



In case of reproduction, please mention source (ITF) · En cas de reproduction, veuillez mentionner la source (ITF) · Nachdruck bei Quellenangabe gestattet (ITF) · Var god ange källan vid eftertryck (ITF)

No. 7

July 1981

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

News and Views from the ITF

Transport Policy Sub-Committee discusses European rail transport and transit traffic 78
TUAC holds first consultation with OECD Tourism Committee 78

Transport

New Swiss drivers' ordinance sets shorter working week 79

Trade Unions

British ships' officers seek to protect jobs 79

Social and Industrial News

7.8% increase for Danube inland boatmen 80
Higher pay for Austrian funicular railway workers 80
Wardair cabin crew negotiations run into difficulties (Canada) 81
Collective contract for Danish bus guides 81
French seamen call off joint strike campaign 82
British Airways cabin crew call off threatened strike 82
Pay increase for London Transport busmen 82
Indefinite strike called on London Underground 83
Olympic maintenance engineers win talks (Greece) 83
New Zealand Harbour Boards' employees receive higher pay 83
New agreement for Norwegian air traffic controllers 84
Longer leave for Norwegian seafarers over 60 84
New collective contract for lorry drivers in Guipuzcoa province (Spain) 84
US air traffic control strike averted 85

News in Brief 85

Obituary 87

Personalia 87

Forthcoming Meetings 88

Supplement : Asian Seafarer Affiliates gather in Tokyo

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

INTERNATIONAL

=====

Transport Policy Sub-Committee discusses European rail transport and transit traffic

A meeting of the Transport Policy Sub-Committee of the ITF Railwaymen's Section was held in Passau on 15 to 17 June, attended by observers from the ITF's two other inland transport sections. The meeting discussed European rail transport and transit traffic in Europe, with special reference to the situation of Austria and Switzerland. With regard to the European railways, the Sub-Committee re-stated its view that present national policy objectives were completely outdated and also charged the ITF Secretariat with drawing up a new policy on the subject. The meeting went on to discuss the special difficulties of Austria and Switzerland, which arise from the fact that they are outside the EEC and yet must construct and maintain expensive transit routes that are densely trafficked by EEC heavy goods vehicles. The Sub-Committee called on the EEC to bear these considerations in mind when taking policy decisions that affect these two countries, especially when considering the offer of financial assistance for new motorway construction. This matter will be reverted to within the ITF's three inland transport sections in due course.

TUAC holds first consultation with OECD Tourism Committee

The travel trade unions represented in TUAC held an extremely useful and successful first consultation in Paris on 2 July with the OECD Tourism Committee. The meeting was attended on behalf of the ITF by Lars Hellman (Section Chairman), Les Richardson (Transport Salaried Staffs' Association, UK) and Ken Golding, Travel Bureau Section Secretary. The International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Associations was also represented, as was the TUAC Secretariat.

Considerable interest was shown in the paper introduced by Brother Hellman outlining union proposals for the future of the international tourist industry and in the information he provided, as spokesman for the union side, on the work and activity of the two ITSS for their travel trade members. Union ideas on the extension of the tourist season and the development of new forms of tourism attracted particular attention. The union representative made it clear that the industry could not continue to be based on

the sub-standard pay and conditions of travel trade workers, nor on the employment of part-time or seasonal labour. The need for more effective vocational training was also stressed.

The Tourism Committee chairman said members fully accepted that the ongoing cooperation of the trade unions was essential to the proper development of the industry. The approach by TUAC was welcomed and further consultations promised.

TRANSPORT

SWITZERLAND

=====

New drivers' ordinance sets shorter working week

A revised ordinance on working hours and rest periods in road transport enters into force in Switzerland on 1 September. The ordinance reduces maximum permissible weekly hours from 50 to 48, permits only 4 hours' overtime to be worked each week (6 hours in exceptional circumstances) and sets an absolute maximum of 208 overtime hours annually. With regard to rest periods, a one - hour break must be taken after no more than 4 hours' driving time or 5½ hours' working time; if the break is taken earlier, it must be of at least 30 minutes' duration.

The Swiss Trade Union Confederation (SGB) would have preferred to see hours cut even further now, but says it hopes that hours will be reduced by a further two hours in two years' time, with the ultimate objective of a 40-hour week. It would also like to see the working conditions of road transport drivers brought into line with those of locomotive drivers to enable the two transport modes to compete on equal terms.

TRADE UNIONS

GREAT BRITAIN

=====

Ships' officers seek to protect jobs

Delegates to the recent biennial conference of the ITF-affiliated Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association

in Plymouth gave overwhelming support to a motion instructing the union to take "all measures possible" to fight redundancies in the shipping industry. Concern was also expressed at the practice in some companies of employing officers - sometimes for years - as casual labour, a practice that would be illegal in shore-based industries, and one which was deprecated as temporary staff are invariably the first to lose their jobs when cutbacks are being made. Delegates were in favour of a reduction in the retirement age, as a means both of reducing redundancies and of offering improved promotion opportunities for younger officers.

Opening the conference, MNAOA General Secretary Eric Nevin spoke out forcefully against attempts to reduce manning levels on British ships and warned that officers would be prepared to use their industrial muscle if necessary to ensure that owners did not take advantage of government laxity, reducing manning standards to the detriment of vessel safety despite the union's best efforts to ensure a highly trained and qualified officer corps.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

AUSTRIA
=====

7.8% increase for Danube inland boatmen

The ITF-affiliated Austrian Transport and Commercial Workers' Union (HTV) has negotiated an increase of 7.8% on the basic rates of Danube inland boatmen, effective 1 May 1981. A bridging payment of 800 schillings was paid for the month of April.

Higher pay for funicular railway workers

Effective 1 May, workers on Austria's funicular railways - also members of the HTV - received pay increases ranging from 8.63% in the lower salary ranges to 8.46% for the highest paid. An additional salary increment has also been introduced to give the possibility of a further salary progression for those previously on the top of their salary scales. Other benefits include: one additional free Sunday per calendar year and a rise in the overnight allowance from 130 to 145 schillings.

CANADA

=====

Wardair cabin crew negotiations run into difficulties

The ITF-affiliated Canadian Air Line Flight Attendants' Association (CALFAA) has been attempting since late February to negotiate a new two-year agreement for cabin staff with the charter company Wardair. During the course of negotiations, Wardair decided unilaterally to change certain working conditions - notably in respect of duty time, rest periods at home and health benefits - despite strong opposition from our affiliate, which is also seeking pay parity with cabin crews in Air Canada and CP Air (Wardair salaries are 25-30% lower). As we went to press, a Conciliation Commissioner was due to meet the two parties, after which he will make his report to the Minister of Labour. If a satisfactory settlement is not reached, CALFAA will have no choice other than to take strike action against the company to secure its demands.

ITF civil aviation affiliates have already been alerted to the possibility of a strike and, at CALFAA's request, they have been asked to cable Wardair calling on it to settle the dispute on an acceptable basis.

DENMARK

=====

Collective contract for bus guides

The ITF-affiliated Danish Salaried Employees' Union has concluded a two-year collective agreement for bus guides employed by the companies grouped in the Danish Tourist Coach Operators' Association. Effective 1 March 1981, it contains the following provisions: contract period: 3 months (unless circumstances render a shorter contract period unavoidable); working week: 6 days (or the duration of the coach journey); rates of pay: 1st year - 317.20 kr daily; 3rd year - 325.20 kr daily; 5th year - 333.20 kr daily (all rates increased by 10 kr daily from 1 March 1982)^{x)}; index-linking: all rates will be increased to compensate for rises in the cost of living; time off: 13 free days in every 3-month period, with - where possible - one Friday off each working week or 2 Fridays every two working weeks in Denmark; period of notice (demanded of both parties): 14 days for periods of employment of up to 3 months and 1 month for periods in excess of three months; overnight allowance: 25 kr.

x) N.B. where monthly rates are in force, these are calculated at 26 times the relevant daily rate quoted

Guides covered by the agreement are further entitled to sickness, accident and maternity pay. When working abroad, the employer is required to provide sickness and accident insurance cover and to pay the costs of care and of repatriation. Annual leave provisions are in accordance with the relevant legislation currently applying in Denmark.

FRANCE
=====

Seamen call off joint strike campaign

French seamen have now called off their joint strike campaign^{x)} following the granting of immediate pensions improvements by the French Minister for the Sea during a second meeting with their representatives last month. Under the settlement, seamen's basic pay, on which pension entitlements are calculated, is increased by 2,500 francs per year, equivalent to a 10.6% increase for the lowest-paid and 1.4% for those in the highest grades. The Minister has also indicated that he would like talks to begin this month on closing the gap between pensionable earnings and real pay, which is in the region of 40 per cent.

x) Further details in ITF Newsletter No. 4, page 44,
No. 5, page 53 and No. 6, page 69

GREAT BRITAIN
=====

British Airways cabin crew call off threatened strike

Cabin crew have called off a strike due to begin in late May on British Airways B 747 fleet after the airline agreed to make certain modifications to its new luxury Crown Class in-flight service on the aircraft. The cabin attendants' union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, had been seeking one extra crew member on the wide-bodied jets to cope with the extra workload involved.

Pay increases for London Transport busmen

A new pay agreement has been negotiated by the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union for London Transport busmen. This provides for an eight per cent increase in basic rates, an extra day's annual leave and a 15 per cent increase in receipts bonus payments. The new rates of pay are as follows: driver/operator - £99.71; crew driver - £87.11; and conductor - £84.96.

Pay increases of nine per cent have also been won by the TGWU for municipal airport workers at Manchester and Luton, while workers at the country's fourteen remaining municipally-operated airports receive 7.5%. Belfast airport workers also obtained a nine per cent increase following a strike in April (see page 60 of May issue of Newsletter).

Indefinite strike called on London Underground

The ITF-affiliated National Union of Railwaymen has called an indefinite strike from 20 July on London Underground after turning down an eight per cent pay offer.

GREECE
=====

Olympic maintenance engineers win talks

As briefly reported in our last issue, the ITF-affiliated Greek Licensed Technicians' Union and other engineering unions have suspended their strike action to allow talks to begin on the issues in dispute. Olympic has already agreed to reinstate workers dismissed during the strike - a condition for the return to work.

The Greek unions consider it was largely pressure from ITF affiliates, who refused to carry out maintenance and overhauls on Olympic aircraft sent abroad, that persuaded the company to agree to further negotiations and the ITF has already expressed its gratitude to all concerned for their solidarity.

NEW ZEALAND
=====

Harbour Boards employees receive higher pay

A new national pay award has been negotiated for members of the ITF-affiliated New Zealand Harbour Boards' Employees' Industrial Union of Workers, but only after a national strike - the first in the union's history. A 13.75% interim pay increase came into effect on 28 December 1980 and a further 2.05% increase will now be backdated to the same date following a committee of inquiry investigation, which found in the union's favour. This means that the union's demand for a 15.8% general industry increase in the current pay round has been met in full.

The other major improvements are in respect of long-service payments, which now range from \$500 to \$900 for from 2 years' to 20 years' service, and of the pay of shift workers, who receive increases of at least \$25 per week, through improvements in the various shift allowances. Agreement was also reached in principle on a new superannuation and insurance scheme, which it is hoped will come into operation during the currency of the agreement.

NORWAY
=====

New agreement for air traffic controllers

A new preliminary collective agreement has been negotiated for air traffic controllers in Norway, who have been refusing to work overtime for some months now in support of demands for improved pay in compensation for their relatively short working life^{x)}. The new agreement gives the controllers a new starting salary of 84,000 kr per annum, rising to 119,000 kr after ten years. In addition, controllers will be paid a special allowance of 8,500 per year. In return, controllers have agreed to be at home on call for two to three days each month should their services be required to make numbers up to strength. They have also agreed to instruct controllers under training.

x) for earlier details see ITF Newsletter No. 3, 1981, page 31 and No. 5, 1981, page 56.

Longer annual leave for seafarers over 60

Norwegian seamen over 60 have been awarded seven extra days' leave each year, bringing their total annual leave entitlement to five weeks. The timing of this extra leave is to be regulated by agreement between the ITF-affiliated Norwegian Seamen's Union and the various shipowners. In the absence of such an agreement, seafarers themselves shall have the right to determine when they wish to take the extra leave days - which may be taken one day at a time if desired - although at least two weeks' notice of their intention will be required.

SPAIN
=====

New collective contract for lorry drivers in Guipuzcoa province

A new collective agreement has come into effect for lorry driver members of the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Federation of ELA-STV, based on an arbitration award. The

agreement includes the following improvements: salaries increased by 15.79%; a working year of 1,950 hours; 30 days' annual leave, of which at least 26 days shall be weekdays; insurance cover of one million pesos in the event of death or permanent disability arising from an accident at work; a daily travelling allowance of 1,783 pesetas within Spain (allowances for travel outside Spain to be increased in accordance with rises in the cost of living in the countries concerned); and a guaranteed bonus for drivers engaged in international road transport of 12,220 pesetas for journeys of 0 - 4,700 km plus 3.25 pesetas per km for distances between 4,701 and 10,000 km and 3.60 pesetas per km for distances in excess of 10,000 km.

UNITED STATES

=====

Air traffic control strike averted

Air traffic controllers in the United States - members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers' Organization (PATCO)x) - have called off a threatened strike scheduled for midnight on 21 June after reaching tentative agreement on a new collective contract. Although full details have been withheld pending ratification in a membership ballot, it is understood that the controllers have won immediate salary increases of \$2,000, overtime pay for work in excess of 36 hours (the normal working week is 40 hours), higher payments for night-shift working and improved compensation for agreeing to supervise training programmes. The settlement was reached in mediated discussions with the Federal Aviation Administration, ending in the early hours of 22 June. Further details will be given in the ITF Newsletter when they become available.

x) affiliated to the ITF through the National Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia: merchant navy officers and ratings - including members of ITF affiliates - have begun a second series of rolling twenty-four hour stoppages in support of a log of claims for the 1981/1982 maritime seagoing award - principal among which is a demand for the introduction of a two-crew duty system on all ships with Australian crews (see also page 72 of last issue).

The Danish Transport Ministry is being urged by the Railway Council - an advisory body - to improve staffing on the railways to meet the demand occasioned by the continuing rise in passenger traffic.

The British Air line Pilots' Association (BALPA) has been holding talks with British Airways in an effort to persuade the company that it should have a three-man flight deck on its new fleet of B 757s - the first of which are due to enter service in 1983.

Great Britain: the three-month-old pay dispute at Southampton Docks seems no nearer conclusion. x) The management has rejected a second compromise solution put forward by the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union and, according to our latest information, management is refusing to improve its latest pay offer.

x) see ITF Newsletter No. 4, 1981, page 45 and No. 5, 1981, page 55 for earlier details

Hong Kong: ground staff of Cathay Pacific Airways seeking higher pay, improved conditions and additional fringe benefits staged a three-day strike last month.

Engineers, firemen and deckhands on vessels operated by the Portuguese state-run company CTM staged a series of strikes in June and early July to back demands that the owners implement a pay agreement which they have signed but are refusing to implement.

Portuguese dockers in the ports of Lisbon, Leixoes and Setubal are currently working to rule and banning overtime in pursuance of their claim for improvements in working conditions. Port authority employees in Oporto called off their overtime ban on 26 June.

Portuguese harbour pilots staged a series of overtime bans in May in support of demands for higher pay. It is understood that the dispute has now been resolved.

United States: the United Auto Workers has re-affiliated with the AFL-CIO. The re-affiliation took effect on 1 July.

OBITUARY

=====

Heinz Göke, General Secretary of the International Graphical Federation since 1964, died on 2 June as the result of a stroke suffered while he was on official duties in Vienna.

PERSONALIA

Egied Baudet has succeeded Louis Eggers as President of the Belgian Transport Workers' Union (BTB). ITF General Secretary Harold Lewis attended a ceremony held in connection with the BTB's Congress last month to pay tribute to Louis Eggers' many years of close association with the work of the ITF. The General Secretary said that Eggers was held in deep respect by all those who had had the privilege of working with him over the years; he would remain in our affections for many years to come, not least for the valuable services he had rendered the ITF Inland Navigation Section over the past thirty years.

Octave Magnin, Federal Secretary of the Swiss Railwaymen's Union (SEV) and editor of the union's French-language magazine "Le Cheminot", retired on 4 July.

Pekka Oivio has retired from the presidency of the Finnish Trade Union Centre (SAK). He is succeeded by Pertti Viinanen. Brother Oivio assumed the presidency in 1974 after having served as President of the Finnish Locomotivemen's Union.

Niels Rasmussen, Chief Treasurer of the Danish Transport and General Workers' Union (SiD), celebrated 25 years with the union on 1 July.

Emanuel Saitis, General Secretary of the Pan-Hellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO), has been elected General Secretary of the General Federation of Greek Workers.

Johann Schmölz, General Secretary of the Austrian Railwaymen's Union, celebrated his 50th birthday on 13 June.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

=====

- Fishermen's Section Conference - Reykjavik, 26-28 August 1981
- Cabin Crew Technical Committee - Madrid, 8-9 September 1981
- Civil Aviation Section Conference - Malta, 24-27 November 1981

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

-----ooo0ooo-----

OBITUARY

=====

We have just learned of the death, on 25 June, of RUDY FAUPL, former International Representative of the US International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. Rudy Faupl also served as the senior Workers' Member on the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation, where he made a valuable contribution, over many years, to the cause of workers' rights. Affiliates wishing to send messages of condolence may do so to his widow at the following address:

Mrs. Viola Faupl,
Route 1,
Box 155C,
Fairfield,
CALIFORNIA 94533,
U.S.A.

Brother Faupl was a respected and extremely popular figure in the international trade union movement and will be sadly missed. ITF General Secretary Harold Lewis has already written to Mrs. Faupl expressing sadness at the passing of a man who for so long played a key rôle in the ITF and in his quiet way exercised an enormous influence for good.

ASIAN SEAFARER AFFILIATES GATHER IN TOKYO

The second meeting of the ITF Asian Seafarers' Regional Committee was held in Tokyo from 15 to 17 June 1981, with representatives from seafarer affiliates in the following countries in attendance: Australia, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore and Taiwan.

The Committee undertook a review of the catalogue of problems besetting Asian seafarers and arrived at several unanimous conclusions. The Committee recommended that the ITF Fair Practices Committee should consider a proposal to align the ITF "Far East" basic rates of pay with the ITF worldwide rates over a period of time. The Committee further recommended that the Asian governments concerned should suspend all indiscriminate and disproportionate training of seafarers; that the ITF Secretariat should undertake a thorough investigation of the proliferation of unscrupulous seafarers' recruitment agencies, at the same time alerting both the ILO and the Asian governments concerned to the problems; and that the ILO should advise its member governments to offer as a general rule tax concessions to seafarers^{x)}.

In conclusion the Committee welcomed the decision taken by UNCTAD's Committee on Shipping to transform open registers by tightening the provisions governing the retention and acceptance of such registers and pronounced itself in favour of the establishment of bona fide joint ventures between shipping companies in the developed and developing nations.

The resolutions adopted by the Committee have been despatched to all seafarer affiliates.

x)

This recommendation was followed up by a cable to the Indian government as a protest against that government's decision to deduct tax from Indian seamen in respect of statutorily supplied food.