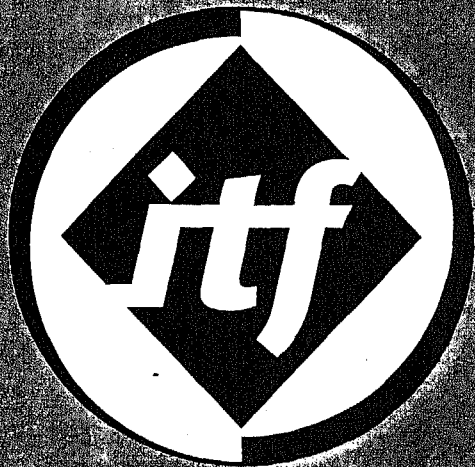


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# ITF CONGRESS

No. 1  
Thursday 29 October 1998  
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**NEWS**  
**INFORMATIONS**  
**NOTICIAS**  
**NYHETER**  
**情報**  
**WACHRICHTEN**

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Hiroshima survivor to address Congress

## Delegates set to condemn N-weapons

The ITF Congress will launch into business this morning with delegates debating an emergency motion condemning India and Pakistan for recent nuclear bomb tests and urging the ITF to campaign worldwide against the testing, proliferation, deployment and use of nuclear weapons.

The motion, which will be moved by Umraomal Purohit, President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, supports the demands of the Indian trade union movement that the country's resources should instead be used for economic and social development.

The debate will be marked by a speech from Seiko Ikeda, a survivor (hibakusha) of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945 which killed and injured over 120,000 people.

Delegates are expected to give overwhelming support to the motion, a copy of which will then be forwarded to the governments of India and Pakistan.

■ All Congress participants attending tonight's reception hosted by the ITF's Indian affiliates will also be able to visit a special anti-nuclear weapons exhibition. Co-sponsored by the ITF and the Japanese national trade union centre, Rengo, the exhibition looks at the effects of the atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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### OPENING DAY

#### Welcome

The 39th ITF Congress will be formally opened at 10am today Thursday 29 October with speeches from the Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee (right), and from ITF President Eike Eulen. After the welcoming ceremony, expected to last about an hour and a half, delegates will begin to tackle the business of the Congress. This afternoon ITF General Secretary David Cockcroft will introduce the Report of Activities.



#### Plenary

The Plenary Session will last all day until 5pm, immediately after which there will be meetings of the Resolutions Committee (in

the Plenary Hall) and the Credentials Committee (in Hall 3).

#### Lunch

The ITF's Asia/Pacific affiliates will be hosting a lunch today for Congress participants from 12.30pm to 2pm in the Atrium in the Congress Centre.

#### Reception/dinner

The Co-ordinating Committee of Indian ITF affiliates is hosting a reception/dinner tonight for all Congress participants, beginning at 7pm, at the India Habitat Centre, Lodi Estate, New Delhi (entry from Gate 3, Vardhaman Marg). Buses will collect everyone from the Congress hotels.

#### Press conference

Any trade union journalists attending Congress are invited to a press conference with ITF General Secretary David Cockcroft at 1pm today in Room 314. Afterwards there will be an informal meeting with the ITF's press officers at Congress.

■ What's on during the rest of Congress: see back page.

Published daily during the ITF Congress in English, French, German, Spanish and Swedish

→ als So-Wm zum Kongress

# Meeting the challenge of globalised transport industries

by ITF General Secretary David Cockroft

This final ITF Congress of the 20th century is probably our most important in a generation. The emergence over the past decade of a global economy based on deregulated labour and financial markets poses a grave threat to the effectiveness and survival of vigorous trade union movements both nationally and internationally.

In the industrialised world we are witnessing attacks on trade union organisation and representation unprecedented since early this century.

Unions in developing nations are resisting savage cuts in working conditions and social welfare which are in many cases the consequence of harsh economic policies dictated by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Millions of workers in the transitional economies of central and eastern Europe are suffering the disastrous consequences of laissez-faire capitalist policies devised by right-wing ideologues in North America.

Meanwhile in Asia, Latin America and elsewhere where national currencies have collapsed or are under pressure, workers are being asked to pay the price for the failures of the international monetary system.

So, as our Congress opens today amid all the worthy speeches of welcome, let us not lose sight of what our main objective must be in the week ahead. We must ask ourselves how best the ITF can maximise international solidarity for transport unions battling to protect the rights and living standards of their members in the face of global deregulation and associated attacks on trade union organisation.

## Mobilising Solidarity

The special agenda item, "Mobilising Solidarity", will be the focus of this debate, when we will decide what strategic and practical steps we can take to help affiliates in need of international support. We will consider new internal structures and procedures to ensure that the ITF can act

*"Delegates at this Congress must do more than complain about the effects of globalisation and instead address the question of how they can be effectively organised internationally to secure the best deal for their members."*

speedily when affiliates require assistance.

The Mobilising Solidarity theme will also be tackled in the section conferences on Friday, Saturday and Monday, when delegates can discuss the details of how international solidarity can be delivered in their industries.

Transport workers, as much if not more than any other group of workers, are in the front line of the attacks on trade unionism and working conditions.

In **civil aviation**, the formation of multi-carrier global alliances heralds a new wave of cost-cutting, while those airlines not part of an alliance will find it harder to survive.

In the **railway industry** privatisation and fragmentation have provided opportunities for asset-stripping acquisitions and are creating a new breed of global operator, typified by Wisconsin Central.

In **road transport**, whether haulage or passenger, deregulation, particularly in the form of excessive working hours, undermines workers' safety as well as that of other road users.

In the **docks industry**, widespread deregulation of employment practices, along with privatisations and the emergence of global port operators, have been accompanied by employer attacks on trade union organisation.

In **shipping**, which has long been the most globalised of all transport industries, flags of convenience continue to lower standards of employment and safety. The same phenomenon has now spread to the **fishing industry**.

## Recent disputes

We can draw important lessons from recent high profile disputes and campaigns, such as those with United Parcel Service in the USA, British Airways, Patrick Stevedores in Australia and the road transport day of action on working hours. In all of these, cross-border co-operation between unions played a significant role.

Unions are recognising that they need a global strategy and that they must think globally if they are to be effective in their aims and activities.

Delegates at this Congress must do more than complain about the effects of globalisation and instead address the question of how they can organise themselves internationally to secure the best deal for their members.

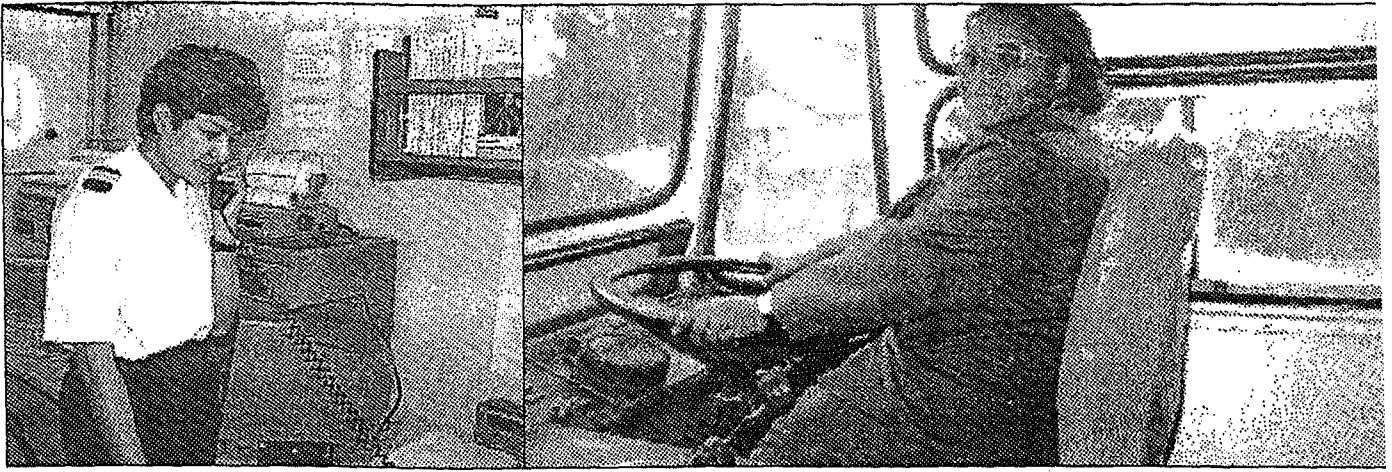
## Internationalism in practice

The spirit of internationalism has long been a proud part of trade union culture. It is time for that spirit to be given renewed practical effect.

The survival into the 21st century of a strong trade union movement nationally and globally - one of the essential pillars of any just and democratic society - may well depend on it. We can make a start this week.



*On the Franco-Swiss frontier at Basle/St Louis: Cross-border campaigning in practice during the ITF day of action on drivers' working hours on 8 September.*



The ITF's Women's Conference in Delhi tackled the issue of violence to transport workers, especially women.

# Why women face more risks at work

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Most transport workers carry out their normal tasks or duties under conditions that place them in a high risk group for violence or harassment, explained Dr Duncan Chappell, guest speaker at the ITF's 2nd Worldwide Women's Conference which concluded in Delhi on Tuesday.

Men are more likely than women to respond in an aggressive way to many workplace situations, but women are also at much greater risk of some types of victimisation at work than men, he added.

Dr Chappell, a lawyer and criminologist, cited the murder of a 59-year old woman taxi driver in Sydney, Australia – only months after she told a colleague: "If I don't get out of Sydney soon, I'll be dead." The co-author of the International Labour Organisation book "Violence at Work", published earlier this year, said: "The facts and figures which are available about violence in the transport workplace are at best fragmented; restricted to particular transport systems, localities or regions; and often very difficult to obtain or interpret."

### Preventive action

Working alone, with the public or with money made transport workers vulnerable to attack, Chappell explained, advocating preventive action, changes in the working environment (such as protective screens, alarms and design of stations) and the participation of workers and their representatives in identifying problems and implementing solutions.

"The first error many organisations make is failing to plan and prepare for traumatic incident management. After this, the most striking error is a failure to take appropriate action after the event because staff problems are not grossly evident or

*"Working alone, with the public or with money made transport workers vulnerable to attack."*



observable," commented Chappell.

In response to this speech, women in the meeting debated the linked problems of violence and harassment.

"There are call centre staff who sit all day with earphones on, listening to unrepeatably insults from customers – things they would never dare say face-to-face," said Harriet Yeo of the TSSA, Great Britain, about verbal harassment.

Cabin crew often have to deal with unruly passengers on their own, said Pornpimon Ahrens of the Thai Airways International Staff Association, and they have problems reporting incidents of violence and harassment in foreign airports.

Sue Gadjos of the Australian Maritime Union reported on the harassment of women dockers by seafarers, asking whether the ITF could develop means to deal with this.

"The gender dynamic in violence, harassment and bullying is power," concluded Peggy Nash, CAW Canada. "The problem won't go away until we can redress the balance in broader society."

### Working time

A panel debate took place during the conference on flexibility in working time – an essential issue for unions wishing to negotiate family-friendly policies but preserve secure employment.

The conference's conclusions set out a clear topic-led work programme for women's activities in the ITF over the coming four years, including an initiative on basic maternity rights, campaigns and surveys.

The conference agreed a view on candidates it supported for positions on the future Executive Board – Congress is due to consider a proposal to create five reserved seats – and ITF Women's Committee.

## CONGRESS NEWS

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(Delhi) 301 0042

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## WHAT'S ON

### ■ Seminar/workshops

A series of seminar/workshops has been organised for Friday, Saturday and Monday (30 and 31 October and 2 November) for Congress participants not involved in Section Conferences. All will be held in Hall 2 in the Conference Centre. Please note that they will be conducted in English only. They are:

### Fighting back: trade union rights in the new millennium:

Two representatives of the International Labour Organisation, Michael Sebastian and Bert Essenberg, from the ILO's Geneva office, will lead this workshop, which will be held twice: from 9am to 12.30pm on Friday and from 2pm to 5pm on Monday.

### Reaching out to the unorganised:

Monohar Kotwal, Senior Vice President of the Transport and Dock Workers' Union, Bombay, will be the main speaker at this seminar, to be held from 2pm to 5pm on Friday.

### Contesting globalisation: labour flexibility:

This will include a presentation by Professor Peter Turnbull, of Cardiff University, Wales, and will mark the publication of a joint ITF/Cardiff University report on the subject of labour flexibility in civil aviation. The seminar runs from 9am to 12.30pm on Saturday.

### The internet: spreading information at high speed and low cost:

Participants will have the opportunity of a hands-on demonstration of the ITF's worldwide website. The workshop will be held from 2pm to 5pm on Saturday and repeated on Monday from 9am to 12.30pm.

### ■ Sunday excursion

All Congress participants are invited to the excursion by train to Agra and the Taj Mahal on Sunday 1 November. Buses will leave the Congress hotels at 5.30am, returning at approximately 8pm.

### ■ Congress Dinner

The official Congress Dinner, to which all Congress participants are invited, will be held at 8pm on Tuesday 3 November at the Hotel Taj Mahal, 1 Mansingh Road, New Delhi. Buses will collect all guests from the various Congress hotels.

## OTHER NEWS

### Action day against flags of convenience

December 4 has been chosen by the ITF as a worldwide day of action against flag of convenience (FOC) shipping.

The theme of the day will be "flags of convenience and deregulation – no thanks", and will promote the ITF's campaign against deregulation in the ports industry as well as in shipping. Activities could take many forms, including industrial action, stop-work meetings, demonstrations, press conferences and leafletting.

The day of action is one of several events this year marking the 50th anniversary of the ITF's FOC campaign. In fact the day is a double anniversary, as 40 years ago on 4 December the ITF called the famous PanLibHonCo Boycott (named after the main FOC registers of the day) which effectively launched the ITF's high-profile industrial campaign against FOCs.

### Don't deport, ITF urges airline crews

The ITF is calling on affiliates to refuse co-operation with inhumane methods of forcible deportation. The plea follows the death of a Nigerian national, Sémira Adamu, at the hands of the Belgian authorities on board a Sabena aircraft during the process of her deportation from Belgium on 22 September.

Writing to Louis Tobback, Belgian Minister of the Interior, the ITF has urged a review of Belgian laws and police practices to ensure they conform to UN Convention 51 on the Status of Refugees.

### Croatian strike protest

Croatian inland navigation workers employed by Hidroput, Sisak, have been on strike since 2 September, protesting against the company's refusal to conclude negotiations on a collective agreement.

The ITF-affiliated Seafarers' and Dockers' Union of Croatia says that most of the company's vessels are not covered by the Croatian ship register and that living and working conditions are appalling.

Hidroput has tried to break the strike by hiring replacement labour but they have joined the ranks of the 67 strikers instead. The company is also refusing to transfer union membership fees to the union's bank account. The ITF believes such action constitutes a fraudulent act.

### Russians demonstrate

An estimated 25 million workers joined a general strike in Russia on 7 October to protest over the non-payment of wages – totalling about US\$15 billion – and the government's economic policies. Trade unionists are also calling for the resignation of President Boris Yeltsin.

## International Transport Workers' Federation

## Fédération internationale des ouvriers du transport

## Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte

## Internationella Transportarbetarefederationen

## 国際運輸労連

## Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation

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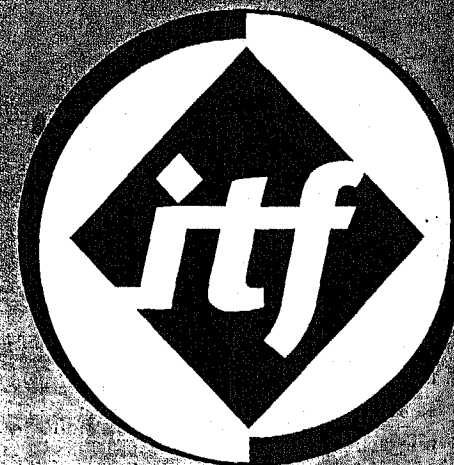
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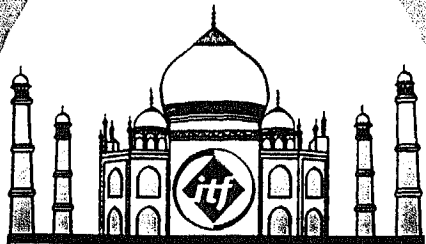
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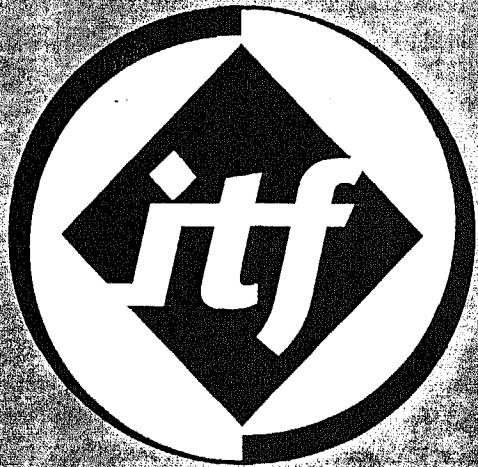


# ITF CONGRESS

No.2  
Friday 30 October 1998



39th Congress-New Delhi  
October 29 - 05 November 1998



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*Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (second from right) is greeted by ITF President Elke Eulen (second from left). Also pictured are Indian Railways Minister Nitish Kumar (left) and Umraomal Purohit, of the All India Railwaymen's Federation.*

Opening speakers focus on impact of global economy

## Welcome to India

The ITF's 39th Congress got under way at the Vigyan Bhavan Conference Centre, New Delhi, yesterday with greetings from the Indian Prime Minister and representatives of the Indian and global trade union movement.

More than 1,200 delegates and advisers representing over 300 unions from 90 countries heard the Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** compliment the ITF for its efforts to improve the working conditions of transport workers worldwide. He paid tribute also to the ITF's record this century in fighting colonialism and fascism.

The ITF Congress in Delhi was an important event in the life of the Indian trade union movement, he added.

The sentiment was echoed by **Umraomal Purohit**, President of the All India Railwaymen's Federation. Reminding participants that this was the first ITF Congress to be held outside Europe and North America, he said it was a milestone in the history of the ITF and an honour for Indian trade unions.

Representing the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, **Jim Baker** said the ITF was a pioneer in global trade unionism. The campaign

### Inside:

Testimony of a Hiroshima survivor moves Congress

### Back page:

Global Mariner to the rescue

# Testimony of terror

*The most moving speech at Congress yesterday came from Seiko Ikeda, a survivor of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945. Here, we reprint an extract from her speech, which came during the debate on an emergency motion calling on the ITF to campaign against the testing, deployment, proliferation and use of nuclear weapons. The motion was carried unanimously with only one abstention.*

*Other speakers included Umraomal Purohit, President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, who said that such a campaign would be in the ITF tradition of fighting against injustice and repression in the world.*

*Seconding the motion, Ashraf Kahn, Chair of the ITF Pakistan Co-ordinating Committee, said nuclear weapons were costly and all available resources should be invested for the betterment of mankind.*

“ I was exposed to the atomic bombing 1.5 kilometres away from the hypocenter in Tsurumi-cho, Hiroshima, at the age of 12 as a student at a girls junior high school. While I was working as one the mobilising students to clear the site where houses had been demolished to make firebreaks, I was hit by an intense flash which I felt thousands or tens of thousands times stronger than a bolt of lightning, followed by a really loud thump and then by pitch darkness. I may have been blown away from where I was standing by 15 metres.

When I came back to myself, I found my hair scorched and my clothes tattered and noticed that the red flesh was showing with the skins on the surface hanging down from my hands and

legs. I never thought of covering my skin, just uttering a shriek to cry for help.

The way a great number of people, badly burnt all over, were crying and walking in the same direction looked as if many ghosts marching. Hiroshima, which once was a lively city, had reduced to a monochromatic city of ashes with debris on the field all around.

There were dead bodies here and there lying close together or one on top of another. They looked like fish broiled too much, and they were so badly burned that it was hard to tell whether they were male and female, or whether they were children or older people. Those who were still alive stopped breathing covered with blood all over, and there were a great number of people who were not strong enough to utter a voice. We had to walk stepping over dead bodies and the seriously injured. We felt very hot on the body and found ourselves cooling the body in the river water together with our class mates. When I had a careful look at the face of a classmate, the skin on her face was hanging down like wax running down. I suppose my face looked the same.

In river more and more injured people got into the river behind, and the surface of the water was covered by many people, many of whom sank into the water when they died. I hear many of them were swollen in the water and they went up and down the river with the tide for several days.

After getting up to the river bank, I heard someone who got stuck under a house shouting in a loud voice "Help! Help!". All I, only a girl, could do in my power was to evacuate to a safer place. I tried not to hear the voice and left the place. Then an old man, who was seriously injured and could not move, held me on the ankle, begging water with a reproachful look.

I ran away from him. This remains so vivid even in my memory now. My heart ached later on, wondering what had become of the one who got stuck under the crushed house or the old man crying for help.

I realised that the atomic bomb not only rendered mass murder but also deprived people of humanity. ”



*The ITF is co-sponsoring with the Japanese national trade union centre, Rengo, an exhibition (pictured left) on the atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The exhibition, at the India Habitat Centre, Lodi Estate, New Delhi, is designed to focus attention on the campaign against nuclear weapons.*

### Press briefing

A press briefing is being held daily during Congress at 5pm in Room 314. All trade union journalists are invited to attend.

### Tours of Delhi

A tour of New Delhi and Old Delhi has been arranged by the official Congress travel agency Travel Pals. Visit the Travel Pals desk at the Congress Centre for more details.

### Calling all cartoonists

Are there any cartoonists or illustrators attending Congress? If so, Congress News invites you to submit contributions, whether comic or serious, for publication. Please deliver drawings to the ITF Press Office (Room 306) in the Conference Centre.

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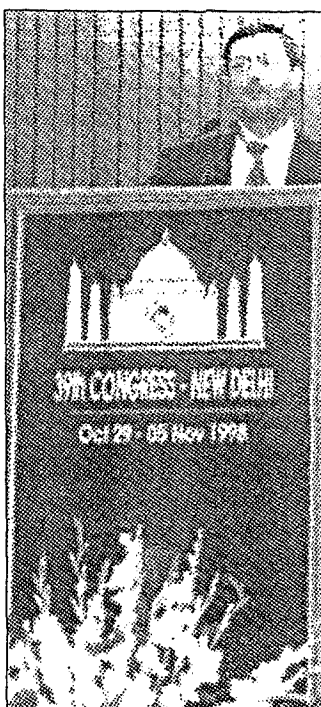
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Cockroft: ITF now represented in over 130 countries.

## Welcome to India

against flags of convenience had become a m for other sectors.

**Bill Brett**, Chair of the Workers' Group of the International Labour Organisation, called on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to change their policies in relation to the new liberal economics and the worship of the market.

ITF President **Eike Eulen** concluded the open session with a condemnation of the attacks on workers' rights which were taking place around the world. The message of the ITF campaign since *Global Mariner*, was to demonstrate the spirit of solidarity to all transport workers facing such attacks.

## Affiliates and activities on the increase

Introducing the Report of the Secretariat for the past four years, General Secretary **David Cockroft** pointed to the ITF's growth in influence and strength since the last Congress in Geneva in 1994.

The number of affiliates had risen by 21 per cent, with increases in every region and section. And the number of countries where the ITF was represented had gone up by 16 per cent and now stood at over 130. Meanwhile, new ITF offices had been opened in Tokyo, Delhi, Rio de Janeiro, Moscow and Ougadougou in addition to offices in Nairobi and Washington.

The ITF had expanded its activities not only within the various industrial sectors but also among women transport workers and in areas such as education and communications – with ITF being the first international trade union body with a presence on the internet.

In the debate following the General Secretary's address, speakers deplored the consequences of the new global economic system.

**Anatoli Vasiliev**, of the Trade Union of Railwaymen's and Transport Construction Workers of Russia, pointed to the disastrous effects of privatisation in Russia. He attacked the international financial organisations who made monetarist recommendations but bore no responsibility for their outcome, while ignoring the social dimension of their policies.

**Roy Chandra**, of the Bangladesh Truck Chalk Sramik Federation, described how workers in developing countries were losing their jobs, leading to a growth in the informal labour sector where they received even less protection than minimum in the formal sector. ITF unions need to increase their organising activities among the group of workers.

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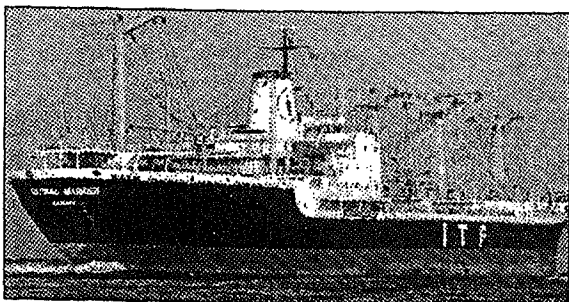
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# Global Mariner to the rescue

Appalling conditions on ships owned in Britain and Syria were caught on camera by Portuguese unions during an ITF week of action which coincided with the visit to Lisbon of the ITF campaign ship *Global Mariner* towards the end of September. Ships boarded by ITF Inspectors and union officials were found to be unsafe, lacking in food, or withholding pay from seafarers.

Essential supplies of food – meat, milk, and vegetables – had to be delivered by the crew of the *Global Mariner* to 14



seafarers from Egypt, Romania and Syria on the Panamanian-flag *Daisy 1*, the worst case documented during the week. The Syrian-owned ship discharging grain in Lisbon was found to have hardly any fresh food on board and some crew had reportedly not been paid for 10 months. Pay rates were much lower – US\$300 for a qualified able seaman (AB) – than those set by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Portuguese dockers unloading the grain stopped work on 23 September while the ITF and Portuguese unions confronted the master. Now a list of conditions has been given to the owner and Portuguese unions have blocked unloading of the cargo until they are met.

Another ship was boycotted after essential safety measures were found to be lacking: the Cambodian-registered *Saadoun*, which is managed by British company, IM Marine Services. Vital food supplies stored in the lifeboats in case of emergencies were found half submerged in water; the canister used for the

emergency water was riddled with holes; no fire hoses were in place, and when the ITF Inspector uncovered one of the ship's alarm bells the hammer was so rotten it broke away at the touch of a hand. On top of this wages on board ship were well below ILO and ITF standards – US\$500 per month for an AB.

On 24 September the *Saadoun's* owners signed an agreement with the ITF, and the local port authorities were called in to inspect the vessel.

Relief was also brought to the crew of Maltese-flag, Greek owned *Pella*. This ship has been arrested in Lisbon since May when the crew, from Greece, Ukraine, Sri Lanka and the Philippines, went on strike for non-payment of wages.

While they wait for court action to settle their claim, they are stranded with no money and no way home. When the *Global Mariner* arrived in Lisbon they were offered a few days work. The ITF crew also made a collection.

"The ITF will pursue this case to have the vessel auctioned as soon as possible so that these seafarers can receive all

they are owed," said ITF Assistant General Secretary Mark Dickinson.

In the meantime the ITF is to repatriate the entire crew with an advance of 25 per cent of their outstanding wages, estimated to be US\$280,000.

## Next ports of call...

Details of the itinerary of the ITF campaign ship *Global Mariner* around Latin America have now been finalised...

- Port of Spain: 28 November to 1 December
- Vitoria: 10 to 14 December
- Rio de Janeiro: 15 to 18 December
- Santos: 19 to 22 December
- Rio Grande: 24 to 28 December
- Buenos Aires: 29 December to 5 January
- Montevideo: 6 to 11 January
- Punta Arenas: 15 to 18 January
- San Vicente: 22 to 26 January
- Valparaiso: 27 to 31 January
- Guayaquil: 6 to 8 February
- Balboa: 12 to 18 February
- Mazatlan: 24 February to 1 March.

International Transport Workers' Federation

Fédération internationale des ouvriers du transport

Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte

Internationella Transportarbetarfederationen

國際運輸勞連

Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation

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