITF agreement signed by the same managers.

An urgent request from the Finnish Seamen's Union calling for a boycott of all TEXACO and CHEVRON tankers whatever the flag they are flying has been passed on to all seafarers' and dockers' affiliates. The Panamanian flag TEXACO IOWA and the Liberian flag CHEVRON FRANKFURT were boycotted in Finland at the beginning of May as they were not covered by union agreements acceptable under ITF policy. After three days the ships sailed without pilots and tugs, hazarding the lives of the crews and presenting a potential threat of pollution of the environment. A question has been asked in the Finnish Parliament demanding to know why the ships were allowed to sail which, it is believed, will lead to an inquiry into the incident.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

Amnesty International, in continuance of its campaign for the abolition of torture, has set up a special division within its International Secretariat, one of the first tasks of which is the collection and dissemination of information on torture. A central Information Clearing House is being established and wishes to receive any information of recent date concerning current torture practices -- reports, allegations, protest actions, studies, statements, etc. These should be sent to: Campaign for the Abolition of Torture, Amnesty International, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1 8SP.

Australian women are to have equal pay by 30 June 1975, under a decision by the Australian Arbitration Commission. This will be effected in three stages.

Fiji has become the 125th member of the International Labour Organisation, with effect from 19 April 1974.

French railwaymen received an interim pay increase of 2.5% in April, to compensate for increases in the prices index.

Agreement has been reached on the constitutional form and working methods of a new national trade union centre in the Netherlands, comprising the former NVV and NKV organizations, to be known as the FNV (Federation of the Netherlands Trade Union Movement). The new body will come into effect on 10 June.

The Norwegian Transport Workers' Union has decided to extend its boycott of American grapes and iceberg lettuce not bearing the US union label. In addition to a docks boycott, the union has now banned land transport of these goods. A similar boycott is being operated at Norwegian airports by the Metalworkers' Union and in distribution by the Commercial Employees' Union.

PERSONALIA

Dame Florence Hancock, former Chief Woman Officer of the Transport & General Workers' Union and a full-time trade union official from 1917 until her retirement in 1958, died on 14 April at the age of 81. Dame Florence was nominated in 1935 to the general council of the British Trades Union Congress and became its President in 1947. She served for a time as TUC nominee to the International Labour Office and from 1941 to 1945 was a member of the women's consultative committee advising the Minister of Labour on the utilization of women's labour for war work.

K.P. Hong has been elected President of the Korean Seamen's Union in succession to E.R. Chang. Other officers newly elected are: H.C. Bang, Vice-President and Director of Organization; H.S. Lee, Vice-President and Director of General Affairs, and E.R. Kwon, Vice-President and President of the Union's Kyungnam Branch.

Bill Riordan, Treasurer of the British National Union of Railwaymen, was killed on 8 April in a turntable accident. He was 61 years of age.

John Slater, General Secretary of the British Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association since 1971, died on 24 April 1974 at the age of 53 as a result of injuries received in an accident at his office. John Slater was well known to many in the ITF for his work in the Seafarers' Section and the Fair Practices Committee; his forthright yet friendly manner and the constructive contributions he made to the work of the Federation will be sadly missed.

Humberto Hernández, General Secretary of the Venezuelan Transport Workers' Federation, has been elected a Senator of the Republic for Apure State.

John Prescott, former official of the British National Union of Seamen, and new Labour Member of Parliament, has been appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Trade.

Jan Scheffers celebrated his 25th anniversary as Treasurer of the Netherlands Transport Workers' Union on 6 May 1974.

#### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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31st ITF Congress - Stockholm, 7-15 August 1974

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British maritime officers accept - seamen reject - pay offer

(see page 46)

The British Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association has concluded a new agreement with the shipowners, providing for monthly increases of either £11.85 or 7% (the latter in the case of higher paid officers) for officers on National Maritime Board and company salary agreements. The new rates will come into effect on 1 June. The agreement includes a flexibility payment of 1% which may be applied on an individual company basis. A special cash payment of £203.40 was agreed for all officers and a basic leave-food allowance of 60 pence will be consolidated into pay. Other improvements agreed included the implementation, as from 1 June, of parts of the two-on/one-off agreement on leave made last year. Further talks will be held on service conditions in foreign-going two-watch ships.

The British National Union of Seamen, however, rejected the shipowners' offer of an £8 a week increase this year and delegates at the union's annual meeting voted overwhelmingly on 10 May to press for a £40/40-hour week for all able seamen in next year's pay negotiations.

Mass arrests of Indian railwaymen continue and their families are intimidated

(see page 46)

As the Indian railwaymen's strike (which started on 8 May as planned) began to take effect, dislocating passenger and goods trains throughout the country, reports were coming in of further mass arrests of union officials and workers. One figure put the number of persons detained as high as 20,000. Railwaymen's families living on railway housing estates have complained of police intimidation and claim some eviction notices have been served and the electricity and water supplies cut off in their homes.

ITF affiliates in all parts of the world have cabled the Indian Prime Minister protesting against the actions taken in an attempt to crush the strikers, and many telegrams have been sent to the All-India Railwaymen's Federation expressing solidarity with them in their struggle.

On May 7, the ITF sent the following cable to the Director-General of the ILO:

"REQUEST URGENT INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THOUSANDS OF INDIAN RAILWAYMEN ARRESTED AND DETAINED FOR PLANNING STRIKE IN PURSUIT OF CLAIMS FOR LONG OVERDUE IMPROVEMENTS IN WAGES AND CONDITIONS STOP GOVERNMENT ACTION IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF SPIRIT OF BASIC ILO PRINCIPLES CHARLES BLYTH GENERAL SECRETARY ITF"

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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Supplement to Newsletter No. 5 of 1974

SCANDINAVIAN TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION CONGRESS  
Helsinki, 11-12 May 1974

The main issues discussed at the Scandinavian Transport Workers' Federation (STF) Congress was the campaign against flag-of-convenience vessels, joint action on wages and working conditions for workers and employees in multinational oil companies, the setting up of a European transport workers' committee and demarkation between jobs to be done by dockers and shipboard employees.

In his opening speech, the President - Hans Ericson of the Swedish Transport Workers' Union - stressed that the STF was a very powerful trade union federation. It consisted of fifteen member unions organizing 250,000 workers in shipping, ports and other transport industries in the Nordic countries. The Swedish Commercial Employees' Union, a new member attending for the first time, had brought even more strength to the federation, organizing as it did salaried employees throughout the private transport sector in Sweden, including employees in road transport, shipping offices, forwarding agencies and stevedoring companies, airlines, port offices as well as cabin attendants.

The Congress agreed to adopt an action programme for continued boycotts of flag-of-convenience ships. The federation had acted against such ships (i.e. where the actual ownership of the vessels does not coincide with its nationality) since 1954. In Scandinavia, labour legislation affecting the shipping and transport sectors varied considerably from country to country. However, on the basis of a survey carried out by Professor Folke Schmidt, guidelines had been drawn up for an intensification of the campaign and the STF anticipated that future boycotts carried out by its members would become increasingly effective.

The practice of the prominent flag-of-convenience countries - Liberia, Panama, Cyprus, Singapore and Somalia - of grossly underpaying crews working on ships flying their flags posed a threat to international wage levels and safety standards. In future, whenever a flag-of-convenience vessel arrived in any of the Scandinavian countries, STF seafarer organizations would insist that shipowners sign agreements approved by the ITF. If this demand was refused, the union concerned would declare a boycott against the signing-on of a new crew, dockers would refuse to load and unload such vessels, and the ship would not be towed in or out of port. In order that these actions should not be curtailed by legal obstacles in certain Scandinavian countries, flag-of-convenience shipowners throughout the world would be given notice of militant trade union action once a year for as long as they persisted in their refusal to sign an ITF-approved agreement. (Some 5,000 vessels would be involved.)

The Congress went on to decide that a proposal should be put to the 31st Congress of the ITF in Stockholm in August 1974 to the effect that a European transport workers' committee be set up, embracing ITF-affiliated transport workers' unions in countries represented in the ETUC. The committee would deal with problems connected with achieving a common transport policy in the EEC and EFTA countries. A proposal would be made for the establishment of a special secretariat in Brussels.

In view of recent accidents, the Congress adopted a statement demanding that loads, such as containers and trailers on ferries and ro-ro ships, should always be properly secured by specialist staff on the quay-side before the vessels sailed to ensure that it left port in a seaworthy condition.

The Congress condemned the recent escalation of persecution, arrests and torture of political and trade union leaders in Greece, as reflected in the reopening of the concentration camp on Yaros and the imprisonment of the Greek seafarers' leaders, Antonios Ambatielos and Nicos Kaloudis. It demanded, in the name of human rights, that the Greek junta release Ambatielos - for whose life great concern was expressed - and other trade union and political leaders detained. It was also decided to raise the question (at the forthcoming ITF Congress) of a possible world-wide boycott of Greek-owned ships as an expression of solidarity with the Greek people in their struggle for democracy and freedom, an issue which had been discussed within the ITF on a previous occasion.

Hans Ericson was reelected President of the STF for the coming two-year period by acclamation. Kare Kristoffersen (Norwegian Seamen's Union) was reelected Vice-President. Other members of the governing board reelected were: Valter Kilstad (Norwegian Transport Workers' Union), Arne Kruse (Danish Transport & General Workers' Union), Olavi Keitele (Finnish Seamen's Union), Gunnar Karlsson (Swedish Seamen's Union) and Martti Veirto (Finnish Transport Workers' Union).

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