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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

ASIA
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ITF Asian Regional Seminar for Port Workers

Representatives of dockers' unions in Australia, India, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka met in Penang, Malaysia, from 16 to 20 December 1974 at an Asian Regional Seminar for Port Workers. Using the ILO Convention and Recommendation on Dock Work 1973 as a basis for their discussions, they examined in depth matters such as methods of recruitment and engagement, job security and the impact of technological change. The procedure was for them first to describe the situation in their own countries, then to discuss the points of interest that emerged as the regional picture was pieced together and finally to form small discussion groups which drew up sets of conclusions on the various topics. The general view was that this kind of procedure was very productive: there was a lot to be learned from what other had achieved or, alternatively, from the mistakes they had made and the difficulties they had encountered.

The seminar was organized by the ITF's Asian Representative, Donald U'ren, and the lecturers were Ted Thompson, General Secretary of the New Zealand Waterside Workers' Federation, and Harold Lewis, Assistant General Secretary of the ITF.

TRANSPORT

UNITED STATES
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Unions will continue fight for cargo preference

Despite the veto by President Ford of legislation to give cargo preference for US-flag tankers, the interests supporting the legislation - maritime trade unions among them - are not accepting defeat and plan to press for the reintroduction of the legislation in the new Congress.

Paul Hall, President of the ITF-affiliated Seafarers' International Union, said his union would continue the fight to win the use of American flag ships in transporting a portion of the nation's oil imports. "The arguments that persuaded Congress that the bill was in the country's best interests are still valid. The veto of the bill represents a victory only for Exxon and their satellite foreign-flag operations. This company, together with the other giant oil multinationals, conducted a heavily financed campaign against the bill (but despite this) Congress considered the bill on its merits and passed it.

"We are not intimidated by the size and wealth of these giant conglomerates. We are going to continue the fight for the passage of this legislation because it would be good for American workers and American consumers. Perhaps it is time to look at these multinationals and their policies of self-interest, which consistently operate against the best interests of the rest of the American community."

Shannon Wall, President of the ITF-affiliated National Maritime Union, has also spoken out in favour of a continued effort: "We intend to discuss with other maritime unions and legislative leaders a programme for action in the next Congress, to achieve the goal we consider extremely important in the country. The monopoly now enjoyed by foreign-flag bulk carriers, most of them American-owned, in carrying essential cargo robs the United States of jobs (and) weakens our balance of payments."

Senate votes for 200-mile fishing limit

The United States Senate has voted in favour of extending the controlled fishing zone from 12 miles to 200 miles from the US coastline. The American fishing industry has been pressing for the passage of this legislation to prevent over-fishing, primarily by Japanese and Russian fishing fleets. Legislation cannot now be approved until the new Congress takes over.

TRADE UNIONS

GREAT BRITAIN

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Shipowners reject closed shop for officers

The British Shipping Federation has rejected an application by the ITF-affiliated Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association for immediate compulsory union membership for all serving officers. A further meeting between the two sides will consider employers' suggestions that they should assist the Association in an intensive membership recruitment campaign.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

AUSTRIA

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Pay agreement for seafarers

In a new pay agreement negotiated recently with the Austrian shipowners' federation by the ITF-affiliated Transport and Commercial Workers' Union, the following monthly pay rates now apply (with effect from 1 October 1974):

<u>Deck Officers</u>	<u>Foreign Trades</u>	<u>Coastal Trades</u>
Captain	Sch. 20,520.-	16,758.-
1st Officer	16,758.-	13,566.-
2nd Officer	15,162.-	11,742.-
3rd Officer	13,566.-	-

Engineer Officers

Chief Engineer	19,380.-	15,162.-
1st Engineer	15,960.-	11,970.-
2nd Engineer	15,162.-	11,400.-
3rd Engineer	13,566.-	
Electro-engineer	15,960.-	
Electro-Technician	15,162.-	

Deck Officers serving aboard vessels of over 5,000 grt receive the rates applying to the foreign trades; the same applies to engineers serving aboard vessels of over 5,000 hp.

Under-Officers and Ratings

Electrician	13,566.-	11,400.-
Work organizer	9,576.-	
Experienced Asst.	7,410.-	
Boatswain, pumpman, etc.	7,980.-	
Cook	9,690.-	
Steward	6,726.-	
Certificated AB, motorman	6,726.-	
Ordinary seaman	2,622.-	
Junior seaman, age 16	1,995.-	

Overtime regulations

For overtime performed under the three-watch system, in particular on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays, each member of the watchkeeping crew receives an additional 20% of his basic pay for each hour of overtime worked, up to 16 hours' overtime per week.

For overtime performed under the two-watch system, including that on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays, an additional 30% is paid, up to 24 hours' overtime.

Overtime performed by non-watchkeeping crew members and for overtime in excess of the 16 and 24 hours mentioned above is paid at the rate of 1/135th of basic pay, rising to 1/129th with effect from 1.1.75.

DENMARK
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Conair employees' contract agreed

The Danish Commercial Workers' Union has obtained a contract for its members with the charter airline Conair after negotiations between the company and the Danish trade union centre LO. Direct negotiations between the union and the employers had proved unsuccessful over a period of months since the first attempt was made in September 1974 and it was only when industrial action threatened to shut down the airline just before Christmas (see Newsletter no. 12, 1974) that the company gave up its intransigent attitude.

The contract is similar to that which the union has with SAS, and the settlement also provides for the reinstatement of all the union members dismissed during the course of the dispute.

The union now plans to turn its attention to another of Denmark's major private airline companies, Sterling Airways.

GREAT BRITAIN
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Compensation for nights on board world-wide in CP ships

The ITF-affiliated Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association has reached agreement with Canadian Pacific Ships that, with effect from 1 January 1975, all officers required to keep a night on board at any port in the world will be entitled to claim compensation. (Previously this was only possible in UK and near Continental ports.) Other improvements obtained in the recent revision of the agreement include a reduction from four to three months in normal tours of duty aboard tankers. A 10% bonus will apply if the company is unable to relieve officers between three and three-and-a-half months, and 25% for all service over three months will be payable where an officer chooses to stay in the ship for six months or more. In addition, cost-of-living threshold payments have been consolidated into company rates of pay and seniority increments have been increased.

The Association hopes that the agreement relating to nights on board at any port in the world will prove a precedent which will shortly be followed by other shipowners.

London dockers pay negotiations

Dockworkers belonging to the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union employed at south bank riverside wharves in London have voted to accept a pay increase of about 20%. This will mean an increase in the weekly basic rate from £35 to £42 and increases of 20% on all productivity bonuses.

However, workers in the enclosed docks have rejected an offer for a pay and productivity package and are pressing their original claim for a basic wage of £60 per week plus a London allowance of 8½%.

JAPAN
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Travel Bureau workers obtain improvements

Following a 36-hour strike early in December 1974, the ITF-affiliated Japan Travel Bureau Workers' Union reached agreement with the JTB management on the three major issues in dispute between them: firstly, the payment of an inflation allowance of 30,000 yen per member; secondly, improvements in couriers' working conditions, in particular the payment of allowances commensurate with the actual time worked - further talks are to take place on a formula to be applied from April 1975; thirdly, further discussions are to be held on job protection measures for employees at around age 60, including the possibility of absorbing them into jobs with JTB's subsidiaries.

Agreement follows strike by JAL cabin attendants

After a short walkout on 1 December the ITF-affiliated Japan Air Lines Cabin Attendants' Union called off its stronger strike action planned for 2 and 3 December, since the company had agreed to pay a year-end bonus of 4.23 months' pay plus 33,800 yen. The union is now considering methods of pressing for its other major demand, the right to consultation on safety measures affecting its members.

In a separate decision, JAL has agreed to allow stewardesses to remain in their jobs after marriage.

MEXICO
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Improvements in captains' and pilots' agreement

Following a twelve-hour strike, the ITF-affiliated Order of Captains and Pilots obtained a variety of improvements in its agreement with the Maritime Transportation Company of Mexico. These included a 13% increase in basic salary and allowances and a significant improvement in the leave agreement. This

now provides for an additional five days' leave per year, making a total of 40 days, plus one day per year of service up to a maximum of 46 days. For captains and pilots whose vessels do not touch Mexican ports, leave provision is 30 days every eight months, plus one day for each year of service up to 36 days every eight months.

In addition the agreement provides for the payment of subsistence allowances when a vessel is being repaired and is not habitable because of the lack of basic amenities such as water, light, etc.

NORWAY

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New foreign trades agreement ratified

Members of the ITF-affiliated Norwegian Seamen's Union have voted to accept the recommended new agreement, which becomes effective from 1 November 1974 (see Newsletter No. 12, 1974, page 122). This gives able seamen's rates as follows: Dry Cargo vessels under 2,000 grt and Passenger vessels: basic monthly rate kr. 2,858 (hourly overtime rate 19.05) rising to kr. 3,386 (22.55) after 8 years; tankers under 2,000 grt: kr. 2,972 (19.80) rising to 3,504 (23.35); Dry Cargo vessels over 2,000 grt: kr. 3,005 (20.05) rising to 3,538 (23.60); Tankers over 2,000 grt: kr. 3,124 (20.85) rising to 3,662 (24.40).

NEWS IN BRIEF

The British Transport and General Workers' Union is pressing for urgent measures to protect its London busmen members against violent attacks, particularly at night. They are asking, in particular, for stronger police patrols and the installation of emergency signalling devices such as klaxon horns and flashing lights.

The British National Union of Seamen has submitted a claim for a pay increase which would bring the basic rate for an able seaman to £40 for a 40-hour week.

Strikes planned early in December by Japanese public service workers, including railwaymen, were avoided at the last minute when the dispute - over the awarding of an inflation allowance - was referred to arbitration.

In the United States, members of the Amalgamated Transit Union employed by Greyhound Bus Company who went on strike for six days in November have accepted a new three-year contract, effective 1 November 1974.

PERSONALIA

Bertil Bolin of Sweden and John Warlick McDonald Jr. of the United States have been appointed Deputy Directors-General of the International Labour Office; Mr. McDonald is responsible for the General Administration Sector, and Mr. Bolin, who was formerly Director of International Affairs with the Swedish LO (trade union centre), is responsible for the Relations Sector.

Tim O'Leary has retired from his post as National Docks Officer with the British Transport and General Workers' Union, after thirty-nine years' full-time service as a dockers' representative. He was one of the longest-serving union officials in the country. He is succeeded by Tom Cronin.

M. Sadik Side, General Secretary of Turk-Is, the Turkish trade union centre, has been appointed his country's first Minister of Social Security.

Roosevelt Watts has been appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the US Transport Workers' Union in succession to Douglas L. McMahon who retired on 1 January 1975 after 40 years' service with the union.

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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