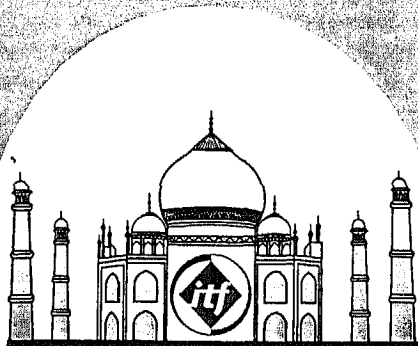
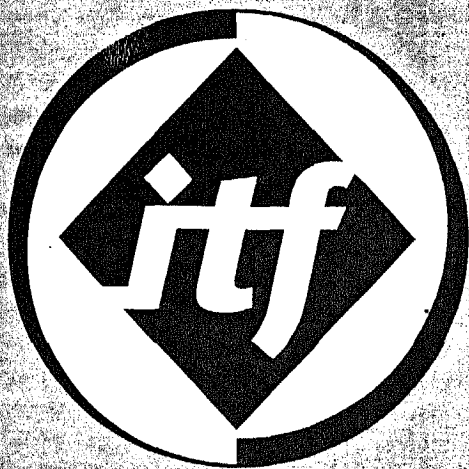


ITF CONGRESS

No.6
Wednesday 4 November
1998



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



NEWS
INFORMATIONS
NOTICIAS
NYHETER
情報
NYHETER



Saki Rizwana (left), who was yesterday nominated to the Executive Board, celebrates at last night's Congress Dinner at the Taj Mahal Hotel with fellow delegates Sufia Akhtere (right), also from Bangladesh, and Mona Singh from India.

Communications and training the key

General Secretary opens debate on Mobilising Solidarity

How can the ITF serve the interests of transport workers' unions in an age of global markets, transnational employers and workplace deregulation?

The debate on "Mobilising Solidarity" the policy document from the Executive Board which sets out to answer these questions, began yesterday with General Secretary David Cockcroft stressing the need for the ITF and affiliates to modernise their communications and training. They also need to streamline their structures to make cross-border solidarity a reality.

"Mobilising Solidarity" was a document about ideas, about identifying problems and proposing



solutions for improvement, he said, "an agenda for action, a signpost for where we should be concentrating our activities over the next four years".

High on the list of priorities were the twin concerns of education and training. Cockcroft told delegates that one of the most important tools that affiliates could be given is education, to give them a better understanding of how international

NOTICE BOARD

End of Congress rally

The ITF's Indian affiliates are inviting all Congress participants and visitors to attend a rally tomorrow afternoon (5 November) to mark the close of Congress. A fleet of buses will leave the Conference Centre at 3pm and arrive at the Talkatora Stadium in time for the 3.30pm start of the rally which is expected to finish by 5pm.

Souvenir stall

Congress souvenirs, including T-shirts, towels and sarongs, are on sale near the briefcase area in the foyer outside the Plenary Hall.

Publications

Make sure that you regularly visit the publications area near the briefcase 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.

Press briefing

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

The internet: Spreading information at high speed and low cost

ITF Systems Operations Supervisor Paul Nieve reports on the internet workshops which he ran at Congress:

The ITF was one of the first organisations within the trade union sector to make use of the internet as a means of maintaining round-the-clock links with regional offices and field workers. Today, the internet has become crucial to the ITF and many of our key campaigns and activities would not function without it.

With this in mind, two workshops on the internet have been held at Congress. The aim was to try to remove some of the mystery that surrounds the subject. So, the workshop started with a brief history lesson: where the internet came from, how it works, and how it evolved. Today the system spans the globe, uniting people and allowing the exchange of information regardless of national borders.

The ITF's use of the internet was also discussed. An important part of this use is our World Wide Web page (<http://www.itf.org.uk>) which contains all the latest ITF information and news. Usually, the latest stories will be seen on the web page before they are seen anywhere else. There is also a variety of other ITF material and publications from the many sections of the ITF, and like

everything else this can be accessed at the touch of a button.

Perhaps the most important part of the ITF's web page is the way it reaches a global audience, many of whom would ordinarily have no concept whatsoever of the ITF or its work. Nothing has served to illustrate this as well as the recent dockers' dispute in Australia. The ITF received hundreds of messages of solidarity from Australians, and many of them came from people who ordinarily would have no contact with the ITF. Students, professors and doctors sent their goodwill messages to us via the internet; some continue to maintain links with us to this day.

The ITF uses electronic mail, or e-mail, to keep its regional offices in touch with headquarters in London. E-mail also links our many field-workers around the world, and without e-mail it would be extremely difficult to co-ordinate effective world-wide activities. A good example of this is the flag of convenience campaign, which has become more and more efficient as ITF Inspectors adopt the new technology.

With information becoming the new worldwide currency, anyone who is not connected to the internet could be left behind and the ITF strongly urges affiliates to get connected. If you are unsure about how to do this we will be happy to give advice, and you should contact the ITF Systems Department in London for further information. If you already have access to the internet and we don't know about it, why not make contact with us? When mobilising solidarity effective communication is essential, and there are few methods of communication more efficient than the internet.



Delegates voted yesterday to reserve five seats for women on the Executive Board, the main governing body of the ITF between Congresses.

In addition, a constitutional amendment was carried to establish a Women's Committee, which will comprise some 30 representatives from the sections and regions and will include women EB members.

"This is the culmination of

New women's structures agreed

more than two years of consultation," said ITF Women's Officer Sarah Finke. "Now it is up to affiliates to make them work by ensuring that women are encouraged to represent their union at national and international level."

■ Congress also voted to revise

the method of electing Executive Board members. The General Council, which served as an electoral college, has been scrapped. EB members will now be elected directly from their regions and, in the case of Europe, North America and Asia/Pacific, from constituencies within the region.

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.

trade union training should include an element of education on international issues in order for all workers to grasp the impact globalisation was having on their daily lives.

On communication, the General Secretary said the internet was extremely important as, for the first time, it offered trade unions the opportunity to send messages not only quickly, but cheaply. One of the biggest barriers to communication

Communications and training the key

required to make it difficult for those making it difficult for unions, he said.

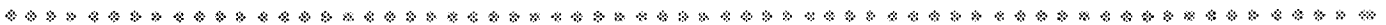
On the legal front too, the ITF would not stand still. Nationally and internationally, the boundaries of the law must be pushed back. He told delegates that it must not be used to hamstring affiliates' abilities to deliver international solidarity and called on them to think big and think new. "We are not suggesting that we launch a programme of confrontations with the law, but we must push as far as we can go."

It was important for the ITF to lead the debate about how the world trade union movement could make international solidarity more effective, he told delegates. The ITF Secretariat had been seeking ways to improve how it worked and that now it was the time for affiliates themselves to take action. "It is your turn to contribute to the process of making international solidarity as effective as it can be - that is our target for the next four years."



were trade unions themselves. "While they are bureaucratic to ensure the appropriate political control, their structures sometimes make it difficult to do things quickly."

Central to "Mobilising Solidarity" was the need to be proactive, Cockcroft told delegates, and the agenda for change within the ITF included making the organisation more campaign-oriented. New ideas were needed and new forms of action were



Election results

Voting by the Joint Seafarers' and Dockers' Sections Meeting was completed late on Monday (2 November) for the two key bodies which manage the ITF's flag of convenience campaign.



Randall Howard (South Africa), elected on to the Fair Practices Committee.

Fair Practices Committee

S=seafarers' representative

D=dockers' representative

- Argentina: M Castro (S)
- J Cocchia (D)
- Australia: F Ross (S)
- J Coombs (D)
- Bangladesh: S M Shafiqur Rahman (S)
- Belgium: B Dielis (S) B Baete (D), M Chaffart (D)
- Brazil: S A Filho (S)
- M Urugualo (D)
- Canada: M Desjardins (S)
- T Dufresne (D)
- Chile: P Bascuñan (S) M Oses (D)
- Croatia: B Berlan (S)
- Cyprus: P Stavrou (D)
- Denmark: H Nielsen (D)
- Estonia: I Donovan (S)
- Finland: P Teräväinen (S)
- A Mariano J Koivunen (D)
- France: D Adalberon (S)
- J-P Le Port (D)
- Germany: D Benze (S)
- M Rosenberg (D)
- Ghana: S K Yalley (S)
- K Asamoah (D)
- Great Britain: B Orrell (S)
- A Santamera (S) G Stevenson (D)
- Greece: J Halas (S)
- Guyana: C Duncan (S)
- Hong Kong: Ting Kam Yuen (S)
- India: L Barnes (S) M Kotwal (D)
- Indonesia: A Soemadji (S)
- Italy: R Di Fiore (S) G Maggi (D)
- Jamaica: A St Clair (D)
- Japan: S Nakanishi (S)
- H Nakao (D)
- Korea: Eul Yong Kwon (S)
- Oh Moon Hwan (D)

- Latvia: I Pavlov (S)
- A Holodnuks (D)
- Lithuania: V Bendoraitis (D)
- Mexico: A R Fritz (S)
- Netherlands: J Vriesen (S)
- N Stam (D)
- New Zealand: D Morgan (S)
- T Ryan (D)
- Nigeria: J K Ozorewor (S)
- S Pepple (D)
- Norway: A Hansen (S)
- P Østvold (D)
- Pakistan: A Panjri (S)
- Ashraf Khan (D)
- Panama: L Amaya (D)
- Philippines: G Oca (S)
- R S Oca (D)
- Poland: J Cegielski (S)
- K Szymichowski (D)
- Portugal: A Delgado (S)
- Romania: P Costel (D)
- Russia: V Shirochenkov (S)
- A Shepel (D)
- Singapore: T Tay (S)
- Leow Ching Chuan (S)
- Tan Hoon Klang (D)
- Slovenia: K Filipcic (S)
- South Africa: R Howard (D)
- South Pacific (Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu/Kiribati): T Kaiteie / V Valo (S) A Rawall (D)
- Spain: M D Segade (S)
- Sri Lanka: B Tampoe (D)
- Sweden: T Abrahamsson (S)
- H Wahlström (D)
- Switzerland: H Baumgartner (S)
- Taiwan: Chang Kai-Feng (S)
- Shih Yung-Lin (D)
- Tanzania: A H Chande (S)
- M H Missanga (D)
- Trinidad: F Mungroo (D)

- Ukraine: Y Izotov (S)
- V Zubkov (D)
- USA: J Fay (S) M McKay (S)
- J Bowers (D) B McWilliams (D)

Fair Practices Committee Steering Group

Ex-officio members:

- J Fay (USA), J Bowers (USA), B Orrell (Great Britain), J Coombs (Australia), T Tay (Singapore), B Baete (Belgium), A H Chande (Tanzania), J Khamis (Kenya), S Nakanishi (Japan), M Kotwal (India), A Tselentis (Greece), K Hansen (Denmark), R Lioeanjie (USA), B McWilliams (USA), R Grigera (Argentina), M Urugualo (Brazil)

Elected members:

- Africa: R Howard (South Africa)
- Asia/Pacific: L Barnes (India), Ting Kam Yuen (Hong Kong), Oh Moon Hwan (Korea), G Oca (Philippines)
- Europe: B Berlan (Croatia), M Rosenberg (Germany), R Di Fiore (Italy), N Stam (Netherlands), V Shirochenkov (Russia), T Abrahamsson (Sweden)
- North America: Hopkins (USA)
- Latin America and the Caribbean: P Bascuñan (Chile)

Tourism Services Section

The following members of the section committee were omitted from the results in yesterday's issue:

- Tuula Lehmusto (Finland), Gerd Hütter (Germany), and Elena Rodriguez (Spain).

OTHER NEWS

ITF raises violence issue at ICAO

The ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) Assembly, meeting in Montreal from 21 September to 2 October, has for the first time recognised that unruly behaviour of passengers on board aircraft is a threat to aviation safety, after its Legal Committee heard presentations by the ITF and IATA, representing the world's airlines.

The government of Canada welcomed the working papers from the ITF and IATA and noted that there was a widespread problem of local police forces being unwilling to take jurisdiction for such incidents upon the aircraft's arrival. The ICAO Legal Committee was urged to give this topic a high priority.

The Legal Committee noted that there was a problem concerning the response of the judicial authorities in the destination countries concerning incidents which may not have been regarded as a serious threat to aviation safety. It noted that the Tokyo Convention gives states the authority but not the obligation to deal with this issue.

ITF Civil Aviation Secretary Stuart Howard, presenting the ITF Working Paper, said the ITF had documented reports of crew members being punched, head-butted, kicked in the back, bitten on the cheek, throttled, hit by a bottle, and, in the case of a KLM cabin crew member, stabbed. "This is what is now being called air rage," he said. "It is also a threat to flight safety."

Cabin crew in one airline had reported around 100 incidents of verbal or physical abuse per month, he added. A survey of ITF unions indicated that these incidents affected all airlines and were on the increase. American Airlines reported 296 incidents in 1994. This rose to 882 in 1995. Incidents in United Airlines went from 226 in 1995 to 404 in 1996.

Ports privatisation: No opposition in principle

It is not privatisation in principle but privatisation in practice which ITF affiliates oppose, two international conferences of port employers were told in October. Most unions have dropped their ideological opposition to private ownership of ports, ITF Dockers' Secretary Kees Marges told the Terminal

Operators' Conference in Dubai from 5 to 7 October. But they would strongly defend the rights and conditions of their members and resist attempts by employers to bypass them and unilaterally impose new working conditions.

Marges went on to expound the same argument at the International Maritime Convention on Exchange and Contracts at Reunion from 14 to 16 October.

"I grew up in the port of Rotterdam and I know from my own experience that privately owned stevedores, or distribution centres, or tugboats, or any other privately owned business, are not by definition against the interests of workers, and neither are they guaranteed to destroy trade unions," he told the Dubai conference. He went on to urge employers to consult unions fully before initiating any programme of change and urged that it was in their long-term best interests to maintain trade union negotiating rights in order to create good industrial relations.

He told conference participants at Reunion: "Attempts to impose reforms unilaterally or to use labour sub-contracting arrangements which exclude trade unions altogether will always be bitterly resisted. Workers are only prepared to accept compromise and to support the proposed restructuring if the introduction of the restructuring is based on agreements reached after negotiation between the authorities, employers and trade unions."

Action to combat piracy

An initiative to bring south-east Asian countries together to combat piracy is being organised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) together with the ITF and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).

An exploratory mission visited the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia in September and October, ITF Assistant General Secretary Mark Dickinson, officials of the IMO and ICS.

The mission impressed on the countries the magnitude and seriousness of the piracy problem which in the last 15 years has become a major threat to the safe operation of ships and the safety of seafarers.

International Transport
Workers' Federation

Fédération Internationale
des Ouvriers du Transport

Federación Internacional de los
Trabajadores del Transporte

Internationella
Transportarbetarefederationen

國際運輸勞連

Internationale
Transportarbeiter-Föderation

INTERNATIONAL KONINKRIJK DER
TRANSPORTWERKLIJDELIJKE

HEAD OFFICE:

49/60 Borough Road, London SE1 1DS, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (171) 403 2733

Fax: +44 (171) 357 7871

Telex: (051) 8811397 ITF LDN 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@nbnet.co.ke

ASIA/PACIFIC OFFICE

c/o Toko-Kalkan, 3-1-35 Shibaura, Minato-ku,

Tokyo 108, Japan

Tel: +81 (3) 3798 2770

Fax: +81 (3) 3769 4471

Email: QWK11030@nifty.ne.jp

Website: <http://www.bekkoame.or.jp/~itfjp>

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL OFFICE

Avda. Presidente Vargas 446/603, 20085-900 Centro,

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Tel: +55 (21) 233 2812/263 1965

Fax: +55 (21) 283 0314

Email: itforgbr@ax.apc.org

