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IN THIS ISSUE

Page

News and Views from the ITF

Flight Deck Technical Committee meets in Zürich 46

Transport

International Shipping Federation President urges immediate ratification of new ILO Convention 46

New licensing system for foreign fishing vessels in EEC waters enters into force 47

British government to issue safe manning certificates 47

Trade Unions

European seafarers give notice of coordinated strike action 47

Social and Industrial News

New agreement for Canadian cabin staff with Pacific Western Airlines 48

Shorter working week for Colombian dock workers 48

New agreement for Finnish engineer officers in foreign trade 48

Bristow Helicopters pilots end strike 49

Icelandic workers strike for new central wage agreement 49

Dublin busmen work to rule 49

Japanese ocean-going seamen win pay increase 50

Renewal of collective agreement for private bus drivers in Luxembourg 50

Pay award for Norwegian navigating and engineer officers in the home trade 50

Aznar Line crew end strike (Spain) 50

East Coast dockers reach agreement with container shippers (United States) 51

News in Brief 51

Personalia 52

Supplement: *Strong Support for Socialists in Spanish General Elections*

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ITF

INTERNATIONAL

Flight Deck Technical Committee meets in Zürich

A meeting of the Flight Deck Technical Committee of the ITF Civil Aviation Section was held in Zürich on 28 April. Members of the Committee stood in silence in remembrance of those who died in the air disaster at Tenerife on 27 March and warm tributes were paid by the chairman to the memory of Willy Schreuder, a member of the Committee, who also died in the disaster.

Mr. L.F. Bateman of the British Aircraft Corporation attended the meeting as an invited guest to report on a research project currently being undertaken by BAC and Hawker Siddeley on the design of flight deck instrumentation for use in future generations of aircraft.

The meeting finalized the text of the Policy Statement on the Air Transport of Hazardous Materials. It was also agreed to postpone discussion on the proposed draft for an ILO Convention on Flight Time and Duty Time Limitations until the Section Conference convened in conjunction with the Dublin Congress. A resolution on safety drawing on the lessons to be learned from the Tenerife air crash was presented to the meeting by R. Deseau, French Flight Engineers' Association (SNOMAC), and subsequently adopted by those present.

TRANSPORT

INTERNATIONAL

International Shipping Federation President urges immediate ratification of new ILO Convention

The President of the International Shipping Federation, addressing last month's council meeting in Hamburg, urged immediate and widespread ratification of the ILO Convention on Minimum Standards in Merchant Ships, which was adopted at last November's Maritime Session. He further recommended ISF members to ensure that the provisions of the Convention, particularly those relating to ship-board conditions, were implemented even before it officially came into force.

EUROPE

New licensing system for foreign vessels fishing in EEC waters enters into force

A comprehensive licensing system for vessels of non-EEC countries fishing in Community waters enters into force at the beginning of July, replacing the present interim arrangements. Each country will be allocated a catch quota and then asked to submit a list of vessels for licensing, together with detailed specifications of each vessel (including gross tonnage, engine power, hold capacity, type of fishing gear and processing and navigational equipment). All vessels will be required to indicate the species of fish they wish to catch, the fishing area and method, and the length of time for which a licence is required. In addition, the Commission must be informed of the time and location of entry of vessels into and departure from the Community's 200-mile zone and given details of the quantity and species of fish in the holds at the time. While in Community waters, foreign vessels will be required to keep a log of their fishing activities, this information being conveyed at the end of each week to the Commission, which will be empowered to remove a licence from any vessel not complying with any of its provisions. Member states will be responsible for monitoring the fishing activities of non-EEC fleets and for reporting breaches of the regulations to the Commission.

GREAT BRITAIN

Government to issue safe manning certificates

The Department of Trade has announced details of its plans for issuing British shipowners with safe manning certificates for their vessels, thus implementing one of the major recommendations of the Rochdale Committee of Inquiry into Shipping. Under the scheme, owners will be provided, at their request and on payment of a fee, with a certificate advising on the minimum deck complement necessary to ensure a vessel's safety.

Both sides of the industry have agreed on a set of five principles which must be satisfied for a ship to be safely manned on deck and these requirements, along with details of the qualifications and length of service of certain categories of deck ratings, will be incorporated in the certificate.

TRADE UNIONS

EUROPE

Seafarers give notice of coordinated strike action

Seafarers' unions in the nine member countries of the EEC have warned that they will take coordinated strike action next year if European shipowners and the EEC Commission fail to act on their

demands for talks on the harmonization of their pay and conditions. The Commission, under pressure from the shipowners, has steadfastly refused to grant the unions' request that a tripartite committee be established through which these claims might be pursued.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

CANADA

New agreement for cabin staff with Pacific Western Airlines

The ITF-affiliated Canadian Airline Flight Attendants' Association (CALFAA) has recently signed a new one-year pay and conditions agreement on behalf of cabin staff employed by Pacific Western Airlines. Effective 1 October 1976, the agreement lays down a 14.7 per cent increase in hourly rates of pay (an interim increase of 7 per cent being payable until such time as the Anti-Inflation Board rules on the admissibility of the pay award, while a savings clause guarantees the full negotiated rates should the AIB be dismantled during the currency of the agreement). Under the agreement, the duty day is fixed at 14 hours in domestic service (and at crew base only on overseas operations) and double time will be paid after 14 hours on duty. Other improvements include: improved credits for training and reporting for duty on days off; establishment of a training committee; surface deadhead credited at half of actual time involved. The agreement expires on 30 September 1977.

COLOMBIA

Shorter working day for dock workers

The ITF-affiliated National Federation of Colombian Dock Workers (FEDEPUERTOS) recently signed a new collective agreement with the Ports Authority, which gives its members an 8-hour day for the first time. The number of dockers will be increased appropriately as a consequence of this shortening of the working day.

FINLAND

New agreement for engineer officers in the foreign trade

A new collective agreement was negotiated recently by the ITF affiliated Finnish Engineer Officers' Union for its members in the overseas trade. The following improved rates of pay apply from 1 May 1977:

dwt	chief engineer (non-watchkeeping)	chief engineer (watchkeeping)
up to 4,499	4574	3314
4,500 to 12,999	4948	3542
13,000 to 29,999	5009	3693
30,000 to 79,999	5299	3870
over 80,000	5483	3975 Fmk

dwt	1st engineer	2nd engineer	3rd engineer
up to 4,499	2908	2497	2381
4,500 to 12,999	2993	2584	2381
13,000 to 29,999	3120	2637	2482
30,000 to 79,999	3322	2739	2637
over 80,000	3481	2897	2790 Fmk

Further increases come into effect on 1 March and 1 October 1978.

GREAT BRITAIN

Bristow Helicopters pilots end strike

Bristow Helicopters pilots called off their seven-week-old strike against the company on 4 June after both sides agreed to accept the findings of a public court of inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the dispute (see ITF Newsletter No. 5, 1977, page 39).

ICELAND

Workers strike for new central wage agreement

A one-day total stoppage took place in Reykjavik on 3 June when workers staged the first in a series of rolling strikes called by the Icelandic Trade Union Federation to bring pressure on employers' organizations to concede substantial wage increases. Further strikes were held on 6 June, when international flights operating out of Keflavik were halted, and on 7 June in northern Iceland. A further wave of strikes, each involving a different sector of industry, began on 13 June and will culminate in a general strike on 21 June if a satisfactory settlement is not reached before that date.

Negotiations with the employers for a new central wage agreement have been in progress for over three months but have made little headway. Unions affiliated to the Federation have already instituted an overtime ban, which went into effect on 2 May.

IRISH REPUBLIC

Dublin busmen work to rule

Dublin busmen (including those belonging to the ITF-affiliated Irish Transport and General Workers' Union) began a one-week ban on overtime and rest-day working on 12 June to draw attention to the serious understaffing of the city's buses, which is compelling them to work excessive overtime to maintain services.

JAPAN

Ocean-going seamen win pay increase

The ITF-affiliated All-Japan Seamen's Union instructed its members on board ocean-going vessels to call off a threatened one-week strike from 23 April after reaching a pay agreement with the ship-owners, which will have the effect of raising total wages by 7.8 per cent (the basic rate will rise by 5.98 per cent).

LUXEMBOURG

Renewal of collective agreement for private bus drivers

Lengthy negotiations between the ITF-affiliated Federation of Railway and Transport Workers (FNCTTFEL) and private bus operators in Luxembourg on the renewal of the collective agreement for bus drivers were successfully concluded last month. The following improvements have been obtained :

- pay scales improved by 3 per cent from 1 May 1977 ;
- single payment equivalent to 12.27% of the new rate for May (as compensation for the lack of any pay increase for the first four months of this year) ;
- subsistence allowance increased from 100 to 130 Luxembourg francs ;
- working week reduced to under 44 hours, the exact length of the working week to be determined in joint talks before the end of the year, from 1 March 1978 (the union hopes to achieve a 40-hour week for bus drivers by the beginning of the 1980s) ;
- expiry date for the collective agreement of 28 February 1978.

NORWAY

Pay award for navigating and engineer officers in home trade

With effect from 1 April 1977, the following improvements came into operation for navigating and engineer officers on Norwegian vessels in the home trade ; rates increased by 3.53% plus 93 kr ; rise of 21 kr in victualling allowance.

SPAIN

Aznar Line crew end strike

The crew of the Aznar Line car ferry Monte Toledo called off their 12-day-old strike at the end of last month after reaching agreement on improved redundancy provisions following the sale of the vessel (see ITF Newsletter No. 5, 1977, page 43).

UNITED STATES

East Coast dockers reach agreement with container shippers

The ITF-affiliated International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) has reached a satisfactory settlement of its dispute with seven East Coast shippers, which led to a five-day strike in April (see ITF Newsletter No. 3/4, 1977, page 29). The carriers have agreed, with effect from 1 May 1977, to double the royalty payment on the handling of van-sized containers. 35,000 dockers in six major East Coast ports will receive more pay as a result.

The key issue in the dispute was the withdrawal of a job protection clause contained in the master contract. The longshoremen returned to work when the Labor Department intervened and offered to seek clarification of a controversial ruling, opposed by both labour and the employers, which took away the right of dockers to handle mixed loads of cargo in containers stuffed and stripped within a 50-mile radius of New York City.

The way is now clear for talks to begin in mid-June on the renewal of the master contract which expires at the end of September. It has been agreed between the two parties that all monetary awards negotiated in connection with the contract will be backdated to 1 June 1977, although the effective date of the contract will continue to be 1 October.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is to sponsor a meeting of experts in October in order to discuss safety problems affecting workers in the offshore oil industry. Existing international, national, regional and industrial safety standards will also be reviewed.

The French government has announced plans to allow workers in private industry to retire at 60 if they wish. Workers who elect to retire early will receive a pension equivalent to 70 per cent of earnings until they qualify for a normal retirement pension at 65. The scheme is designed to create more job opportunities for the unemployed, particularly the young unemployed. Currently, there are over a million persons out of work, half of them under 24.

Ground control staff at most of Portugal's mainland airports, including Lisbon's International Airport, called off a threatened total strike earlier this month after talks began with officials of the Transport Ministry on the men's demands for improved conditions. Earlier, progressive stoppages by airport workers, including those on the Portuguese Atlantic islands, had caused long delays to domestic and international flights.

Following legislation adopted recently in the Swedish parliament, workers will receive five weeks' annual leave instead of four weeks as at present.

PERSONALIA

George Agius, general secretary of the Malta General Workers' Union, has been appointed his country's Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to West Germany. He took up his duties in February.

Frank Durkin, chairman of the British Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association, retired at the Association's biennial general meeting last month. Brother Durkin is a member of the Flight Deck Technical Committee of the ITF Civil Aviation Section.

Louis Eggers, has been appointed interim President of the Belgian Transport Workers' Union (BTB) in succession to Ward Cassiers to fill the unexpired term of his presidency. Brother Eggers is chairman of the inland navigation section of the BTB. He is also a member of the Committee of the ITF Inland Navigation Section.

Hermann Kirchhofer has been elected national secretary of the Swiss Railwaymen' Union.

Erkki A. Koivisto, Director of Activities of the Finnish Radio Officers' Union until his retirement last year, died on 26 May, aged 77. Brother Koivisto was one of the founder members of the union and helped start the annual Nordic radio officers' conferences, which he attended from 1948 until 1976.

The ITF regrets to announce the death on 19 June of Maria Egberta Kooijman, widow of the late Nathan Nathans, Assistant General Secretary of the ITF, who was killed in an air accident while on an ITF mission to Spain in 1938. Mvr. Kooijman died in Hilversum at the age of 93.

Josef Quadflieg, a member of the Executive of the German Railwaymen's Union, celebrated his 60th birthday on 14 May.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Executive Board - Dublin, 19-20 July 1977
ITF 32nd Congress - Dublin, 21-29 July 1977

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

Strong Support for Socialists in Spanish General Elections

The Workers' Socialist Party (Partido Socialista Obrero Espanol) received more popular support than any other single political party in the first parliamentary elections held in Spain since the last government of the Republic was elected in 1936.

Voting took place on 15 June to elect 350 Deputies to the new Congress and Senators (a further 41 appointees of the King taking unelected seats in the Senate). With a system of allocation of seats generally considered to favour the sparsely populated, conservative, rural electoral districts, the Union of the Democratic Centre (UCD), a coalition of 12 conservative and liberal parties formed by Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, obtained 166* seats in the Congress, the PSOE gained 118 seats, the Communist Party (PCE) 20 seats, the Popular Alliance (AP) 17 seats, while the remaining 30 seats were shared between the Popular Socialist Party, Basque and Catalan regional parties and coalitions and independents. The Falange, the only political party permitted under the Franco dictatorship, failed to gain a single seat in the Congress.

Among the many UGT members elected to the Congress as PSOE Deputies, the ITF congratulates the following, who will be known to many ITF affiliates :

- Nicolas Redondo, General Secretary of the UGT, (elected in the province of Vizcaya) ;
- Fernando Gonzalez, General Secretary of the UGT Transport Federation (Huelva) ;
- José Aguiriano, formerly ICFTU representative in Geneva, (Alava).

We also congratulate Antonio Garcia Duarte, for many years Organizing Secretary of the UGT in exile in Toulouse, on his election to the Senate (Malaga).

On 28 June, Prime Minister Suarez announced his intention to form a minority UCD coalition Government.

* These figures are provisional ; at the time of going to press, the Spanish electoral authorities had not announced final, official figures of the number of seats obtained by each party.