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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

INTERNATIONAL
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ITF holds highly successful travel trade seminar in Amsterdam

At the invitation of the ITF-affiliated Dutch Dienstenbonden FNV, the ITF Travel Bureau Section held a most successful Seminar on the Travel Trade in Amsterdam on 9 and 10 October 1979. The Seminar was attended by 50 delegates and advisers from 14 countries, including guest speakers from the World Tourism Organization (WTO), the International Labour Office (ILO) and the EEC.

The Seminar was opened by the Chairman of the Travel Bureau Section, Lars Hellman, and an address of welcome was given by the President of the host organization, Jan Brouwer. After a progress report on the Section's activities since its inception at the Stockholm Congress in 1974, by the Section Secretary, M.S. Hoda, papers were presented by Mr. J.C. Neyret of the WTO on "Tourism as an actual and potential source of employment" and by Mr. A. Payan of the ILO on "Social and Working Conditions of Travel Trade Employees". An address was also given by Mr. M. Vanistendael, Directorate-General of Social Affairs, EEC.

The Seminar held on 9 October was followed by a Conference of the Travel Bureau Section on 10 October. The Conference adopted an important resolution concerning "companies of convenience", which mainly affected a large Danish-based multinational company Tjaereborg that had transferred its tourist guide operations to a specially-created "company of convenience" in Switzerland in order to avoid trade union organization and proper social conditions for its employees.

The background to the resolution is as follows: Tjaereborg initially refused to enter into negotiations on a first-ever collective agreement for its travel guides and couriers with the ITF-affiliated Danish Salaried Employees' Union (Danish Funktionaerforbund), and dismissed some of its bus tour guides who asked for union conditions. Later, as a result of boycott threats by our affiliate and the Danish national centre, LO, it agreed to negotiate (as did a second Danish travel firm which operates abroad, Spies Rejser). However, it has since transferred control of its courier operations to this "company of convenience" in Switzerland (where it has no activity), with the obvious aim of avoiding Danish trade union organization and legal jurisdiction. As has been pointed out by our affiliate, this would also appear to be a breach of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, to which Denmark like all other OECD governments subscribes (see ITF Newsletter Nos. 1 and 3, 1979; also ITF Panorama No. 3).

Other items on the agenda included reports by delegates on conditions and problems of the travel trade industry in the various countries represented at the meeting and a plan for future activities.

The Dutch host organization also presented copies of its model collective agreement for travel employees, which is currently being used in a nation-wide organizational drive.

ARGENTINA

=====

ICFTU lodges new complaint against government of Argentina

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has lodged a new complaint against the government of Argentina with the International Labour Office in Geneva following the "intervention" (placing under official government control) of three more trade unions and the replacement of a civilian leader by a military officer in a fourth. The complaint, the ICFTU's third against the military junta, makes the point that the new "interventions" on 30 July have erased the favourable impression the government of Argentina had sought to make last April when it announced that controls had been removed from nine previously "intervened" unions.

The complaint also refers to the continued arbitrary detention and "disappearance" of trade union leaders, which would indicate that the Videla government is either going back on its word, or is at least unduly delaying promulgation of long-promised legislation, which would give "due consideration" to the country's obligation to respect trade union rights under ILO Conventions on freedom of association which it has ratified.

TRANSPORT

GERMANY

=====

Seafarers' union deplors recruitment policies of Drescher shipping company

"Unscrupulous, anti-social and unlawful" -- these are the adjectives chosen by the ITF-affiliated German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union (OeTV) to describe the hiring practices of the German shipping company Drescher in respect of the German-flag vessel Stefan Drescher and quite possibly of other vessels in its fleet. It has come to the union's notice that on a recent voyage to the Caribbean a German crew was hired for the Stefan Drescher's short North Sea coastal passage to Rotterdam, where they were replaced by a Filipino crew. The OeTV has proof that this is not the first time the company has hired a low-cost replacement crew.

The company openly admits that it aims to reduce overall operating costs by always hiring the cheapest possible crews. When seafarers sign on with Drescher, they are specifically requested to give details of union membership. As it is not obligatory for an employee to inform his employer of his trade union affiliation, crew members have withheld details of their union membership, only to be told on later revealing the fact and asking for German rates of pay that they are free to sign off at the next port of call and seek a better deal on a ship of another company! Indeed, if the crew member had disclosed his trade union membership in the first instance it is clear from internal company documents that he would never have been hired. For it is official company policy to employ foreigners if at all possible and failing that to recruit non-organized German seafarers. "Company employees must not be members of a trade union" it is unequivocally stated in one such document.

The OeTV has pointed out that this latter directive is in clear contravention of the German Basic Law (Constitution) and has called on the government to withdraw subsidies from Drescher if it is not to be accused of condoning breaches of the Constitution.

The union is also concerned that the Filipino crew was not engaged according to recognized hiring practices, which is again against the provisions of the Seamen's Law, the guidelines laid down by the Seeberufsgenossenschaft and the German Crew Complement and Qualifications Ordinance.

NORWAY
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Permanent commission to investigate major unexplained fishing boat losses

The Norwegian Ministry of Justice is planning to set up a permanent commission, with a judge as chairman, to investigate the causes of major unexplained fishing boat sinkings. It is expected that active fishermen with years of experience in the industry will be invited to serve on the commission.

TRADE UNIONS

GREAT BRITAIN
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Seamen's union leader asks TUC affiliates for assistance in ITF f-o-c campaign

Following the House of Lords decision in the Nawala case^x, Jim Slater, General Secretary of the National Union of Seamen, has

^xsee ITF Newsletter No. 7/8 of 1979, page 79

written to the General Secretary of the British Trades Union Congress asking him to alert TUC affiliates to the significance of the judgment. In his letter, Brother Slater says that as the decision has quite clearly established the legal right of trade unions to participate in the ITF's flag of convenience campaign it would be helpful if this information were conveyed to all the principal trade unions catering for transport workers, particularly those in the ports services industries, in order that added assistance might be given to the ITF campaign.

Seamen's union to recruit North Sea divers

The ITF-affiliated National Union of Seamen has launched a recruitment campaign among divers in the British sector of the North Sea after employees of eight diving companies expressed an interest in joining the union. The NUS is hoping that it will eventually be able to negotiate an industry-wide agreement assuring divers continuity of employment, a guarantee of safe working practices and fair rates of pay.

SCANDINAVIA

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Scandinavian transport workers seek international support for professional lorry drivers

The need for international action in support of professional lorry drivers, whose social conditions are being undermined by consignor industries and unfair competition from COMECON fleets, was one of the main themes of the Scandinavian Transport Workers' Conference held in Leangkollen (Norway) in the second week of October. The Conference called for a coordinated approach to the problem by the individual Sections of the ITF, as well as by the relevant ITs. ITF Assistant General Secretary Johann Hauf, who has special responsibility for the Road Transport Workers' Section, and was present at the opening stages of the meeting, promised that the measures called for by the participants would be drawn to the attention of the next meeting of the Section's Steering Committee, which would give them close attention.

SOUTH AFRICA

=====

Black workers face another setback

The South African government has -- by means of a proclamation in the Government Gazette -- announced its intention to extend trade union rights to all black workers in the Republic. The notice means that black workers, including citizens of the three independent homelands, will be allowed to join registered trade unions. In June, the government, against the advice of the Wiehahn Commission, had said that only blacks living permanently in urban townships would be eligible for trade union membership.

However, at least one black trade union in the Republic has said that the government's "concessions" to black workers are insufficient for it to seek official recognition in the form of registration, while yet other black unions have stated their unwillingness to seek registration if it meant that they would be forced to relinquish exclusive control over such matters as finance, education and the appointment and election of officers. So, it would appear that the proposed changes are unlikely, at least for the present, to confer any significant advantage on the country's hard-pressed black workers.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

DENMARK
=====

Female rating wins equal opportunities test case

In the first test of the country's equal opportunities legislation, the Danish shipping company A.P. Møller has been ordered by the Maritime and Commercial Court in Copenhagen to pay 10,000 kroner in compensation to a 25-year-old female rating whom, the court ruled, it had unlawfully discriminated against in refusing to hire last November on the pretext that she would be unable to perform the duties required of her in foreign ports. It had also argued that it was unable to guarantee her safety in the Far East trade. A second company, Mercandia, which had also refused to hire the Danish girl was found not guilty after pleading that it had no separate toilet facilities for women on the particular ship in which she wished to sail. This second judgment is unlikely to satisfy the complainant, Sonja Jensen, who had expressed no objection to sharing sanitary facilities with her male colleagues. She had indeed already done so in previous ships in which she had sailed.

Both cases had been brought by the ITF-affiliated Danish Seamen's Union, which now believes that it has established beyond doubt the right of women seafarers to employment in the foreign trades. The Danish Equal Opportunities Commission and the Labour Minister Svend Auken had also expressed their support for the complainant, particularly as the two companies had not asked to be exempted from the requirements of the law.

New rates of pay for engineer officers

A new pay agreement has been successfully concluded for engineer officers organized in the Danish Engineer Officers' Association. The new rates range from 9,350 kr to 14,991 kr per month for chief engineers depending on size of vessel and length and service; from 6,670 kr to 9,879 kr for 1st engineers; from 6,670 kr to 8,629 kr for 2nd engineers; and from 6,670 kr to 7,915 kr for 3rd engineers. Overtime rates, inclusive of cost-of-living supplement, per half

hour are as follows: 1st engineer: 25.06 - 32.44 kr for weekdays and 31.81 - 41.17 kr for Sundays and Public Holidays; 2nd engineer: 25.06 - 27.74 and 31.81 - 35.21; 3rd engineer: 25.06 (weekdays) and 31.81 (Sundays and Public Holidays).

Subsistence allowance (also including cost-of-living supplement) during vacations, days off, sick leave and duty time on board at home port, where food is not provided, is 49.88 kr per day, and during duty time on board other than at home port, the daily rate is 117.98 kr.

New rates for catering personnel

New pay rates came into operation on 1 September 1979 for catering staff represented in the ITF-affiliated Danish Ships' Catering Personnel Association. The following salary ranges (basic pay plus cost-of-living allowance) apply: chief steward: 8,035 kr to 9,526; cook: 5,926 kr to 6,291 kr; messman and stewardess: 5,098 - 5,362 kr. Overtime rates (per half hour) are 30.19 kr on weekdays and 38.32 kr Sundays and Public Holidays for chief steward; 21.41 and 27.40 for cook; and 18.42 and 23.57 for messman and stewardess.

GREAT BRITAIN
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Crew win improved redundancy terms on sale of semi-submersible rig BELFORD DOLPHIN

An out-of-court settlement was reached late last month between officials from two of our seafarer affiliates^x and the owners and managers of the semi-submersible rig BELFORD DOLPHIN, which set out improved redundancy terms (understood to include up to four months' pay and a share in a £20,000 plus bonus) for the twenty-six British crew members who were due to lose their jobs within weeks when the rig passed to the Norwegian flag. In return for the new offer, the unions have now agreed to drop their opposition to the change of flag and to instruct the crew of the BREFDORD DOLPHIN to lift sanctions imposed in support of their colleagues, who themselves had been performing only essential duties since learning of the proposed transfer.

The BELFORD DOLPHIN is owned by Belford Shipping, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Norwegian company Nordana Drilling and is managed by Blandford Shipping (part of the Fred Olsen group). The rig is currently moored alongside the Bravo platform in BP's Forties Field, where it is used as an accommodation barge.

The crew of the cruise ship BLENHEIM (see page 100 of last issue of the Newsletter) was also briefly drawn into the dispute. However, they agreed to operate the winter cruise schedule after it was agreed that an early meeting would be held between the two sides.

^xthe Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association and the National Union of Seamen

Merchant navy officers and ratings reject pay offers

Unions^x representing 41,000 merchant navy officers and cadets have rejected the General Council of British Shipping's offer of a 13.5 per cent pay increase and five days' leave on the current minimum entitlement. A further meeting between the two sides has been scheduled for the beginning of November.

The ITF-affiliated National Union of Seamen has also turned down a 15% pay deal for 34,000 British ratings, which would have meant an increase of £7.35 on the current basic minimum rate of £45.65 for a 40-hour week.

^xincluding the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association and the Radio and Electronic Officers' Union (both ITF affiliates)

Union sets £80 a week target for heavy goods drivers

A claim for a national minimum weekly rate of £80 for drivers of heavy goods vehicles will be pursued by the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union during negotiations on a regional basis with employers belonging to the Road Haulage Association. Also included in the union's list of demands are: a 35-hour week; an extra week's leave; a £2 meal allowance; and an increase in the overnight allowance from £7.50 to £10.

Employers in West Yorkshire have already offered local drivers a new rate of £76 and this has been accepted.

Ulster bus staff win back pay award

A painstaking research effort by the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union has led to an industrial court granting 1,000 Ulsterbus drivers and other grades backdated lump-sum payments of between £550 and £950, as well as a higher basic rate, thereby correcting a long-standing pay anomaly. The company was at first unwilling to honour the award but changed its mind when its employees instituted an overtime ban and sought the support of TGWU busmen in England, who took action against Ulsterbus coach tours of mainland Britain.

GREECE
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Seamen's union wins Greek rates for foreign seamen on Chandris Lines passenger ships

The ITF-affiliated Pan-Hellenic Seamen's Union (PNO) won a significant victory in August when Chandris Lines agreed to pay the full Greek basic wage to all foreign seamen employed aboard its passenger ships and to replace any non-Greek seamen aboard its vessels, who were

unwilling -- or unable as a result of their union's own policy -- to accept the full Greek rate. The concession came after the union had made it amply plain that it would continue to stand by its refusal to allow the application on Greek-flag ships of so-called bilateral crewing arrangements negotiated by the Union of Greek Shipowners at Asian rates of pay.

In a vigorously pursued six-week campaign, a number of Chandris ships in home and foreign ports were boarded by PNO representatives, after an initial visit to the 18,546 grt passenger vessel Ellinis in Piraeus in mid-June established that the Bangladeshi ratings aboard were receiving only \$100 per month. Chandris Lines countered with the argument that the foreign seamen on its passenger vessels were surplus to the official complement and therefore not subject to Greek pay agreements. The PNO was prepared to admit that the vessels were overcrewed, but was able to prove, by reference to Article 83 of the Code of Private Maritime Law, that all crew members were entitled to Greek basic rates provided they held down a recognised shipboard job for which a specific wage rate had been established by collective agreement.

UNITED STATES
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Argentine Airlines strike ends

We have been informed by the Transport Workers' Union of America that it has called off its strike against Argentine Airlines and hope to be able to bring full details of the settlement in the next issue of the Newsletter. The union wishes to thank ITF aviation affiliates for their support in this difficult dispute, especially the Italian unions who were able to prevent Argentine Airlines from flying into their country.

Rock Island Railroad unions call off strike

The Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks and the United Transportation Union (both ITF affiliates) ordered their striking Rock Island Railroad members back to work when a three-man presidential emergency board was set up last month to investigate their grievances. The two unions have now accepted a back pay settlement, based on the board's recommendations, which is broadly similar for each union. The agreement covers the period 1 January 1978 to 5 October 1979, and the money will be paid monthly in a series of sixteen payments. Earlier the Kansas City Terminal Railway Company, which had taken over the operation of the bankrupt railroad at the request of the Interstate Commerce Commission, had given assurances that Rock Island pay rates would be brought up to the level generally prevailing in the industry.

^x see ITF Newsletter No. 9 of 1979, page 103 for earlier details of strike

Unions sign new pacts with Northwest Airlines

The ITF-affiliated Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks has successfully negotiated a new three-year contract with Northwest Airlines, on behalf of 3,000 ticket agents and clerical workers. The agreement, which is backdated to 1 July, provides for increases of 33.3 per cent spread over the contract term, with 22.2 per cent being paid in the first nine months. Other improvements include: company-paid life insurance cover doubled to \$20,000; modifications to vacation schedules; changes in the pension plan to permit full retirement at age 55 after 27 years' service; and more generous health and welfare benefits.

Only hours before a 27 September strike deadline, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (also affiliated) was able to conclude a 39-month tentative contract with Northwest for 3,500 mechanics and allied workers. Details of the settlement are being withheld pending ratification.

FLAG OF CONVENIENCE CAMPAIGN NEWS

Liberian-flag UNIVERSE MARINER arrested in Rotterdam

Lawyers acting for the former crew members of the Liberian-flag UNIVERSE SENTINEL, which is owned by Universe Tankships Inc., Monrovia, arrested the UNIVERSE MARINER, also owned by Universe Tankships, on its arrival at Europoort, Rotterdam on 23 October in furtherance of a claim already lodged in the Belgian courts for back pay and differences in wages due up to the time of their signing off the ship. The crew members claims flow from the ITF agreement signed between the owners and the ITF in July 1979 when the UNIVERSE SENTINEL was held by the ITF's British affiliates in the port of Milford Haven. The owners have started litigation in the English High Court against the ITF and the British unions concerned in an attempt to have the agreement set aside. The UNIVERSE MARINER was released from arrest the same day on the deposit of over US\$ 200,000 security for the crew members' claims.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Marine pilots belonging to the ITF-affiliated Merchant Service Guild of Australia have imposed a series of sanctions against foreign vessels putting in at Australian ports in an attempt to persuade the authorities to deal more speedily with their contract claims.

Austrian railwaymen are to receive a 4.2% pay increase on 1 January 1980 following the successful conclusion of contract negotiations.

Air France personnel (including members of ITF affiliates) at the two airports serving Paris staged a 24-hour strike on 2 October demanding the maintenance of their purchasing power, guarantees of employment, shorter working hours and improved working conditions. Pilots, navigators and ground staff all participated in the action.

According to Ernst Haar, general secretary of the German Railwaymen's Union (GdED), the German Federal Railways will need to employ more than 10,000 extra staff next year in order to meet the increased demand for rail services.

British Airways has announced that it is laying off an unspecified number of pilots and flight engineers because of a decline in long-haul traffic, co-inciding with the introduction of winter timetables. The flight crews are being offered two options: six months' leave on full pay, subject to recall at 30 days' notice, with no right to work for other airlines, or six months' leave on half pay, subject to recall at 90 days' notice, with permission to work for other carriers. Many pilots are likely to opt for this second choice, as there is currently considerable demand in the United Kingdom from foreign airlines for qualified flight deck staff. Meanwhile, British Airways has told 16 newly-qualified cadet pilots that it will not be able to take them on for at least two years.

British Airways staff have accepted the company's offer of new Inner and Outer London allowances. The improved rates, effective 1 January and subject to review on 1 July 1980, are £815 for Inner London and £344 for Outer London. The current rates are £480 and £235 respectively.

Grenada and the Republic of Cape Verde have both become members of the International Labour Organisation.

The Italian government has finally agreed to enact legislation placing flight control operations under civilian jurisdiction and granting atcs civilian remuneration. Controllers throughout the country staged an eight-hour walkout on 19 October after sending in individual resignation letters en masse in an attempt to force the government's hand.

The ITF-affiliated Dutch Transport Workers' Union is advocating the re-introduction of two-man operation on all urban buses and trams as a means of creating more jobs, improving working conditions and protecting public transport staff against assaults.

Dockers in the port of Lisbon (Portugal) staged a go-slow earlier this month in support of demands for a guaranteed 30 days' pay each month, better pensions, improved insurance cover and the right to decide which dockers should work which vessels. Normal working was resumed on 24 October after agreement was reached with management on the revision of their work contract.

The ITF-affiliated US International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers has cancelled a proposed visit by an IAM delegation to the USSR in protest at the arrest of three members of a Soviet workers' group, which is seeking to introduce a measure of trade union freedom.

The ITF-affiliated US Transport Workers' Union has achieved a 29 cents per hour cost-of-living increase for subway workers and busmen in New York City.

ERRATUM

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Due to an oversight, we failed to mention in issue No. 7/8 of the ITF Newsletter (page 84) that the ITF-affiliated Federation of Railway Technical and Supervisory Personnel (FMC) was a party to the new collective agreement signed on behalf of French railwaymen. We apologize to our affiliate for this omission.

OBITUARIES

Maniben Kara, president of the Maritime Union of India and former president of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, died on 28 October, aged 74. Maniben Kara devoted her entire working life to the trade union movement of her native country, serving as both president and general secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress and as vice-president and later president of the Indian Federation of Labour. In the wider international sphere, she attended the founding conference of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and is a former member of the ICFTU Executive Board. In recognition of her service to the movement, she was awarded the ITF Gold Badge at the 1968 Wiesbaden Congress.

Jaya Prakash (J.P.) Narayan, former president of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and founder of the Indian Socialist Party, died on 8 October, just two days before his 77th birthday. Brother Narayan was known and respected worldwide for his genuine humanity and was held by his fellow countrymen in the greatest reverence.

George Woodcock, general secretary of the British Trades Union Congress throughout the nineteen sixties, died on 30 October, aged 75.

Kevin Evans, the 26-year-old son of Moss Evans, general secretary of the British Transport and General Workers' Union, was killed in a car crash on 4 October.

PERSONALIA

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Karl Weigl, the "Grand Old Man" of the Austrian trade union movement and one of the pioneers of the ITF, who celebrated his 100th birthday on 15 October. Brother Weigl, who is held in very deep affection by many thousands of transport trade unionists throughout the world, devoted his entire working life to the workers' and the labour movement in his native Austria and at a time when many other men would have been embarking on a well-deserved retirement was to be found helping to rebuild a movement which had been utterly destroyed by the ravages of the Second World War.

Weigl became General Secretary of the Austrian Transport Workers' Union in 1911 and handled the affairs of the union with the utmost skill until his arrest by the Dolfuss régime in 1934. Following the Nazi occupation of Austria in 1938, he was forced to go into exile, but returned home in 1946 at the request of the then Federal President. He was elected President of his old union in the same year and remained in that post until his retirement, at 75, in 1954.

Weigl began a long period of association with the ITF when he attended his first Congress in London in 1913 and throughout his distinguished trade union career maintained very close links with the Federation. He was a member of the ITF General Council for Austria until his retirement and shortly afterwards, at the ITF's Amsterdam Congress in 1958, was awarded the ITF Gold Badge as a mark of homage to a man who had spent a lifetime in the cause of transport trade unionism. Brother Weigl was also a welcome and honoured guest at the ITF Vienna Congress of 1956 and at the ITF's 75th Anniversary Congress, again held in the Austrian capital, in 1971.

All Brother Weigl's many friends in the ITF and in Austria especially wish him many more years of continued good health. Happy birthday!

Max Harvøe has been elected treasurer of the Danish Trade Union Confederation (LO). He was formerly head of the ITF-affiliated Danish Commercial Employees' Union (HK).

Lars Skytøen, president of the Norwegian Metal Workers' Union, has been appointed Industry Minister in the new Norwegian cabinet.

Loys Tercinier and Raymond Decoudun retired recently from their posts as president and general secretary respectively of the French Federation of Railway Technical and Supervisory Staff (FMC). Brother Decoudun is currently France's deputy member on the Committee of the ITF Railwaymen's Section, on which he has served most ably for a number of years.

FORTHCOMING MEETING

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Meeting of the Enlarged Policy
Sub-Committee of the Fair
Practices Committee

- London, 11-13 December 1979.

AFFILIATED UNIONS REQUIRING FURTHER
INFORMATION ON ANY ITEM IN THIS
NEWSLETTER MAY OBTAIN IT ON REQUEST
FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE I.T.F.

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ITF SEAFARERS HOLD SECTION CONFERENCE IN STOCKHOLM

A full Conference of the ITF Seafarers' Section was held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 2 and 3 October 1979 under the chairmanship of K. Mols Sørensen, Section Chairman and President of the Danish Navigating Officers' Association. The meeting was attended by 94 delegates from 45 seafarer affiliates in 23 countries. Representatives from the International Labour Office and the Canadian Labour Congress also attended the meeting as observers. The ITF Secretariat was represented by Harold Lewis, General Secretary, Ake G. Selander, Assistant General Secretary, Brian Laughton, Secretary, Special Seafarers' Section and Donald U'ren, ITF Asian Representative.

The agenda covered a report on activities; national shipping and bilateral trade agreements; employment of non-domiciled seafarers; manning; exemptions from the radio regulations of SOLAS; ship management; bareboat charters; co-ordination and financing of seafarers' international welfare services and facilities; the employment of crewing concessionaires; and the plight of refugees.

In view of the complexity of some of the items on the agenda it was agreed to set up a committee to look into these questions further and report to the Seafarers' Section Conference to be held in connection with the ITF's 1980 Congress. The Committee would consist of representatives from the USA, Canada, Great Britain, Northern Europe, Middle Europe, Southern Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. It will consider bilateral trade, bareboat charters and ship management.

The Conference adopted resolutions on: Asian seafarers' representation within the ITF; reductions in manning; manning standards on flag-of-convenience vessels; the Channel tunnel; and Vietnamese boat people.

A full report on the Conference and the texts of the resolutions will be circulated shortly to all seafarer affiliates.