



In case of reproduction, please mention source (ITF) · En cas de reproduction, veuillez mentionner la source (ITF) · Nachdruck bei Quellenangabe gestattet (ITF) · Var god ange källan vid eftertryck (ITF)

No. 8

August 1976

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

News and Views from the ITF

- ITF Civil Aviation Section Secretary Mohammad Hoda's
passport is impounded by Indian authorities 78
ITF Welfare Fund cheques are handed over 79

Transport

- EEC declaration of intent on fishing limits 79
British Rail replies to government's transport policy
document 79
Ban on pets aboard British-flag vessels 80
Seafarers' president outlines four-point plan for US
merchant fleet 80

Trade Unions

- European young railwaymen's seminar held in Vienna 87
British merchant navy officers' union protects rights of
members with MFC 87

Social and Industrial News

- Canadian railwaymen vote in favour of settlement 82
UTA cabin staff strike over ending of Pacific postings
(France) 82
French airline pilots protest at training cuts 82
New rates for German inland navigation workers 83
British seafarers' pay talks referred to arbitration 83
KLM offer to end five-year stewardesses' contracts 83
Increased single-manning of locomotive cabs in Sweden 84
New contract for Seaboard flight despatchers (United States) 84

News in Brief 84

In Memoriam: Lawrence White 85

Lina Kant-Clutterbuck 86

Personalia 87

Forthcoming meetings 87

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

ITF Civil Aviation Secretary Mohammad Hoda's passport impounded by Indian authorities

Affiliates will be well aware of the conditions of repression which exist in India as a direct result of the seizure by Mrs Gandhi of dictatorial powers of government.

Much of her attention has been concentrated on the Trade Union movement as she can see, in the existence of organizations devoted to the advancement of social justice and the eradication of governmental abuse and corruption, a threat to her power. Where and when it has been possible for her to imprison those opposed to her malpractices she has done so.

Fortunately, not all of her critics are within the grasp of her police and this includes the ITF, which has been one of her strongest critics, particularly following the arrests of J.P. Narayan and George Fernandes, the President of the All India Railwaymen's Federation. Nevertheless, the Indian Government appears to be under the impression that it can silence ITF criticism by attacking one of the officers of the ITF, who happens to be a citizen of India.

Mohammad Hoda has worked for the ITF since 1965 (since 1968 as the Secretary for the Civil Aviation Section) and that appears, in the eyes of Mrs. Gandhi, to be a crime which warrants the seizure by the Indian High Commission in London of Mr. Hoda's passport which was impounded on 2 August on instructions from Delhi. In return he was offered a document which would enable him to return to India to undoubted imprisonment without specific charges being made against him and without the right of appeal to any court.

Despite several telephone calls to the Indian High Commission the only reason given for impounding Hoda's passport was "in the interests of the general public".

We would like Mrs. Gandhi to know that, so far as the work of the ITF is concerned, this particular example of dictatorial venom is only a minor irritant, but for Mohammad Hoda this puts him in the position of being an exile from his homeland. This should serve to strengthen the resolve of affiliated unions to assist the Indian people and trade unions to achieve a society in which social justice prevails, in which abuse and corruption have no place and in which freedom of speech and democratic action are not denied.

ITF Welfare Fund cheques are handed over

ITF Welfare Fund cheques for £20,000 and £10,000 respectively were recently handed over to the Swedish Sea Rescue Institution to assist with the costs involved in running a network of lifeboat stations and to the Merchant Navy House, Hull (England), to help build a new wing. The cheques were presented by Gunnar Karlsson, president of the Swedish Seamen's Union, in Gothenburg and by Derek Seaman, Director of Professional and Welfare Services of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association, in Hull. Brother Seaman has also presented a film projector to the Missions to Seamen, Rotterdam on behalf of the Fund.

TRANSPORT

EUROPE
=====

EEC declaration of intent on fishing limits

EEC Foreign Ministers have given final approval to a declaration of intent to decide by 1 October on the provisions for an extension of Community fishing limits to 200 miles.

GREAT BRITAIN
=====

BR replies to government's transport policy document

Last month, British Rail published its official reply to the government's consultative document on transport policy, details of which were given in the May issue of the ITF Newsletter (page 45). BR argues that over the next five years it will be necessary to shed 2,500 miles of unprofitable rail passenger routes -- perhaps allowing some loss-making services to be operated by buses -- and to further reduce operating costs in this labour-intensive industry by cutting manpower from 190,000 to 150,000, while looking at new ways of improving productivity. (The suggestion is made that a special redevelopment fund might be created to meet the transitional costs of redundancy and to provide money for investment in labour-saving equipment.) BR asks the government to look again at its policy on commuter fares in London and the South East, which would have to be doubled if government policy of making these services pay their way by 1981 were followed, leading to an

estimated 15 per cent loss of passengers over five years, largely to private transport. The document also calls on the government to examine new ways of financing the railways. A flexible infrastructure grant is proposed for the purpose of providing and maintaining the basic railway network, with more flexible deficit grants being suggested for the socially desirable but unviable parts of railway business such as commuter and local and provincial passenger services, and with a measure of "equity" capital being applied in the case of the potentially profitable freight parcel and inter-city services.

Details of union reaction to the BR document "An Opportunity for Change" will be given in the next issue of the ITF Newsletter.

Ban on pets aboard British-flag vessels

From 31 March next, there will be a total prohibition on board British-flag vessels of pets of the types and breeds defined in the 1974 Rabies Act, with the sole exception of animals licensed for importation into the United Kingdom. This decision has been taken by the British government, in consultation with seafarers' unions and the shipowners, as part of the effort to prevent the disease of rabies from entering the UK, a rabies-free area, from countries where it is endemic.

UNITED STATES

=====

Seafarers' president outlines four-point plan for US merchant fleet

Paul Hall, president of the ITF-affiliated Seafarers' International Union of North America and of the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department, has accused some of the nation's largest corporations of undermining national security by favouring foreign- rather than American-flag vessels for the carriage of vital raw materials. There was little point, he said, in adopting legislative and other supportive measures for the promotion of a strong merchant marine without a corresponding commitment from major industries to use the US-flag merchant fleet, especially for bulk cargo transport. Appearing before the Merchant Marine sub-committee investigating the problems of the maritime industry, President Hall called for a four-point plan to strengthen the industry, this to consist of bulk shipping incentives; a national cargo policy to assure US-flag ships of a substantial proportion of all types of cargo; greater co-operation between the navy and the merchant marine; and the establishment of a maritime affairs coordinator.

TRADE UNIONS

EUROPE

=====

European young railwaymen's seminar held in Vienna

A European Young Railwaymen's Seminar was held in Vienna from 11 to 24 July 1976. Young railway workers from unions in France, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland participated, together with members of the host organization, the ITF-affiliated Austrian Railwaymen's Union. Towards the end of the seminar, ITF Railwaymen's Section Secretary Johann Hauf delivered a lecture on the history, structure and aims and methods of the ITF.

GREAT BRITAIN

=====

Officers' union protects members with MFC

Full details are given in the August issue of 'The Telegraph', the journal of the ITF-affiliated British Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association, of the efforts made by the association over the past months to ensure that merchant navy officers serving on ships belonging to Maritime Fruit Carriers receive their full entitlements, notwithstanding the company's acute financial difficulties.^{x)} As early as January, when it became apparent that officers on vessels of Island Fruit Reefer Services Ltd. -- the wholly-owned UK subsidiary of MFC -- were likely to experience difficulties in obtaining payments due in respect of voyage leave and repatriation expenses, the association secured just under £60,000 to be held in trust as security against claims outstanding at the time; and two further substantial sums have been lodged in the intervening months in respect of entitlements that have accrued since then. Shipowner premiums to the P & I Clubs -- among other functions, these Clubs underwrite claims for industrial injuries -- that had fallen behind were updated and advance payments made when Island Fruit was informed that MNAOA members would not sail unless such cover was continued. An undertaking was also received that amounts due to statutory authorities and the MNOFF in respect of income tax, Social Security and pensions contributions would be paid. The threat of legal and industrial action had to be employed when monthly salary payments became overdue; and the MNAOA was also actively involved in the talks which led to Salen's temporary chartering of MFC vessels and to the mortgagee in possession arrangement on a number of MFC's British-flag fleet, both measures which give additional stability in an otherwise precarious situation.

^{x)} See also ITF Newsletter July 1976, page 66.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

CANADA

=====

Railwaymen vote in favour of rail settlement

Canadian railwaymen have voted to accept the 2-year pay settlement drawn up by a federal mediator which was referred to a ballot earlier in the year (see ITF Newsletter No. 6, page 59). Under the agreement, which is backdated to 1 January and includes a cost-of-living escalator, basic rates will be increased by 11 per cent this year and there will be a further 8 per cent increase in total compensation during 1977.

FRANCE

=====

UTA cabin staff strike over ending of Pacific postings

A long-standing dispute between members of the ITF-affiliated French Cabin Staff Union (SNPNC) and the French private airline UTA led to the union staging two 48-hour strikes on 19.-20 June and 10-11 July. Matters first came to a head in August 1975 when the airline informed the SNPNC that Paris-based cabin attendants would no longer be posted to the Pacific area. This announcement conflicted with a 1960 agreement under which Paris-based C/As were to be posted to Noumea (New Caledonia) and Papeete (Tahiti) to crew flights between Noumea and Sydney and the Tahiti-Honolulu-Los Angeles route. However, shortly after the agreement was signed the airline broke faith and began systematically recruiting local staff, at the same time running down the number of postings from metropolitan France. Since August, the union has attempted to seek a solution that would be fair to the Paris-based staff, while not prejudicing the jobs of those already employed by UTA locally. Unfortunately, these negotiations have proved inconclusive and the cabin attendants have been obliged to resort to industrial action.

Airline pilots strike over training cuts

Members of the ITF-affiliated French Airline Pilots' Union (SNPL) staged a one-day strike on 4 August in protest against proposed government cuts in the number of pilots being trained each year and the transfer of responsibility for training from the state to individual airlines.

GERMANY
=====

New rates for inland navigation workers

On 1 July, wage increases of 5.7% with a minimum of DM 60 (5.7% for ships' boys) came into effect for inland navigation workers under a new one-year pay agreement signed by the ITF-affiliated German Transport and Public Service Workers' Union (OeTV). The new monthly rates range from DM 982 (DM 1069 after 3 years' service) for ABs to DM 1539 (rising to DM 1633 after 3 years) for pushboat captains. The rates for ships' boys are (1st year) DM 572, (2nd year) DM 628, (3rd year) DM 806.

GREAT BRITAIN
=====

Seamen's pay talks referred to arbitration

The 1976 British seamen's pay talks are to be referred to arbitration. The question at issue is whether, under the 12-month rule, the seamen's award should date from the beginning of this month, in which case it would come under stage 1 of the incomes policy, or, as the TUC and the government believe, from next January when a lower stage 2 award would apply. NUS General Secretary Jim Slater contends that the TUC decision rests on a technicality and has asked that his members should not be penalized for last year's staged arbitration settlement, which was essentially a "catching-up" exercise.

(For earlier details see ITF Newsletter No. 7, 1976 page 67)

NETHERLANDS
=====

KLM offer to end five-year stewardesses' contracts

In a move which will have the effect of opening up to women cabin attendants the same career possibilities as their male colleagues, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has written to the ITF-affiliated KLM Cabin Attendants' Association expressing its willingness to replace the present five-year stewardesses' contracts by contracts with no fixed time limit. Before the change is implemented, KLM has asked that discussions be held between the parties with a view to reaching agreement on a number of matters, including: a revised salary system and pension scheme for future cabin personnel; transitional provisions for stewardesses already employed by KLM; the continuation of seasonal and free-lance contracts, possibly on a largescale; possible revision of those regulations affected by structural changes (in-flight working positions, ratio of experienced to less-experienced staff on board etc.); and management procedures for maintaining and where possible improving the quality of service offered to passengers.

SWEDEN

=====

Increased single-manning of locomotive cabs

At the beginning of last month, increased single-manning of locomotive cabs was agreed under an agreement signed by the railwaymen's section of the ITF-affiliated Swedish State Employees' Union (SF) and the Swedish State Railways. Exceptions to the single-manning rule will be allowed on routes where speeds of over 130 km/h are reached if the track lacks automatic train stopping devices or there is no two-way radio in the cab, as well as on routes at speeds of 110 to 130 km/h where actual working time in the cab exceeds three hours between 22.00 and 06.00.

New restrictions on night duty are also introduced: for railwaymen with a 40-hour week, duty between 22.00 and 06.00 may not exceed 13 hours 20 minutes per week, the corresponding limits for a 38- and 36-hour week being 12 hours 40 minutes and 12 hours respectively.

UNITED STATES

=====

New contract for Seaboard flight despatchers

A new 22-month contract was signed recently by the ITF-affiliated Transport Workers' Union of America on behalf of flight despatchers with Seaboard World Airways. The contract, which is backdated to 16 April 1976, raises the previous monthly rate of \$1,952 in four stages to \$2,266 on 16 October 1977. Pension benefits are also increased by \$2 to \$25 per month and substantial improvements are made in the pensions of those opting to retire early.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Australian Council of Trade Unions called a 24-hour nationwide strike of its members on 12 July as a protest against proposed amendments to the government-subsidized Medibank health scheme. Medibank was set up by the former Labour government to compete with the private health funds.

Trans Australia Airlines stewardesses, who staged a 48-hour strike early last month in protest against proposals to reduce the number of cabin staff on some jet services, returned to work after reaching a satisfactory settlement with the airline management.

The ITF-affiliated Austrian Transport Workers' Union has signed two new agreements, both effective 1 July, giving 11% pay increases to road haulage drivers and salary increases and improved severance payments to airport employees.

The Bahamas has joined the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, becoming its ninety-eighth member.

SAS traffic assistants at Copenhagen's Kastrup airport and several Danish provincial airports have won increases of 60 øre per hour following a five-day strike early last month. An earlier offer ranging from 45 øre to the lower-paid to 75 øre in the highest salary bracket was withdrawn under pressure from the men's union in favour of the uniform award.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has voted by a narrow margin to reject the 1976/1977 draft national wage agreement. This has now been replaced by an interim agreement, which will be presented to an ICTU Special Delegate Conference on 11 September 1976.

Air traffic controllers at Ireland's three major airports cancelled a strike scheduled for 31 July following talks with senior government officials on a new grading and salary structure.

Owners of 3,000 privately-run buses in the Peruvian capital of Lima, who came out on strike at the beginning of last month in protest against the steep rise in petrol prices, resumed work on 7 July after issuing an appeal to the government to release a number of their trade union leaders who had been arrested after the strike began.

In Memoriam

LAWRIE WHITE

Lawrence White, former Assistant General Secretary of the ITF, died on 19 July at the age of 75. Brother White first went to sea as a radio officer, serving for ten years on tankers, coasters, tramps, cargo liners and passenger vessels. In the 'twenties he was an active member of the Association of Wireless Telegraphists, which was later to become the Radio Officers' Union. From 1930 on he was active in the British merchant navy officers' trade union movement, helping to organize officer personnel.

During the war, as District Secretary of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association for the Bristol Channel, he helped seafarers from the occupied countries of Europe to reorganize themselves in Great Britain and to preserve their trade unions. After his appointment as National Organizer in the MNAOA, his negotiating responsibilities drew him more into the sphere of international problems and hence into the ITF, to which he came from the MNAOA in 1952 to handle the campaign against flags of convenience.

He subsequently became a Section Secretary and at the Berne Congress of the ITF in 1960 was appointed to the position of Assistant General Secretary. During his period with the ITF he not only handled the Special Seafarers' Section but was also involved in the Seafarers' and Dockers' Section and was also Secretary of the Civil Aviation Section. His work in the Special Seafarers' Section earned him the reputation of a hard negotiator but when the job was over he was found to be a pleasant, easy-going and humorous man who earned the affection and respect of all those who worked with him. On his retirement from the ITF in 1966 the international trade union movement lost a very valuable campaigner for social justice.

LINA KANT-CLUTTERBUCK

The ITF regrets to announce the death, at the age of 78, of Lina Kant-Clutterbuck. Born in Pforzheim in the German Black Forest, Lina retired from the service of the ITF in May 1968 after having worked in the ITF Secretariat for a total of 42 years.

Before joining the ITF as an interpreter and translator in 1923, Lina had been active in the labour and trade union movements of her native Germany since her early youth. She was also an ardent fighter for women's rights at a time when that cause did not enjoy the same support as it does today, and never lost her enthusiasm for it.

She worked for the ITF throughout the period when circumstances forced the Federation to devote much of its activity to the task of fighting the spread of totalitarianism in Europe, particularly once Hitler seized power in Germany. Like many other members of the Secretariat, she was closely involved in that fight and it is perhaps not generally known that, despite her German nationality and the terrible risks which she ran if caught, Lina nevertheless went into Nazi Germany on ITF missions, carrying illegal leaflets addressed to German workers.

An excellent linguist who had originally specialized in Oriental languages (she spoke both Arabic and Persian, as well as English, French, Dutch and her native German), she worked in a number of capacities for the ITF during her long period of service, in her later years acting as the ITF's chief shorthand-typist. In everything she did she worked both hard and with great devotion to the trade union cause.

She was married to another ITF former employee, the late Gordon Clutterbuck who, until his untimely death in 1955 had been the ITF's English interpreter and rapporteur.

Lina leaves a son, Dr. Ernest Clutterbuck, and a daughter Ursula, who teaches at the Montreal Conservatoire. To both of them, and to the other members of Lina's family, we express our deepest sympathy in their loss.

PERSONALIA

Lord Feather, general secretary of the British Trades Union Congress from 1969 until his retirement in 1973, died on 28 July, aged 68, of a stroke. Vic Feather was the first president of the European Trade Union Confederation and was made a life peer in the 1974 New Year Honours List.

Hjalmar Baaw, editor for nearly thirty years of the Swedish Ships' Officers' Association magazine 'Nautisk Tidskrift', died recently aged 71.

J.N. Chegge, general secretary of the Kenya Transport and Allied Workers' Union, died on 30 July.

Nii Armah Ashietey has succeeded M.O. Mensah as general secretary of the Ghana Merchant Navy Officers' Association.

Pekka Kinnari, educational secretary of the Finnish Seamen's Union, celebrated his 50th birthday on 7 June.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

=====

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Flight Deck Technical Committee | - London, 24-25 August 1976 |
| Seafarers' Section Manning Committee | - Hamburg, 30-31 August 1976 |
| Seafarers' Section Conference | - Hamburg, 1-3 September 1976 |
| Executive Board | - Paris, 19-20 October 1976 |
| Road Transport Steering Committee | - London, 22 October 1976 |
| Sub-Committee on Transport Policy | - Utrecht, 3-4 November 1976 |
| Inland Navigation Section | - Vienna, 23-25 November 1976 |

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