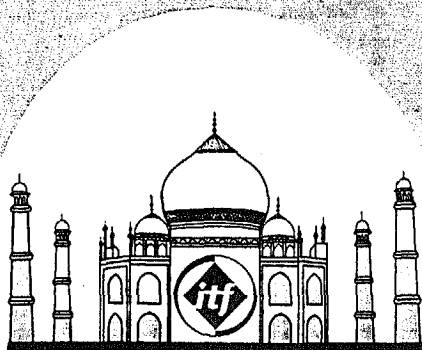
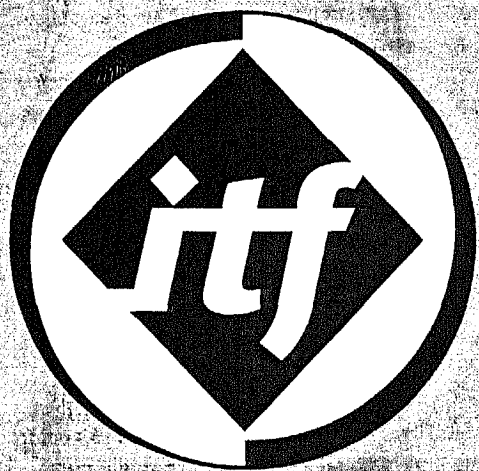


ITF CONGRESS

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



NEWS

INFORMATION

NOTICIAS

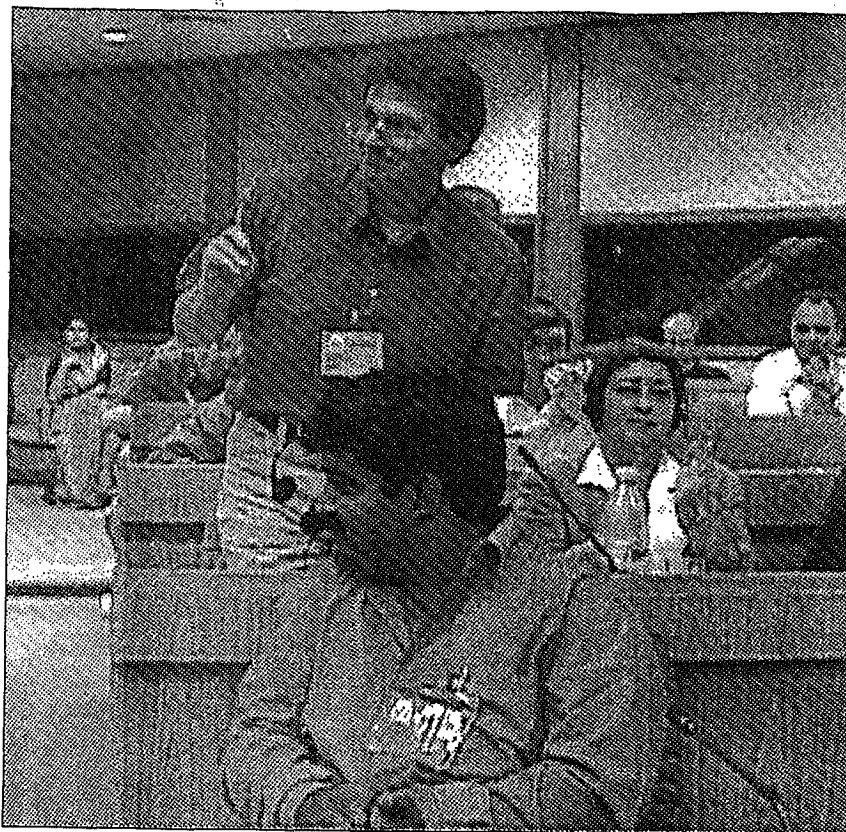
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Henri Popelier, of the Dutch VNC cabin crew union, acknowledges the applause of fellow delegates at the Civil Aviation Section Conference yesterday when he was elected on to the Section Committee.

See back page for full results from all three section conferences yesterday.

Aviation workers challenge globalisation

The Civil Aviation Section Conference focused on developing a strengthened response to the globalisation of the aviation industry. "This meeting is about mobilising solidarity and setting a clear direction for the next four years," noted the chair of the section, George Ryde, TGWU (United Kingdom).

The meeting reviewed the work of the last four year period and identified key areas for the future section work programme. A major priority will be union co-ordination within global airline alliances, with the section aiming at holding a meeting each year for unions in each global alliance. One affiliate suggested that unions should aim at creating world councils of unions in the alliances.

Contracting-out, the international mobility of jobs in airline revenue and accounting departments, the introduction of large numbers of temporary and part-time workers were all areas identified as causing unions major problems. The section is calling for an ITF-wide campaign on international labour flexibility. A "Ground Staff Safety Professionals" campaign will aim at keeping contract operators with inadequate standards from entering the industry.

Aviation safety is under constant attack from

Excursion tomorrow

Details of tomorrow's excursion to Agra and the Taj Mahal, to which all Congress participants are invited, are as follows:

- Buses leave Congress hotels at 5.30am
 - Trains depart New Delhi railway station at 6.30am
 - Arrive Agra at 9.00am and visit Fatehpur Sikri/Taj Mahal
 - Lunch at 1pm at the Mughal Sheraton Hotel
 - Visit Fatehpur Sikri/Taj Mahal at 2.30pm
 - Return to railway station at 5.15pm
 - Trains depart for New Delhi at 6pm
 - Arrive New Delhi at 9pm and transfer to hotels.
- NB: Buses and trains will depart promptly.

OTHER NEWS

Protest to Zimbabwe on rail restructuring

The ITF has protested strongly to the government of Zimbabwe about the way the country's rail unions, including the ITF-affiliated Zimbabwe Amalgamated Railwaymen's Union, are not being consulted on proposals for the restructuring of National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ).

Though formally represented on the Tripartite NRZ Restructuring Committee, the unions have found that their concerns have been ignored and that reports prepared by private consultants have superseded those of a joint union/management sub-committee.

"The ITF has consistently maintained its position that all stakeholders, including trade unions, must be allowed to participate fully in structural changes in an industry," ITF General Secretary David Cockroft said in October in a letter to the Minister of Transport and Energy. He also cautioned against the separation of NRZ's infrastructure and operations, pointing out that this had proved unsuccessful when implemented in other countries.

Complain to ILO when rights are violated, unions are urged

How to use the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to challenge attacks on trade union rights was the theme of yesterday's Congress workshop "Fighting back: trade union rights in the new millennium". Led by Michael Sebastian and Bert Essenberg from the ILO, the workshop focused on case studies, the experiences of delegates facing problems in their home countries, and how the ILO's complaints mechanism works.

A delegate from the Philippines asked what help the ILO could give to transport workers who are told they cannot join a union because they are regarded as public servants, while another from Zimbabwe reported that railway workers he represented who are promoted to supervisory positions are being denied the right to belong to a union because they have moved to managerial positions.

Extensive ILO case law showed that every worker has the right to join a union, said Essenberg and Sebastian. Both examples represented a violation of ILO Convention 87 (Freedom of Association) and a complaint could be submitted to the ILO.

Sebastian explained: "If a state is a member of the ILO, the organisation's guiding principles like freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining will apply whether or not that state has ratified conventions 87 and 98."

Welcome for Croatian court ruling

The ITF has strongly welcomed a decision by Croatia's constitutional court to annul an article in the country's railway law, thereby extending the right to strike.

The ruling is a major victory for the ITF-affiliated Autonomous Trade Union of Communication-Transportation Workers of Croatian Railways which referred the matter to the court after a strike in December 1996 when the government declared that 85 per cent of railway traffic was essential and therefore must be exempted from industrial action. The strike was later ruled to be unlawful.

The court's decision, which takes effect from 15 December, annuls Item 4 Article 23 of the Law on Croatian Railways which gives the Minister of Maritime Affairs, Transportation and Communications the authority to decide which traffic is essential during a railway strike. While the court said it recognised the need to limit the railway workers' right to strike, such conditions should not significantly restrict the rights guaranteed by the Croatian constitution and international conventions.

Transatlantic dockers' alliance

US and Dutch dockers' unions have agreed on regular bilateral meetings, specifically aimed at checking the influence of major container lines operating in and out of New York and Rotterdam.

Signatories to the pact are the ITF-affiliated International Longshoremen's Association, which

covers the US east coast, and FNV Bondgenoten. The ITF's Dockers' Section is also a party to the deal.

The move is being heralded as the first example of a trade union "global alliance" mirroring the link-ups between leading container carriers.

Union concerns have been heightened by the recently concluded deal between Maersk and Europe Combined Terminals to develop a major new facility in Rotterdam.

French strike against rail violence

Suburban rail commuter traffic in Paris was paralysed for four days in October as railway workers protested against assaults on public transport. The protest was joined by workers in the northern region around Calais, hitting mainline and local services.

The strike prompted Prime Minister Lionel Jospin to make a rare live television appearance on 8 October to outline measures aimed at protecting rail workers. These included increasing penalties for violence on trains and in stations, and giving transport employees limited police powers to help them fight back.

Transport unions say violence against their members rose by more than 30 per cent in the first eight months of this year compared with 1997 levels. Among recent concessions for the strikers has been a pledge to provide an additional 400 police officers to patrol railway stations and the buses. The SNCF national rail company has also promised to take on 800 more staff next year to boost security.

Support for Turkish union

The ITF has donated UK£10,000 (US\$16,500) from the International Solidarity Fund to support Turkish affiliate, the United Trade Union of Transport Employees (BTS), in its fight against proposed government legislation to restrict the right to strike and bargain collectively.

Earlier this year the union organised three days of protests against the legislative plans, which resulted in the government taking legal action against protesters, in some cases cutting their wages. Sixteen members of the union's executive committee are under threat of compulsory transfers to remote areas of Turkey.

Meanwhile, a new report on trade union rights in Turkey says that country's respect for many labour rights is poor, despite strong and persistent criticism from the International Labour Organisation.

The report by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, published in October, concludes that there are continual violations of trade union rights, and the government should take urgent action to change the law and examine how it is being abused by employers.

NOTICE BOARD

Publications

Make sure that you regularly visit the publications area opposite the Information Desk in the main foyer of the Conference Centre. Free ITF publications are on display there, with new material being added daily. Please note that copies of ITF Congress News are available at the information desk.

Civil Aviation Section Committee

A meeting of the newly elected Civil Aviation Section Committee will be held at 2.30pm today in Hall 6.

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.

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

The series of seminar/workshops continues today and on Monday (31 October and 2 November) for Congress participants not involved in Section Conferences. All are 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 from 2pm to 5pm on Monday.

■ 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.

Aviation workers challenge globalisation

industry cost cutting. The ITF involvement in international regulatory bodies, setting rules such as those protecting flight and cabin crew from fatigue and ensuring minimum crew complements on board aircraft has become vital to protecting international safety standards. Key future safety battlefields were identified such as the development of new very large aircraft, as well as the increased cost cutting pressures on air traffic control.

A number of campaigns will tackle specific issues such as violence against staff and sexual discrimination.

Success of road transport action day a blueprint

The widespread success of the worldwide day of action organised by the ITF on 8 September 1998 – aimed at reducing the working hours of professional drivers – demonstrated that properly organised action and campaign plans can bring about victories for road transport workers. That was the clear message from delegates attending the ITF Road Transport Workers' Section Conference yesterday.

The success of the day of action was widely praised. Unions from Europe reported that it had attracted major press coverage throughout Europe. Erasmo Flores (Honduras) said that the "go-slow" action by his union on 8 September had resulted in improved working conditions for lorry drivers, while Kazuhiro Niizuma (Japan) reported that the Japanese government task force discussing bus construction safety had adopted the points that his union had raised.

While delegates pledged unanimously to continue with the campaign, Roger Poletti (France) stressed that future section activity should also investigate the appalling working conditions facing professional drivers engaged in the "just-in-time" system, where some have to work three shifts in a day, while Julien Tahou (Ivory Coast) drew attention to the problems of vandalism and harassment by police that professional drivers face.

The meeting agreed that the ITF should continue its work on the activities of multinational transport companies in co-operation with other international trade secretariats, as well as to focus on activities related to taxi drivers, telematics, non-mobile staff and women.

The section will hold a special women's meeting in conjunction with the next steering committee meeting to identify issues of specific concern to



Indian road transport workers demonstrate on the ITF's international day of action on 8 September. The Road Transport Section now wants to build on the success of the worldwide protest over hours and conditions.

CONGRESS NEWS

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The contents are not the official record of proceedings.

Success of road transport action day a blueprint

women road transport workers. Motions on women transport workers, the road haulage industry, and the working conditions of truck and lorry drivers in India were unanimously approved by the section conference.

Why ILO role for seafarers must be preserved

The involvement of the International Labour Organisation in maritime affairs must be preserved at all costs, delegates at the Seafarers' Section conference agreed yesterday. In particular, the ITF should press for the retention of the ILO's maritime machinery, in the form of specially convened maritime conferences recommending minimum standards of employment for seafarers.

A resolution from the conference also called on affiliates to approach their respective governments and national trade union centres to explain the importance of the ILO's maritime machinery and to request their support in efforts to preserve it.

ITF Assistant General Secretary Mark Dickinson told delegates that the ILO's involvement in regulating maritime employment standards was under threat, not least from within the ILO itself.

"The message to come from maritime unions at this Congress is that we cannot accept any weakening of the ILO's position within the industry," he said. "We are a unique industry and our seafarers need the vital support which ILO standards provide."

The ILO currently sets an international minimum wage for seafarers - which, though relatively low, is still regularly found to be flouted by flag of convenience shipowners - and sets other mandatory minimum standards for the industry which are adopted at the ILO's special maritime conferences.

The section conference also unanimously carried a motion supporting the principle of maritime cabotage - whereby local shipping trades are restricted to national-flag ships - and affirming solidarity with unions affected by moves to lift these restrictions. The device is an important weapon for preserving seafarers' jobs on national shipping registers, the resolution noted.

The resolution is seen as backing for the efforts by unions in European Union countries such as Greece, Italy and Spain who are opposing the decision to ban cabotage in EU waters.

Election results

The following candidates were elected on 30 October 1998.

Civil Aviation Section

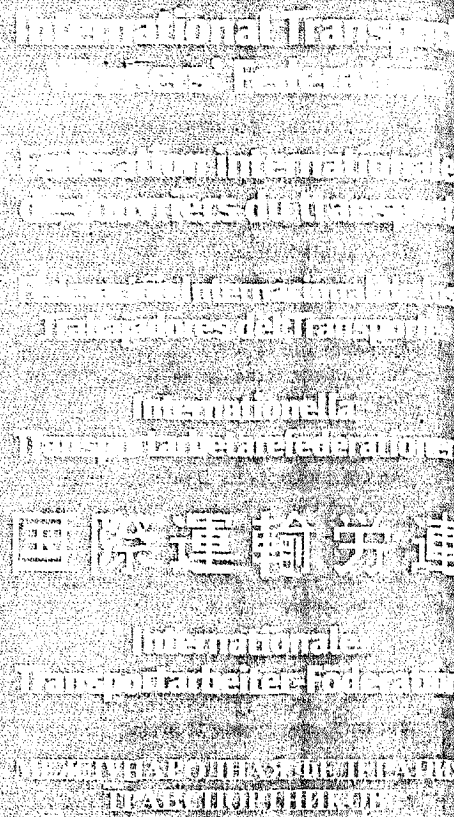
- Chair: George Ryde (Great Britain)
- Vice-chair: Jim Sprang (USA)
- Women's liaison representative: Narelle Gill (Australia)
- General Section Committee Representatives: Andreas Hess (Germany), Yves Veyrier (France), Jagdish Lal (India), Alejandra Barrales (Mexico), Henri Popeller (Netherlands), Lucca Martini (Italy).
- Asia Pacific: Darshan Paul (India)
- Latin America and Caribbean: Pedro Azambuja (Brazil)
- North America: Pat Friend (USA)
- Africa: Ken Chipato (Zimbabwe)
- Europe: Miguel de Julian (Spain)
- Ground Staff: Claus Lindegaard (Denmark)
- Cabin Crew: Betty Lecouturier (France).

Road Transport Section

- Chair: Peter Baranowski (Germany)
- Vice-chairs: Hugo Moyano (Argentina), Asbjorn Wahl (Norway)
- Women's representative: Janaina Fernandes (Brazil)
- Africa: Farayi Makanda (Zimbabwe).

Seafarers' Section

- Chair: John Fay (USA)
- First vice-chair: Brian Orrell (Great Britain)
- Second vice-chair: Thomas Tay (Singapore)
- Asia/Pacific: Shoshiro Nakanishi
- Africa: Abraham Chande (Tanzania)
- N America: Rene Lioeanjie (USA)
- Latin America and Caribbean: Rafael Grigera (Argentina)
- Europe: Agis Tselentis (Greece)
- Women's representative: Anna-Beth Skrede (Norway).



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