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TRANSPORT

UNITED STATES

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Transport workers oppose phasing out of federal operating subsidies to mass transit systems

In testimony before House and Senate sub-committees, the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Union of America has been spelling out its opposition to an Administration bill that would phase out federal operating subsidies to mass transit systems, undermine the existing bargaining rights of public transit employees and threaten levels of pay. The union warned that the government's plans could lead to the demise of public transit before the end of the decade, as States and cities were simply not in a position to make good the shortfall and expressed its fears that the proposed legislation would mean the end of good labour relations in the industry, with increasing friction between employers and unions.

TRADE UNIONS

GREAT BRITAIN

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Independent dockers' union to merge with T and G

In a move which should greatly strengthen the bargaining position of Britain's dockers, members of the National Amalgamated Stevedores' and Dockers' Union have voted in favour of a merger with the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

BELGIUM

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New rates of pay for inland navigation workers

New rates of pay came into effect on 1 July for inland navigation workers organized in the ITF-affiliated Belgian Transport Workers' Union (BTB), following application of a cost-of-living increase. Skippers' rates of pay now range from 32,032 to 46,734 B frs,

depending on size of vessel and type of navigation; all certificated mates receive 34,674 B frs, regardless of vessel size, and un-certificated mates a uniform rate of 33,524 B frs.

Able seamen now have a salary range of 28,701 to 32,032 B frs, depending on size of vessel and length of service, and ships' boys with more than one year's service get from 22,181 to 28,514 B frs.

New rates also came into operation on the same date for inland navigation workers in pushboat and continuous navigation. Captains now receive a monthly rate of 50,908 B frs (excluding allowances).

The corresponding rate for 1st mates is 46,293 and for second mates 43,659 B frs.

CANADA
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Two-year master contract for non-operating railway staff

A new two-year master contract for non-operating staff on Canadian railways has been concluded by the ITF-affiliated Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers. Gains include: pay increases of 12% on 1 January 1982 and 9% on 1 January 1983; cost-of-living adjustments over the life of the contract according to an established formula; shift differentials raised to 25 and 30 cents for the afternoon and midnight shifts respectively; life insurance cover up \$3,000 to \$13,000 (with a double indemnity clause for accidental death); and improved sickness benefits. An element of indexation has also been introduced in respect of the pensions of retired railwaymen.

GREAT BRITAIN
=====

London Transport underground staff oppose cuts in service

London Transport underground staff belonging to the ITF-affiliated Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and the National Union of Railwaymen (both ITF affiliates) took strike action last month in protest at the service cuts implemented by London Transport as part of an effort to reduce operating costs following the Law Lords judgement last December, which imposed an obligation on LT to provide economic transport facilities. The strike was successful and the old timetables have now been restored while both sides examine ways of achieving lower operating costs without unduly reducing the frequency of tube services.

Closure of railway workshops deferred

In the face of opposition from the ITF-affiliated National Union of Railwaymen, British Rail has deferred plans to shed 5,000 engineering jobs by closing two railway workshops and declaring redundancies at a third, and has agreed to the setting up of a joint working party to examine their future. Also represented on the working party is the ITF-affiliated Transport Salaried Staffs' Association.

ASLEF decides to discuss flexible rosters with British Rail

At a special conference held on 27 July, the ITF-affiliated Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) decided to enter into discussions with British Rail on the introduction of flexible rosters. The negotiations between the union and BR will take full account of the safeguards on length of duty turns and protection of drivers' earnings which the Railway Staff National Tribunal, in its report published earlier in the year, recommended should be incorporated into a new national agreement now that the industry is moving away from the traditional guaranteed eight-hour day. The ASLEF decision was preceded by strike action.

Supply ship crews accept improved pay offer

Ratings on supply ships serving North Sea oil rigs - members of the ITF-affiliated National Union of Seamen - have accepted an improved pay offer worth nine per cent. Average pay for an AB now rises from £136 to £150 per week.

NETHERLANDS

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New collective agreement for Martinair employees

The ITF-affiliated Dutch Transport Workers' Union (FNV) has signed a new collective agreement for 400 members with Martinair. Improvements include: a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment from 1 July, with provision for a further increase in December based on rises in the RPI; and an extra day's leave for workers over 55. Martinair has also undertaken to investigate the possibility of converting overtime compensation into time off and is currently looking at ways of improving the conditions of shift workers and those who perform heavy and unpleasant work.

NEW ZEALAND

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10.75% increase for seafarers

The ITF-affiliated New Zealand Seamen's Union has reached agreement with the Maritime Employers' Association on the renewal of the Maritime Industry (Seagoing) Award. The new agreement runs for twelve months from 1 April and gives the seamen a 10.75% increase in rates of pay. The pay of an AB now ranges from \$ 17,544 to \$ 30,568 per annum according to vessel category.

NORWAY

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Mobile rig crews win higher pay and allowances

Full details are now to hand of the settlement for crews of mobile rigs in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea^x. The following improvements have been achieved: a general increase of 11 per cent from 1 April; long-service bonus increased from 250 to 350 kr payable after 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 years' service and included in the figure used for the purposes of calculating overtime rates; stand-by allowance raised from 16 kr to 20 kr per hour; travelling allowance increased from 16 to 30 kr per hour; compensation of 600 kr for work performed on public holidays spent wholly or partially on the rig; and an increase in the insurance cover in the event of disability (now 600,000 kr) and death (now 300,000 kr).

The three ITF affiliates involved in the negotiations are the Norwegian Seamen's Union, the Navigating Officers' Association and the Ships' Engineers' Union.

^xsee also page 69 of last issue

Higher pay for ships' engineers on vessels under 9,500 grt

The ITF-affiliated Norwegian Ships' Engineers' Union has negotiated new rates of pay for its members on tankers and dry cargo vessels under 9,500 grt.

Chief Engineers

	<u>Dry cargo vessels</u>	<u>Tankers</u>
Under 2,000 grt	8,905 - 9,515	9,220 - 9,845
2,000 - 3,499 grt	9,070 - 9,680	9,390 - 10,025
3,500 - 4,499 grt	9,230 - 9,865	9,555 - 10,205
4,500 - 6,999 grt	9,390 - 10,030	9,730 - 10,395
7,000 - 9,499 grt	9,550 - 10,200 kr	9,900 - 10,575 kr

1st engineers receive a uniform rate of pay (ranging from 8,265 to 8,820 kr on dry cargo vessels and from 8,545 to 9,125 kr on tankers, according to length of service) on all vessels under 9,500 grt.

PHILIPPINES
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Philippine Air Lines workers to be reinstated

The dispute between Philippine Air Lines Employees' Association (PALEA) and Philippine Air Lines over lay offs^x has now been settled to our affiliate's complete satisfaction. The Minister of Labour and Employment has issued a decree ordering that all retrenched employees of the airline whose claims have not already been settled shall have preferential re-employment rights with respect to existing and future vacancies and all newly-created positions. The Minister has also ruled that all laid-off workers shall be entitled to re-employment in the same position as they previously held or in substantially equivalent positions and that they shall incur no loss of pay and that back service and seniority shall remain unaffected. Laid-off employees will be given 30 days to signify their consent to re-employment under these conditions.

^xsee also ITF Newsletter No. 11, 1981, page 131

PORTUGAL
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TAP cabin staff receive back-dated pay increases

Since we last reported^x TAP-Air Portugal has agreed to enter into direct negotiations with the ITF-affiliated Portuguese Cabin Crew Union and this has led to the signing of an agreement providing for salary increases backdated to 1 January and payable as from July. Further talks will now be held on career structure, cabin crew complement and allowances -- all areas in which our affiliate has been seeking improvements since last year.

^xpage 56 of May issue

SWEDEN
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Pay increases for officers in overseas trade

The ITF-affiliated Swedish Ships' Officers' Association has reached agreement with the shipowners on pay increases for 1982 for its members in the deep-sea trades. Effective 1 June, pay will be increased as follows: masters - 3.4%; 1st mate-4.25% plus 175 kr; 2nd mate - 4.75% plus 175 kr; chief pursers and radio officers - 4.75%. As compensation for the first five months of 1982, officers will receive 4.5% of the sum of basic pay and monetary allowances, this to be paid out with the June salary.

SWITZERLAND

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Longer leave and higher pay for Rhine boatmen

The ITF-affiliated Swiss Transport and Commercial Workers' Union (VHTL) has successfully concluded a new collective agreement on behalf of Rhine boatmen. Major improvements have been achieved, effective 1 July, principally an increase in annual leave (3 weeks for service of between one and three years, 4 weeks after 4 years and 5 weeks at age 50 or from the 26th year of service); and a five per cent cost-of-living increase, applied to basic pay and allowances (with the exception of the children's allowance and the tug-and push-boat bonuses). A cost-of-living clause has been incorporated into the agreement, in which the employers have undertaken to enter into negotiations each year on an annual cost-of-living award, to take effect on 1 July.

UNITED STATES

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New contract for maintenance of way employees

Following protracted negotiations, the ITF-affiliated Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees has signed a new 39-month contract for its members employed by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK). Under the agreement, rates of pay are increased by 3% backdated to 1 October 1981, followed by increases of 2.5% on 1 July 1982 and 3% on 1 July 1983, while cost-of-living adjustments will be applied as follows: 3 cents on 1 July 1981; 22 cents on 2 July 1982 and two final adjustments of 5 and 38 cents respectively on 1 January and 1 July 1983.

National rail strike averted

A nationwide strike from 11 July by 40,000 engine drivers belonging to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was averted when the US President intervened and ordered a 60-day "cooling off" period. A presidential emergency board has been appointed to investigate the dispute, which revolved round certain operating rules that the private railroads were attempting to scrap against the wishes of the union. The Board will report back to the President in due course with its recommendations for a settlement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

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The crews of tugboats on Canada's western seaboard have won pay increases of \$.166 per hour in each year of a new two-year contract negotiated by the ITF-affiliated Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers.

Great Britain: Felixstowe dockers have accepted an 8.5% pay increase.

Great Britain: catering workers on North Sea oil rigs and platforms are voting on an improved seven per cent pay offer made by the five major catering companies to the ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union.

British Airways engineering maintenance staff and ground service personnel have been awarded an 11 per cent increase on basic rates from October. The agreement is valid until January 1984 and follows this year's pay freeze.

Italian dockers have staged a series of strikes this month in protest at the government's failure to take action to improve the nation's ports.

The Peruvian government has recently deposited instruments of acceptance of seven International Maritime Organisation Conventions, including: the SOLAS 1978 Protocol; the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Convention (1978); the Tonnage Measurement Convention (1969); and the Safety of Fishing Vessels Convention (1977).

OBITUARIES

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Daniel Cremona, President from 1963 to 1970 of the Maltese General Workers' Union, died on 7 July, at the age of 58. A veteran politician, who had been both president and general secretary of the Malta Labour Party, Cremona held the post of Minister of Labour and Social Services in the Dom Mintoff government at the time of his death.

Hugh O'Neill, General Secretary and Treasurer of the British Radio and Electronic Officers' Union from 1949 to 1968, died on 7 July, aged 80. In over forty years service with the union, Brother O'Neill held a number of its key posts and his wide experience of the Maritime Industry was recognized in the many bodies dealing with seafarers' welfare, training and education on which he was represented. He also attended several ITF Congresses and represented radio officers' interests on our behalf at meetings of IMCO over many years.

Kaj Petersen, former Chief Treasurer and Vice-President of the Danish Trade Union Federation (LO), has died, aged 68.

Carl Stenger, President of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone International from 1960 to 1969, died on 29 June, aged 76. Brother Stenger is a former President of the German Post Workers' Union and a member of the German parliament.

Bjarne Strandas, education secretary of the Norwegian Railwaymen's Union since 1976, died on 9 July, aged 53.

PERSONALIA

=====

Christiane Brunner was elected President of the Swiss Public Service Workers' Union (VPOD) at the union's recent Congress. She succeeds Ria Schärer.

Karl Dlouhy, for many years a leading official of the Austrian Railwaymen's Union, celebrated his 80th birthday on 12 July. Brother Dlouhy is especially remembered for his activities in the illegal trade union movement during the period 1934 to 1945 and for his contribution to the rebuilding of the Austrian Railwaymen's Union in the immediate post-war years. It was Dlouhy, who - at grave peril to himself - smuggled the ITF flag out of Austria in 1934, for which act of conspicuous bravery the ITF has good cause to be deeply grateful. We join our Austrian affiliate in wishing this veteran trade unionist a very happy birthday and many more years of continued good health.

Rudi Kobilke has been appointed Vice-President of the German Railwaymen's Union (GdED) in succession to Heinz Frieser, who left the union earlier this year in order to take up a post on the Board of Directors of the German Federal Railways, for which he had been proposed by his union. Frieser's union post as head of the department looking after the interests of railway officials has been filled by Siegfried Weiss. Brother Frieser, who has been an active member for many years of the ITF Railwaymen's Section, resigns from the ITF Executive Board on taking up his new appointment. His successor will be co-opted on to the Board at its next meeting in October.

Henri Popelier was elected Chairman of the Civil Aviation Section of the Dutch Transport Workers' Union (FNV) at an extraordinary general meeting of the section last month.

Gunnar A. Rasmussen has retired from his post as Vice-President of the Danish Locomotivemen's Association. He is succeeded by Kurt H. Christiansen.

Glem E. Watts has been elected President of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone International in succession to Ernst Breit, who resigned on his election to the presidency of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB). Watts, who is president of the Communication Workers of America, has been PTTI Vice-President for the past four years.

The Presidents of three of the ITF's US maritime affiliates - Jesse M. Calhoon of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, Thomas W. Gleason of the International Longshoremen's Association and Shannon J. Wall of the National Maritime Union - have been appointed to a new Maritime Advisory Committee created by the Department of Transportation. Thomas Gleason is an ITF Vice-President and Shannon Wall is Vice-Chairman of the ITF Seafarers' Section.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Asian Seafarers' Regional Committee | - Seoul, 2-4 August 1982 |
| Rhine Manning Regulations | - Strasbourg, 15-17 September 1982 |
| Licensed Aircraft Technicians | - Lisbon, 28-29 September 1982 |
| Management Committee | - Bremen, 18 October 1982 |
| Executive Board | - Bremen, 19-20 October 1982 |
| Dockers' Section Conference | - London, 26-27 October 1982 |

AFFILIATED UNIONS REQUIRING FURTHER
INFORMATION ON ANY ITEM IN THIS
NEWSLETTER MAY OBTAIN IT ON REQUEST
FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ITF

ITF GENERAL SECRETARY COMES TO DEFENCE OF GHANAIAN TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNIONS

On 31 December 1981, the government of President Hilla Limann in the West African state of Ghana was overthrown in a military coup mounted by supporters of Flt.-Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, who subsequently assumed the chairmanship of the Provisional National Defence Council. Deeply concerned by the growing threat in the months since the take-over to the integrity of the Ghanaian transport workers' unions, ITF General Secretary Harold Lewis has sent the following letter to Flt.-Lt. Rawlings:

Flt.-Lt. J. Rawlings
Chairman, PNDC,
Burma Camp
Accra - GHANA -

16 July 1982

Dear Sir,

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) represents the international interests of well over 300 transport workers' unions in some 85 countries. For eighty-six years it has supported the principles and practices of free trades unionism and has a long and honourable history of opposition to racialism, colonialism and totalitarianism in all their forms.

We have also for many years devoted a large part of our energy and resources to strengthening and supporting transport workers' unions in the developing world, our aim being to help those unions to help themselves. We have always set our face against any attempt to dictate or influence the conduct of those unions in directions that their members would not themselves choose, since we believe that unions must be truly democratic and responsive to their members' needs.

Ghana has always - and rightly - commanded an important place in our African activities. We have six affiliated unions there and have not only sponsored many educational activities for them over the years but have often chosen Ghana as the venue for regional meetings. In short, Ghana and its transport unions are very close to our heart.

It is all the more of a shock, therefore, to find those unions and others in the Ghana TUC (not to mention the Ghana TUC itself) under attack to the point where their survival is threatened. Those unions - certainly the ITF's affiliates among them - have never claimed anything but the right given them by international law and good practice to represent their members' interests. They have not sought political power. They have not acted beyond their rightful terms of reference. Even so, their leaderships have been subjected to a campaign of harassment and intimidation which has forced some of them from office and even into temporary exile. There is substantial evidence that the

campaign has had the support, if not of you personally, then of certain government circles. Ironically, much of the attack has come in the name of "democracy" and has been led by a group - the Association of Local Unions - whose spokesmen have been elected by no-one!

I would ask you to understand that, given its principles and traditions, the ITF is not ready to accept the killing off of its Ghanaian unions. We appreciate fully the enormous social and economic problems which Ghana faces. We are ready, as we always have been, to help the government overcome them. But not at any price, and certainly not at the cost of the transport unions' existence.

Yours respectfully,

(Sgd.) Harold Lewis
General Secretary

16 July 1968

- *Railway and Ports Workers' Union of TUC
- Maritime and Dock Workers' Union of TUC
- Ghana Private Road Transport Union
- General Transport, Petroleum and Chemical Workers' Union of TUC
- Ghana Merchant Navy Officers' Association
- Ghana Railway Enginemens' Union

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