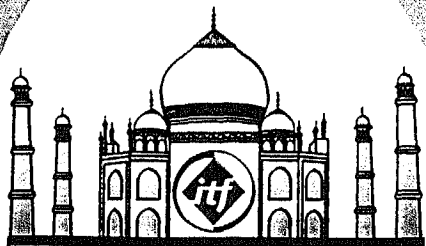
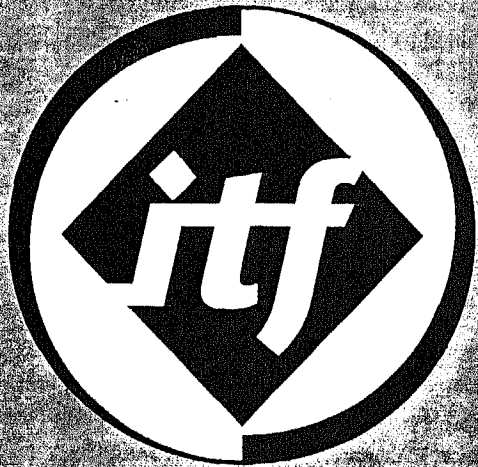


# ITF CONGRESS

No.2  
Friday 30 October 1998



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



NEWS

INFORMATIONS

NOTICIAS

NYHETER

情報

WAGEN

REPORT



*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.*

## NOTICE BOARD

### 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.

### 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.



**Cockroft: ITF now represented in over 130 countries.**

## Welcome to India

against flags of convenience had become a model 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 opening session with a condemnation of the attacks on workers' rights which were taking place around the world. The message of the ITF campaign slogan *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.

### CONGRESS NEWS

ITF Congress News is produced by the ITF Information and Policy Department.

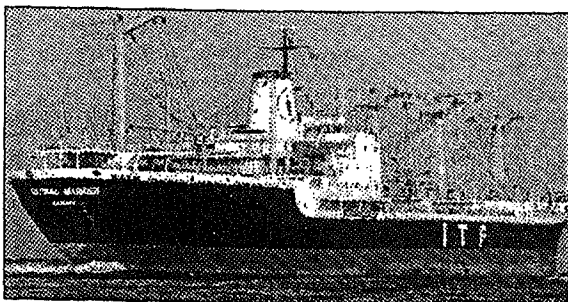
(Delhi) 301 0042

The contents are not the official record of proceedings.

# 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

Internationala Transportarbeiderförbundet

國際運輸勞連

Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation

МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ ТРАНСПОРТНИКОВ

### HEAD OFFICE

49/60 Borough Road, London SE1 1DS, United Kingdom  
 Tel: +44 (171) 403 2733  
 Fax: +44 (171) 357 7871  
 Telex: (051) 881397 ITF LON G  
 Email: mail@itf.org.uk  
 Website: http://www.itf.org.uk

### AFRICAN REGIONAL OFFICE

PO Box 66540, Nairobi, Kenya  
 Tel: +254 (2) 44 80 18  
 Fax: +254 (2) 44 80 20  
 Email: itf@nbn.net.co.ke

### ASIA/PACIFIC OFFICE

c/o Toko-Kaikan, 3-1-35 Shibaura, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108, Japan  
 Tel: +81 (3) 3798 2770  
 Fax: +81 (3) 3769 4471  
 Email: QWK13030@nifty.ne.jp  
 Website: http://www.bekkoame.or.jp/~itfjpn

### LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL OFFICE

Avda. Presidente Vargas 446/603, 20085-900 Centro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
 Tel: +55 (21) 233 2812/263 1065  
 Fax: +55 (21) 283 0314  
 Email: itforgbr@axc.apc.org

