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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

33rd ITF CONGRESS DELIBERATES IN MIAMI

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Some seven hundred delegates representing sixty-four countries have just dispersed after attending the largest-ever ITF Congress. The Congress, our 33rd, was held from 17 to 25 July in the Diplomat Hotel, situated in the small seaside town of Hollywood just north of Miami. Also present were a number of invited guests and observers, as well as many delegates' wives.

A full programme of plenary sessions which deal with what is always a lengthy and weighty agenda and Conferences of our eight industrial sections are the customary features of any ITF Congress. And this one was no exception. Indeed, the business conducted was perhaps even more extensive than usual and a number of important decisions were taken which will have a lasting influence on the future work of the Federation.

The opening session and the first days of Congress were marked by the addresses and good wishes brought from a number of distinguished labour leaders from the two host nations of the United States and Canada. The assembled delegates were welcomed to the state's Gold Coast by Daniel J. Miller Jr., President of the Florida AFL-CIO, and he was joined by T.W. Gleason Sr. (United States) and W.C.Y. McGregor (Canada), both leading figures in ITF circles for many years, who extended fraternal greetings from the host organizations.

But the highlight of the first day was undoubtedly the speech given at the close of the day's business by the President of the United States, Mr. Jimmy Carter, who paid the ITF a great honour by agreeing to accept our invitation to speak to the gathering.

In his speech, which was loudly applauded because of its warmth and obvious sincerity, President Carter emphasized the deep commitment to human rights which he and the ITF both shared and the bravery of individuals who had risked life and freedom to fight for the rights of others. He urged the continuation of that fight, still far from over, and stressed the importance of maintaining world peace. Quoting the last great leader of the AFL-CIO, the late George Meany, he said: "International relations are too important to be left to diplomats". They were, he said, "best shaped by people like you" who fully appreciated the significance of good relationships between nations.

The ITF Congress was also fortunate in having the presence on the opening morning of two North American government ministers. Ray Marshall, US Secretary of Labor, praised the growing rôle played by the ITFs - the ITF foremost among them - in solving the "nuts and bolts problems" of workers around the world. Echoing what President Carter was to say later, he referred to the American government's deep concern on the human rights question, while stressing the vital importance - at a time of rising unemployment - of safeguarding the right to work, an equally crucial freedom. He also spoke of the need to oppose the abuse of political power and to defend the God-given dignity of man. His speech was followed by that of Gerald Regan, Canadian Minister of Labour, who singled out for special mention the tremendous contribution made by the ITF to the well-being of transport workers in its long history. He saw the ITF's task as similar in essence to his own responsibilities as minister with a primary mandate for promoting and protecting the rights of all working Canadians.

On the following day, Lane Kirkland, the new President of the powerful American trade union centre, the AFL-CIO, came to the rostrum to extend fraternal greetings on behalf of US labour. The ITF was unique, he said, in being the only body to consider transport as a human rather than a competitive enterprise and the community of interest was reinforced by day-to-day contacts made across frontiers by ordinary transport workers. The AFL-CIO's founder Samuel Gompers had forged the first ties between the US trade union movement and its sister organizations in Europe and Latin America, and ever since the AFL-CIO had espoused the cause of internationalism. It was vital, he said, that the movement should be strengthened in every way possible in an era in which the multinationals had transformed industrial life in a way in which no nation could fight alone. Other crises with international implications also faced the movement and would have to be fought out in all its forums.

Fraternal wishes for the success of Congress were also extended by Dennis McDermott, President of the Canadian Labour Congress, who promised his organization's full backing for any practical action the ITF might decide to take in defence of the rights of transport workers, which were increasingly coming under threat. Eternal vigilance must be the watchword if the trade union movement was to survive.

The themes raised by the key-note speakers at Congress were reflected in Fritz Prechtel's wide-ranging Presidential Address to the Miami Congress, and were also taken up during the deliberations in plenary session. Recent events in a number of countries had underlined the need for Congress to speak out with one voice in defence of human rights and this it did, adopting several strongly-worded resolutions on different aspects of the subject. Shortly before Congress convened, leading members of independent black unions in the Republic of South Africa had been arrested and rank-and-file black union members fighting to secure elementary bargaining rights had been subjected to intimidation on the part of the authorities and

threatened with deportation to their so-called homelands. In an emergency resolution on South Africa submitted by the Executive Board, Congress expressed its solidarity with the democratic trade unions and their members, asking that urgent consideration be given to the deteriorating industrial relations situation in the Republic with a view to the appropriate practical action being taken in the workers' defence.

By a tragic coincidence, the first day of Congress was also the day on which the armed forces seized power in Bolivia. The unanimous support of Congress was won for another emergency resolution energetically condemning the military coup, calling for the diplomatic isolation of Bolivia under its present leadership and expressing solidarity with the Bolivian people and working class in their struggle for the restoration of constitutional government. Also adopted unanimously were two resolutions - one submitted under the emergency procedures and calling for even stronger measures in the light of the sad events in Bolivia - condemning the dictatorial régimes existing in many Latin American countries and the campaign of terror unleashed against their peoples, in particular opposition forces seeking to restore democracy, and calling on the ITF to give all possible support to Latin American transport workers' organizations in their present life or death struggle.

Other motions involving human rights issues adopted by Congress included an emergency resolution condemning the murder, abduction and torture of large numbers of workers and trade union officers by the Coca Cola franchise and the government of Guatamala and calling on the ITF; in cooperation with other sectors of the trade union movement, to express in practical form its total solidarity with these oppressed workers. Another motion drew attention to the extreme leftist movements, extra-parliamentary groups, and splinter organizations posing a threat to the continued independence of the free trade union movement. In the light of the ITF's duty to take a greater part in safeguarding the freedom of action of free and established transport workers' organizations, the resolution, which gained the support of Congress, called on the ITF to strengthen its concrete sectional activity and to make additional personnel and financial resources available for its regional work. The General Secretary was further instructed to review the ITF's action programme on the basis of these considerations.

Other current concerns which featured in the decisions taken by our 33rd Congress included a growing awareness of the negative impact that technological change is likely to have on workers in the transport industry in the years that lie ahead. A motion was adopted calling for the staged acceptance of new technologies to be combined with a shortening of the working week. Another resolution requested the ITF, in cooperation with other interested bodies, to undertake extensive research with a view to evolving a policy for effectively countering the adverse effects on transport workers' conditions and job opportunities of the accelerated pace of computerization and automation. A motion instructing ITF affiliates to impress on governments the need to pursue policies aimed at increasing investment in public transport was also adopted, in an effort to come to terms with the continuing energy crisis by making the best possible use of energy-efficient transport systems, While yet another motion calling on

the ITF to bear in mind its commitment to defend transport workers against multinational enterprises - an abiding concern of Congress in the latter half of the seventies - was also adopted by Congress.

In the majority of cases, however, the resolutions and policy statements adopted by Congress emanated from the industrial sections and bore the hallmark of the every-day concerns of transport workers worldwide, as well as testifying to the growing need to protect and extend standards of worker protection. Examples of these are the adoption of resolutions: calling for the establishment of levels of manning on merchant vessels consistent with the maintenance of safe navigational, engine-room and radiocommunications watches; advocating the adoption by the ILO of a Convention on the health, welfare and working conditions of road transport workers engaged in international road haulage; expressing concern at the effects on employment in the aviation industry of the deregulation of airline services; reaffirming the need for a three-man flight deck crew on new generations of aircraft; urging new standards on container top safety; and promising long-term assistance for the trade union organization and professional training of dockworkers in the regions.

Congress also authorized a number of key changes to the ITF Constitution, including an increase in the membership of the Executive Board, with one extra seat being taken by the Asian/Australasian electoral group and the other seat going to Latin America and the Caribbean. By decision of Congress, the Special Seafarers' Section - which conducts the ITF's flag of convenience campaign - will be known in future as the Special Seafarers' Department and an extra clause has been inserted in the Constitution establishing the ITF's right to assist individual transport workers, such as seafarers on flag-of-convenience ships. Another major change involves the addition of a completely new clause detailing the procedures by which the ITF may intervene to help promote the amicable solution of disputes between affiliated organizations.

Another far reaching change was made when Congress decided to adopt the document setting out the proposed rate of affiliation fee for the next three years. In the past, it has been the case that the nation hosting Congress has agreed to meet a substantial part of the financial outlay, usually half the basic cost. But on this occasion, a rate of affiliation fee was proposed which will give the ITF sufficient income from the fee levied to meet the basic costs of organizing Congress. This will give the ITF a much wider choice in the matter of the Congress venue, making it possible for affiliates from the less fortunate areas of the world to play host to future ITF Congresses.

On the final day of Congress, Fritz Prechtel was unanimously re-elected ITF President by acclamation and Harold Lewis was also re-elected for a second term as General Secretary, this too being the unanimous wish of Congress. But Congress also had the sad

duty of saying farewell to good and trusted friends who had served us well over many years. The ITF has lost the valued services of its former Vice-President Jack Jones, who has now retired from active trade union life, and Louis Buonaccorsi, a popular member of the Board, not least for his courageous stance in defence of his fellow Board member Abderrazak Ayoub, has also left us, much to our regret. Brother Buonaccorsi was rewarded for his many years of devoted work for our International by the award of an ITF Gold Badge, an honour which he also accepted on behalf of Brother Ayoub -- given the ITF Gold Badge in recognition of the sacrifices suffered by him in his defence of the cause of free trade unionism in Tunisia -- who was unable to be with us in Miami. With the unanimous consent of Congress, Ayoub was made an honorary member of the Board for the next three-year term, as a further mark of respect for his courage and determination.

A warm tribute was also paid by the President to the outgoing ITF Vice-President Richard Baiden of Ghana, who had served the ITF well during his period of office. The President then went on to express his gratitude to the following outgoing Executive Board members: H. Hernandez (Venezuela); W. Meier (Switzerland); Y. Murakami (Japan); P. Potums (Belgium); and E. Venturini (Argentina). A warm welcome was extended to the ITF's two new Vice-Presidents, S. Merten (OeTV, Germany) and E. Vanegas (Seamen's Union, Colombia), who will serve together with T.W. Gleason Sr. (ILA, USA).

The present composition of the Board is as follows:

Europe and Middle East: F. Prechtl (Austria); S. Merten (Germany); E. Baudet (Belgium); Y. Lequoy (France); H. Frieser (Germany); S. Weighell (Great Britain); A.M. Evans (Great Britain); B. Kok (Netherlands); H. Aasarød (Norway); V. Sanchez (Spain); B. Gustavsson (Sweden); M. Beit-Dagan (Israel).

Africa: D. Oyeyemi (Nigeria); A. Mhundu (Zimbabwe)

Asia and Australasia: M. Morikage (Japan); C.H. Fitzgibbon (Australia); K.P. Hong (Korea).

Latin America and the Caribbean: M. Sant'anna (Brazil); D.C. Fanuele (Argentina); E. Vanegas (Colombia).

North America; W.C.Y. McGregor (Canada); D. Nicholson (Canada); T.W. Gleason, J.F. Peterpaul and J.F. Otero (USA).

The ITF also has a new Lay Auditor. Brothers Kiely and Kitson, who have served us well for some years now, were re-elected but Brother Johnson of the TSSA had decided not to seek re-nomination and he was replaced by J. Mills, TSSA treasurer.

On behalf of the Guests of Honour, Roger Dekeyzer, former ITF President and the founder of the Fishermen's Section, expressed his appreciation, during the closing ceremony, of the opportunity that had been afforded him and his fellow guests to come and see the ITF in action. These were sentiments which would have been endorsed by our previous General Secretary Charles Blyth, who also attended Congress as our guest and took a keen interest in the day-to-day events in Miami.

It now only remains for us to express our heartfelt thanks to our North American hosts for the splendid hospitality extended to us throughout our stay in Miami, which will make the recent Congress one that will live on for years in the hearts and minds of delegates. Without their unstinting help, Congress would not have run as smoothly behind the scenes, and the magnificent Congress dinner and many enjoyable receptions given by our North American hosts helped delegates to get to know each other and make many valuable and lasting contacts. Once again, on behalf of all present in Miami, our most sincere thanks to all concerned.

Court victory for ITF in Universe Sentinel case

A vitally important Appeal Court hearing last month in London resulted in a clear victory for the ITF against a major owner of flag-of-convenience tonnage. The Appeal Court overturned an earlier court decision to the effect that money had been unlawfully obtained from Universe Tankships as a result of action against the Universe Sentinel.

The Liberian-flag tanker Universe Sentinel was blacked in Milford Haven in 1978 in order to secure pay and conditions of service for the crew in line with standards set by the ITF in the flag-of-convenience campaign. An \$80,000 settlement was reached, representing back pay due to the crew, plus a contribution to the ITF Seafarers' International Assistance, Welfare and Protection Fund (the ITF "Welfare Fund").

ITALY

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ITF extends its deepest sympathy to those killed and bereaved by the Bologna station massacre

The ITF wishes to extend its deepest sympathy to all those who died in and the families of the victims of the barbarous Bologna station massacre which claimed nearly one hundred lives in a massive bomb blast set off by right-wing extremists on Saturday 2 August. The Italian Prime Minister Sig. Cossiga called the explosion "an attack against human rights and against democracy" -- sentiments with which the Federation would wholeheartedly associate itself. Such indiscriminate slaughter of innocent station staff and railway passengers - Italians and holiday-making foreigners alike - cannot fail to bring the utter condemnation of all decent people down on the perpetrators of this terrible outrage.

SOUTH AFRICA

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ITF welcomes release of Diana Cooper from South African gaol

The ITF is pleased to be able to announce that Diana Cooper, an organizer with the Western Province General Workers' Union, was released from gaol on 2 August. However, Secretary David Lewis and three other union officials are still in detention, and the ITF now anxiously awaits news of their fate. (see also ITF NL 6/7, page 54)

TRANSPORT

GREAT BRITAIN

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Union launches national campaign against Transport Bill

The ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union is launching a nationwide campaign against the Conservative government's Transport Bill, due to become law later this year. The union, which has 240,000 members employed directly or indirectly in public transport, believes that the Bill will destroy rural bus services, end subsidies on unprofitable routes, abolish safety controls, provide no guarantee of regular services, and exploit low-wage labour. Larry Smith, National Secretary for Passenger Services, has called it a licence for "cowboy operators" - unlicensed minicab and minibus drivers - to cream off profitable routes and undermine the country's public transport network. The campaign will take the form of locally organized "days of action" and it is also hoped to present a million-signature petition to the Transport Minister at the beginning of the next session of Parliament.

Sale of Offshore Marine's supply boat fleet worries unions

The sale of Britain's Offshore Marine's supply boat fleet to Zapata Offshore Services is causing considerable concern to the ITF-affiliated Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association and the National Union of Seamen, which between them have about five hundred members with jobs at stake. Offshore Marine's membership of the General Council of British Shipping meant that its officers and crews enjoyed National Maritime Board rates of pay and conditions, including a guaranteed income between voyages and the right to study leave and redundancy payments. The unions are far from satisfied with Zapata's statement that it intends to maintain Offshore Marine's existing operations under the British flag with continuing employment for its shore and sea-going staff and they are clearly anxious to learn whether Zapata will finally decide to opt for GCBS membership.

Elsewhere, officers and crews of the offshore supply boat SEA PRODUCER staged a week-long sit-in last month in Aberdeen, which resulted in a £60,000 settlement of back pay, redundancy money and other outstanding payments following the sale of the vessel.

Number of registered dock workers in UK ports falls again

According to figures contained in the annual report of the National Dock Labour Board, the number of registered dock workers in UK ports fell by 2,264 in 1979 to a new low of 25,770. A total of 2,559 men left the industry, the great majority of them making use of the special severance scheme. Some 295 new dockers - most of them with specialist skills - were recruited during the year.

TRADE UNIONS

USSR
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Vladimir Borisov is expelled from Russia

Vladimir Borisov, a leading Soviet dissident, was expelled from Russia in June after being abducted in a Moscow street and held for fifteen days in a Leningrad prison. Borisov had already spent nine years in psychiatric hospitals because of his human rights activities. His expulsion will be of particular interest to trade unionists in the free world as Borisov was one of the leading forces behind the formation, two years ago, of the Free Inter-Professional Association of Workers (SMOT) -- an attempt to set up a genuine trade union movement free of the shackles imposed on the state-run workers' organizations that pass for unions in Russia.

It is sad to have to report that Borisov's wife and other members of his family died last month in a mysterious car accident in the Soviet Union.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

GREAT BRITAIN
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Harwich Sealink strike ends

Deck and engineering officers on British Rail's Sealink ferries operating out of Harwich halted services for two weeks beginning in

late June. The ITF-affiliated Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association's case is that the lower pay award made to merchant navy officers last year (24 per cent to ratings; 17½% to officers, plus 1½% in the form of extra leave)^x has eroded differentials to the extent that, under certain circumstances, a bosun on a cargo vessel - admittedly working much longer hours - can earn £2,000 more a year than a second mate with a master's certificate. The problem is particularly acute in Harwich as the majority of the ferries using the port are cargo vessels on which earnings are lower than on passenger vessels. The dispute was settled when agreement was reached on port watch-keeping duties. It was also decided to set up a joint working party to consider the officers' conditions of service. A revised cash offer is further understood to have been made by the BR Sealink management to both groups.

^xsee ITF Newsletter No. 12, 1979, page 136 for full details of pay award

Strike of Belfast dockers

Dockers employed in the deep-sea section of the port of Belfast, members of the ITF-affiliated Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, went on strike on 11 August.

The strike follows the liquidation of the stevedoring company which previously employed the dockers and the company's subsequent re-emergence under a new name, at which point it offered to re-employ the dockers on a casual basis and at wage rates which the union finds unacceptable.

ITF docker affiliates have been requested to bring the dispute to the attention of any agent or shipper intending to send cargo to Belfast and to extend their solidarity to the Belfast dockers should the need arise.

IRISH REPUBLIC

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Aer Lingus craftsmen return to work

Striking Aer Lingus craftsmen^x returned to work on 4 July under the terms of a settlement worked out through the Employer-Labour Conference, which gives the men a total increase of punt 6 per week, backdated to 1 August 1979, providing a 264 punt lump-sum payment. The craftsmen have also been promised a special committee to examine their claim for the restoration of relativities.

^xsee ITF Newsletter No. 6/7, 1980, page 61 for earlier details of strike

INDIA

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Improved pay and benefits for seafarers

The ITF-affiliated National Union of Seafarers of India, Bombay recently negotiated substantially improved pay, benefits and conditions of service for its members covered by the NMB agreement. The new two-year contract provides: a 15.5% increase in basic rates of all grades; monthly supplement raised from 110 to 125 rupees; daily subsistence allowance increased from 14 to 16 rupees; overseas allowance of 20 per cent; shipkeeping allowance of 14 rupees; paid leave of 54 days per year (previously 48 days); 1st May introduced as a national holiday; and improvements in the prolonged service benefit, flight insurance cover and disability benefits.

NORWAY

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North Sea mobile test rig workers come out on strike

North Sea mobile test rig workers organized in the ITF-affiliated Norwegian Seamen's Union have been on strike since midnight on 10 July in a major dispute which has the full backing of Norway's maritime unions (including other ITF member-organizations). All exploratory drilling in the Norwegian Sector of the North Sea has been halted and an early end to the strike now seems unlikely. At the nub of the dispute is the fact that the pay of the men on the mobile test rigs is now lagging far behind that of other North Sea oil workers, a situation which has been growing steadily worse over a number of years. The Seamen's Union is therefore demanding that pay levels be brought up to those on fixed production platforms, although it is prepared to concede that the rise involved, which is substantial, might not necessarily be achieved this year. A firm promise of a staged progression over a reasonable period towards pay parity would presumably be sufficient to enable the union to call off its action. Only one meeting has been held to date with the employers' federation, in which little or no progress was made. Meanwhile, there is a strong possibility that the strike may soon be extended to Norwegian rigs in foreign waters. It is already affecting those rigs in the British Sector of the North Sea with Norwegian crews aboard.

SOUTH AFRICA

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Johannesburg's black municipal employees stage historic strike against City Council

Over 10,000 black municipal workers in Johannesburg came out on strike towards the end of July in the biggest-ever strike against a single employer in South African labour history. Their action was prompted by demands for the recognition of their union, the Black Municipality Workers' Union, improvements in what one opposition city councillor described as the "medieval" living

conditions in certain of the antiquated single-sex hostels housing the migrant workers and an increase in the average weekly wage from 33 rand (£20), which is below the household subsistence level, to 58 rand (£36). Although the ability of the union to bring out so many workers testifies amply to its effectiveness, the City Council refused adamantly to negotiate with it on the grounds that it was not registered, preferring - unsuccessfully, in the event - to try to persuade the striking workers to elect representatives to speak on their behalf. Eventually, the workers were instructed to resume work without any offer being made to discuss their grievances and those who refused to do so - over a thousand in number - were forcibly deported under armed police escort back to their homelands. They included many union members, despite assurances that they would not be compelled to leave Jo'burg against their will.

The municipal workers are clearly resentful of the "strong-arm" tactics used by the Council to end the stoppage. They were especially angered when security police detained union president Joseph Mavi in a corridor of the Rand Supreme Court Building as lawyers engaged by the union sought to obtain an urgent injunction to prevent the Council and police from taking action against union members. A further cause for anger was the intimidatory presence in the municipal compounds of heavily-armed riot police in camouflage uniforms when workers arrived to consider a possible resumption of work.

We have since learned that union President Joseph Mavi now faces possible sabotage charges carrying the death penalty. Speaking for the world free trade union movement, ICFTU General Secretary Otto Kersten has addressed an urgent appeal to the Prime Minister P.W. Botha calling for the immediate release of Brother Mavi, the reinstatement of workers and the recognition of their union.

Earlier in the month, black bus drivers operating services from the black township of Soweto to central Jo'burg staged a brief strike against the Public Utility Transport Corporation (PUTCO), which resulted in a 15% pay increase. A workers' committee representing the drivers said that they were accepting PUTCO's offer "under protest" and would be seeking a further rise. Before the strike, the drivers' minimum wage stood at approximately £18.50 per week.

IN MEMORIAM

Hans Imhof

It is with great regret that we have to announce that Hans Imhof, General Secretary of the ITF from 1965 to 1968, died suddenly on 28 June at the age of 66.

Hans was an active trade unionist from the day he joined the Swiss railway at 18 but his full-time career began with the Swiss Public Service Workers' Union in 1944 when he was made Secretary to its Basle district. He was also prominent politically both in municipal and cantonal government.

In 1956 he joined the ITF as Secretary to the Road Transport and Railway Sections and in 1960 he became an Assistant General Secretary.

A man of great courage and enormous energy he never spared himself in the pursuit of what he believed to be right. He leaves a widow and three children, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy in the great personal loss they have suffered.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Great Britain: air traffic controllers at municipal airports have rejected a pay offer and are demanding parity with colleagues at airports controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority. Currently, there is a difference in favour of CAA employees of approximately £425 in the basic starting rate of comparable junior grades and of over £3,000 in the final salary.

British Airways pilots on fixed-wing aircraft have signed a pay and conditions agreement giving them an average twelve per cent increase in basic pay and improvements in incentive hourly rates in return for significant concessions on flexibility. Talks on new rates of pay for helicopter pilots are still continuing.

Greece: ground staff and technical personnel of Olympic Airways staged two strikes in July in protest at management's refusal to sign a collective agreement giving them higher salaries and improved fringe benefits.

The governments of Guyana and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen have both deposited instruments of acceptance of the IMCO Convention with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. IMCO now has one hundred and eighteen full members and one associate member.

Spain: Basque fishermen belonging to the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Federation of ELA-STV staged a successful strike last month in support of demands for improved working conditions. The Fishermen's Section Conference held in connection with our 33rd ITF Miami Congress was informed of the dispute and it was unanimously decided to send a message of support to the strikers in the name of the Section.

The US International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots, an autonomous affiliate of the International Longshoremen's Association and one of our hosts in Miami, celebrates its centenary this year. We would like to take this opportunity of wishing the union every success for the future. Our heartiest best wishes go to its members on the bridge and deck of US merchant ships and also to the growing number of IOMMP-organized officers and supervisory personnel in a wide field of maritime services as the union enters its second century.

OBITUARIES

Paul Hall, President of the Seafarers' International Union of North America and the AFL-CIO's senior Vice-President, died on 22 June, aged 65, after a long and bravely fought battle against cancer. Paul Hall was a founding member of SIUNA and rose through its ranks to become Vice-President, in 1948, and later to succeed the union's first President, Harry Lundeberg, in 1957. One of his finest and most lasting achievements will be the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship at Piney Point in Maryland, which Hall founded in 1967. Hall also served on a number of government bodies dealing with maritime and port affairs and played a major rôle in drafting the Merchant Marine Act of 1970, the enabling legislation for the revitalization of the American merchant fleet, a life-long and keenly felt concern of Hall's. Brother Hall had many good friends in the ITF, especially in its Seafarers' Section, who will deeply mourn his passing and greatly regret that he is no longer with us to make his contribution felt in the seafarers' cause.

V.V. Giri, former president of India and a veteran trade union leader, died in the early hours of 24 June, aged 84. Brother Giri was for many years President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and was also a former President of the All India Trade Union Congress and a founder member, in 1927, of the Indian Trade

Union Federation. After India's independence, he became Minister of Labour, but later resigned. He then served as governor of various states in India and in 1967 was elected Vice-President of India. He served as his country's President from August 1969 until his retirement in 1974.

Frank Durkin, Chairman of the British Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association from 1969 to 1977, died on 27 July, aged 58, after a short illness. Brother Durkin was elected First Vice-President of the US Flight Engineers' International Association in 1975 and continued in that office until his untimely death. Frank was a highly respected and popular participant at ITF meetings, particularly those involving flight engineers. He had enormous technical knowledge and experience, having spent much of his working life in the airline industry, retiring in 1977 from his position as flight engineer instructor. He will be sadly missed both as an invaluable contributor to the ITF Civil Aviation Section's activities and as a good friend and companion.

PERSONALIA

Frank Drozak, the union's acting President, has assumed the presidency of the Seafarers' International Union of North America following the death of Paul Hall, which is reported above. Brother Drozak is expected to be confirmed in his new post by a membership ballot in the autumn. Earlier this year, he was elected to succeed Hall as President of the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department. Drozak has been a SIUNA Vice-President since 1965 and has represented his union at various international maritime conferences.

Erling Tollerud, Chief Treasurer of the Norwegian Seamen's Union, has retired. In a union career spanning forty years, Brother Tollerud had held this post for the past 14 years. At the time of his retirement, he was also the chairman of the Norwegian Government's Welfare Service for Seamen and had a seat on a number of bodies dealing with matters of vital concern to seafarers. Brother Tollerud relinquished his membership of the ITF Fair Practices Committee at last month's Miami Congress. Øystein Ringvold, ITF Ship Inspector in Norway since May 1976, succeeds Tollerud as Chief Treasurer of the union, until confirmed in this post by the union's next Congress..

Ted Brown, National Secretary of the British National Union of Seamen, retired recently after 26 years as a union official. Our best wishes go to him in what we hope will be a long and happy retirement.

Jan B.M. Strømme has been appointed Oil Secretary to the Norwegian Trade Union Confederation (LO). Strømme comes to the post after spending the past two years at Labour Attaché at the Norwegian Embassy in Brussels. Prior to that he had been oil secretary of the Norwegian Seamen's Union in Stavanger.

FORTHCOMING MEETING

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Executive Board

- London, 21-22 October 1980.

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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STOP PRESS

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Fishermen's dispute in Boulogne (France)

The ITF-affiliated French Transport Workers' Federation (CFDT) has informed us of a grave dispute between its fishermen members and the owners as a result of an attempt by the owners to reduce manning and cut basic wages, The port of Boulogne has become the focal point of the union's resistance and a general strike has been declared there.

ITF dockers' and fishermen's affiliates in Europe have been asked to lend the strikers all possible support and specifically to refuse to unload French fishing vessels in their country's ports until the dispute is satisfactorily resolved.