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0 At the close of the year, we take 0
0 this opportunity of wishing all 0
0 readers of the ITF Newsletter a 0
0 very happy Christmas and a 0
0 prosperous and successful New 0
0 Year. 0
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TRADE UNIONS

UNITED STATES

Flight engineers' annual convention calls for third man on flight deck of all commercial passenger aircraft

At the annual convention last month in New Orleans, Louisiana of the ITF-affiliated Flight Engineers' International Association resolutions were adopted on the Air Florida B 737 crash in Washington in January 1982 and the hijacking of an Alitalia jet from Thailand to Sri Lanka. The first of these, after pointing out that the accident happened because there was no flight engineer on the flight deck to assist the two pilots prior to and on take-off, went on to demand that a flight engineer be carried as a third crew member on all commercial passenger aircraft to ensure that there would be no repetition of the unfortunate chain of events that led to such tragic loss of life. The contents of this resolution have already been brought to the attention of President Reagan and governments and regulatory authorities worldwide have received copies from FEIA chapters in their respective countries. In adopting the second resolution, delegates were concerned that the lenient treatment of the hijacker by Alitalia and the Sri Lankan authorities might encourage other potential lawbreakers to seize civil aircraft and hold passengers hostage.

ITF Civil Aviation Section Secretary Ken Golding who attended the Convention as the FEIA's guest, addressed the assembly and reported on the ITF's activities in the field of civil aviation. He also participated in the discussions that took place during the four-day meeting.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

ARGENTINA

Unions stage national strike

Argentinian workers staged a 24-hour general strike on 6 December - the first national stoppage since the military take-over in 1976 - to back their call for pay increases for state employees, the removal of military officials from key unions and the reinstatement of social security contributions as a major source of union funds. The strike is yet further evidence of the growing strength of worker opposition to the Argentinian military dictatorship, which cannot much longer ignore demands that it restore full union rights, including recognition of the CGT as the main trade union federation.

It is also faced with an insistent demand for effective measures to boost the ailing economy and stimulate employment.

BELGIUM

Workers strike to back demand for more jobs

One-day general strikes were staged in separate halves of Belgium on 30 November and 7 December following the failure of tripartite negotiations to produce a new national agreement to replace the one expiring at the end of this month. The unions had called the stoppages to protest against the employers' refusal to allow working time to be cut in order to generate more jobs.

The railwaymen's section of the ITF-affiliated Belgian Public Service Workers' Union has also scheduled demonstrations each Tuesday in the run-up to Christmas to show the extent of union opposition to the rundown of the railways and the worsening of pay and conditions in the industry.

GERMANY

Union seeks more shore leave for seafarers

Negotiations between the ITF-affiliated German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union (OeTV) and the shipowners on a new basic agreement for the country's seafarers have broken down and have been referred to mediation following the employers' refusal to concede any improvements that would involve them in additional crew costs. Our affiliate had been seeking to bring the total shore leave per annum of seafarers into line with the amount of time-off and leave granted to workers in comparable land-based occupations and to this end had proposed that Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays should be excluded when calculating time-off ashore. It had further sought an increase in the seamen's pension and an end to the system under which the leave entitlement is geared to vessel tonnage.

GREAT BRITAIN

T and G steps up action in support of Air India's London-based staff

The ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union has stepped up action in support of Air India's London-based staff following the failure of the latest attempt to reach a mediated settlement of the five-month-old pay dispute. Refuellers at Heathrow Airport, with the backing of the T and G's other airport membership, withdrew services from Air India on 6 December and members at other UK airports are being asked to assist. Attempts will also be made to restrict fuel loads at overseas airports, notably Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Brussels, Rome and Paris.

Radio officers' union protests at ending of ship letter telegram service

The ITF-affiliated Radio and Electronic Officers' Union has said it will boycott UK coastal radio stations if British Telecom closes the ship letter service as planned on 1 January 1983, forcing seafarers to use expensive full-rate telegrams for personal messages to their families ashore. Radio unions worldwide will be asked to join the boycott.

GREECE

Strike threat lifted

The ITF-affiliated Pan-Hellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO) has lifted its strike threat against the cargo fleet* after receiving an undertaking from the shipowners that they are prepared to resume negotiations on pay.

* see page 125 of last issue for earlier details

UNITED STATES

Northwest Airlines stewardesses win \$52 million compensation in sex discrimination case

Over three thousand stewardesses who worked for the American domestic airline, Northwest Airlines between the years of 1967 and 1976 have been awarded a total of \$52 million in back pay and compensation by a federal judge in a sex discrimination case which has been before the courts for nearly ten years. The initial district court decision in 1973 was in favour of the stewardesses, but repeated appeals over the years have delayed the final fixing of the exact sums due until now.

As the result of this latest decision, the stewardesses become entitled to back pay with interest for the years when Northwest paid its female flight attendants less than their male counterparts, as well as to compensation for illegal discrimination in the areas of hotel accommodation and laundry allowances. Stewardesses who were dismissed by the airline for putting on too much weight will also be entitled to reinstatement in their old jobs and Northwest has already indicated its willingness to comply with this ruling.

Northwest immediately gave notice of a further appeal against the award - the largest yet under federal equal pay legislation - and has said it will contest the amount of back pay due even if it loses the appeal.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The French government has launched a six-month campaign drawing the attention of women to their rights under the equal opportunities legislation which comes into force next spring.

Great Britain: merchant navy officers and ratings have voted to accept the pay offers made by the General Council of British Shipping to their union negotiators last month (see page 124 of November issue).

Great Britain: hire-and-reward drivers have expressed their dismay at the level of pay rises offered by the employers in many areas of the country and a strike early in the new year is now a distinct possibility.

Great Britain: the public inquiry into the loss in December 1981 off Lands End of the Irish-registered coaster Union Star will begin in March 1983. The coaster, which was on its maiden voyage, went down with all hands and the crew of the Penlee lifeboat also perished in the disaster.*

* see ITF Newsletter No. 2, 1982, page 15 and No. 3, 1982, page 33

Mexico: a month-old pay strike by employees of the state-owned Mexicana airline was broken late last month when the government ordered in non-union labour.

Netherlands: bus staffs and railway workers - many of them members of ITF affiliates - staged a one-day strike on 22 November in protest at government plans for a public sector pay freeze.

Pay negotiations between the ITF-affiliated Dutch Seafarers' Federation (FWZ) and the coastal shipowners have been resumed on the basis of a list of minimum demands.

Nigerian dockers called off a 12-day strike last month after the employers agreed to pay out last year's Christmas bonus.

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), which groups the country's blue-collar workers, last month set out its pay

objectives for the 1983 contract round. It is proposing that the largest pay rises should go to low-paid workers, with rises tapering off up the earnings scale and a pay freeze for workers earning over 110,000 kr per annum.

The Swedish Seamen's Union has just celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The ITF sends warm fraternal greetings on this happy occasion and wishes its affiliate every success in the years ahead.

ERRATUM

The Swedish Ships' Officers' Association is an independent union and not part of the Swedish Supervisors' Union as stated in the October issue of the Newsletter (page 117). We regret this error.

OBITUARY

Charles Kief, a former International Vice-President of the US Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks, died on 9 October, aged 79. During the twenty-one years in which he held this office, Kief regularly attended ITF Congresses.

PERSONALIA

Stig Malm has been elected to succeed Gunnar Nilsson as President of the Swedish Trade Union Federation (LO) when the latter retires on 1 May 1983 after ten years in his present post. Rune Molin, who has been LO Secretary since 1972, will take office next year from Malm as the LO's next Vice-President. The new Secretary will then be Margareta Svensson, who thus becomes the first woman to be elected on to the executive of the Federation. Margareta Svensson is currently Vice-President of the Municipal Workers' Union.

Nils Totland has been elected President of the Norwegian State Employees' Federation in succession to Albert Uglem, who has now retired. Totland had been the Federation's Secretary since 1976.

C.P. Srivastava, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organisation, has been awarded Norway's highest honour, the Commander's Cross of the Order of Saint Olav, in recognition of his work for the world seafaring community over many years.

John Vanderveken has been appointed Acting General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to replace Otto Kersten, who died last month. Vanderveken, who has been ICFTU Assistant General Secretary since 1974, will serve in this capacity until the next World Congress of the organisation.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Robert Vion, until recently Federal Secretary (Road Transport) of the French Transport Workers' Federation (CFDT), who has been created a Chevalier of the French Order of Merit. Vion had served as a member of the Committee of the ITF Road Transport Workers' Section and of its Steering Committee until he left his union to take up a post as head of a municipal Further Education Institute in Trappes, near Paris.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Conference of ITF European Seafarers - aboard Silja Line ferry	8 - 9 March 1983
Management Committee - Salzburg	14 March 1983
Executive Board - Salzburg	15 - 16 March 1983
Fishermen's Section Social Policy Sub-Committee - Bremerhaven	7 - 8 April 1983

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

ITF Regional Director Medardo Gomero refused entry to Chile

On 25 November, ITF Regional Director Medardo Gomero arrived at Santiago International Airport aboard a regular scheduled flight of Aeroperu at the start of what should have been a quite unexceptional visit to Chile. He had merely intended to meet the leaders of the ITF's long-standing affiliates in Chile to hold consultations with them. However, he was informed by immigration officials at the airport that he was being refused entry to Chile "by order of the government" and that he must reboard the Aeroperu flight for Buenos Aires. Gomero protested vigorously at this unwarranted interference with his routine duties - as the ITF's official representative in the Region he makes regular trips to countries throughout the Latin American continent - and he also objected to being compelled to fly on to Buenos Aires. Regrettably, his protestations failed to gain him entry to Chile and he had to board a flight just over an hour later back to Lima, his planned visit thwarted by the high-handed action of the Chilean authorities.

On learning of this incident, ITF General Secretary immediately contacted the Chilean embassy in London and the Chilean government and protested strongly at this disgraceful treatment of an ITF representative on official Federation business. Many ITF affiliates in Latin America have also lodged similar protests with General Pinochet and the Chilean Labour Minister demanding that Chilean trade unionists be granted the basic right of freedom of association enshrined in key ILO Conventions on trade union rights and freedoms.