

119.1  
Prague, 21st June, 1966

Dear Comrade Achutan,

I could not write you earlier as I have just returned from India I had to go to Italy to attend the conference of the Italian Railwaymen.

I have just gone through the news item in IPA concerning my visit in India. You have shown really the importance of my visit and the trade union task carried out by me there. Our Secretariat has seen the news and is very satisfied. I would like to thank you for it. You must be experiencing very much heat in Dehli these days. In Italy I stayed in town Verone where the conference was held, the famous town of Romeo and Juliette. In spite of our busy "revolutionary" trade union programme, Italian comrades arranged our visits to all these places concerning Romeo and Juliette. Most of us enjoyed these excursions without exception. So in spite of our trade union work I enjoyed this trip very much.

I am enclosing the copy of our Press Communique and also the copy of the letter addressed to the affiliated organisations requesting to express solidarity with the British seamen who are on strike.

Just now I have seen in "The Times of India" a news concerning ITF's solidarity with the British seamen. In view of this, it would be good if you, please, see that these materials could be published in "Patriot", "Trade Union Record", "IPA" and other journals as you decide. I would like to request you to edit these two enclosed documents as a good news, fit to be published. Also, please, try to send to "The Times of India" for publication.

How are your children, my love to "Ganda Munnas", my regards to your wife, my greetings to you.

Yes, you forgot to show me the news-clipping from the "Patriot" which you had written.

Yours,

*Satish*

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**UNION INTERNATIONALE DES SYNDICATS  
DES TRAVAILLEURS DES TRANSPORTS,  
DES PORTS ET LA PECHE**

(DEPARTEMENT PROFESSIONNEL DE LA F. S. M.)

**МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЕ ОБЪЕДИНЕНИЕ  
ПРОФСОЮЗОВ ТРУДЯЩИХСЯ ТРАНСПОРТА,  
ПОРТОВ И РЫБНОГО ПРОМЫСЛА**  
(ПРОИЗВОДСТВЕННЫЙ ОТДЕЛ В. Ф. И.)

Prague, June 8, 1966

**TRADE UNIONS INTERNATIONAL  
OF TRANSPORT, PORT AND FISHERY WORKERS**  
TRADE DEPARTMENT OF THE W. F. T. U.)

**UNION INTERNACIONAL DE SINDICATOS  
DE TRABAJADORES DE LOS TRANSPORTES,  
PUERTOS Y PESCA**

(DEPARTAMENTO PROFESIONAL DE LA F. S. M.)

To all affiliated  
organisations!

SECRETARIAT:  
OPLETALOVA 57  
PRAGUE 1 — TCHECOSLOVAQUIE  
TELEPHONE: 221216

Circular No 3/A

Dear Friends,

As you undoubtedly know, the British seamen on May 16, 1966 began a strike of long duration to obtain satisfaction of their demands:

- 1/ a 40-hour week instead of a 56-hour week;
- 2/ a special rate to be applied for supplementary hours representing a 7% increase in wages approximately.

A commission of enquire was established by the government, but the seamen have still obtained no satisfaction.

And on May 23, 1966, the British government proclaimed a state of emergency in Great Britain, but the British seamen maintained their positions.

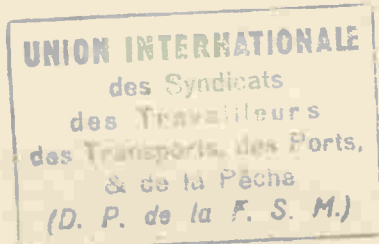
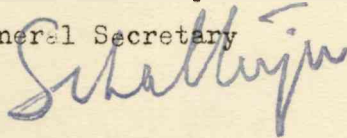
Our Transport, Port and Fishery workers' TUI, in a telegramme sent on May 17, 1966 to the National British Seamen's Union, expressed its full support and its entire solidarity with the just struggle of the British seamen.

Today, we learn that the National Union of British Seamen has launched an appeal to all dockers and seamen of the world asking them to boycott all ships carrying the British flag. We are therefore addressing you, asking you to express your active solidarity with the British seamen who have been on strike for 24 days, and to refuse to load and unload British ships docking in your ports.

May we ask you to be so kind as to inform our Secretariat of the measures you intend to undertake in this respect.

With fraternal greetings,

Satish Chatterjee  
General Secretary



## P R E S S \_ C O M M U N I Q U E

The Secretariat of the Trade Unions International of Transport Port and Fishery Workers has followed attentively the long strike of the British seamen which began on May 16, 1966. The National British Seamen's Union declared this strike because the employers, with the support of the British government, did not take action with regard to their just demands:

- 1/ a 40-hour week instead of the present 56-hour week;
- 2/ a special over-time rate for supplementary hours, amounting to an increase in wages of a proximately 7%.

The ship-owners have rejected these demands, proposing only to introduce the 40-hour week progressively over a period of three years and in this way to limit this year's increase in wages to 3%.

On May 17, 1966, our Union sent the National British Seamen's Union a telegram of solidarity, the text of which is as follows:

IN NAME 14 MILLION TRANSPORT WORKERS OUR TUI of TRANSPORT,  
PORT AND FISHERY WORKERS EXPRESSES ITS ENTIRE SOLIDARITY  
WITH BRITISH SEAMEN'S JUST STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE SATISFACTION OF  
THEIR DEMANDS - SATISH CHATTERJEE GENERAL SECRETARY

A commission of enquiry was established by the government, charged with studying the situation of the British seamen, but it produced no results.

And on May 23, the British government proclaimed a state of emergency in Great Britain, but the British seamen firmly maintained their positions.

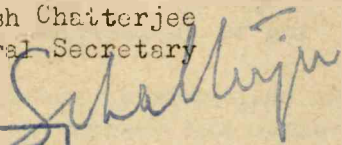
Today we have learned that the National British Seamen's Union launched an appeal yesterday, June 7, 1966, to all seamen and dockers of the entire world to boycott all ships in their ports carrying the British flag.

We reaffirm our entire support of the just struggle of the British seamen and call on all our member organisations to express their active solidarity with their brothers in Great Britain on strike for the last 24 days, and to refuse to load and unload British ships docking in their ports.

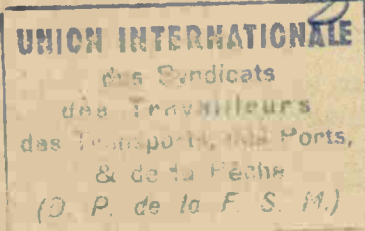
Our support is not an act of formal solidarity. Actually, the British seamen's struggle is a struggle against the policy of wage-freezing being applied by all capitalist employers and governments. All the workers of the world are struggling against this policy. It is for this reason that we are supporting the British seamen's struggle and we are convinced that their success will represent a great contribution to the struggle of all workers.

Secretariat of the Trade Unions International  
of Transport, Port, and Fishery Workers

Satish Chatterjee  
General Secretary



Iraqe, June 8, 1966



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A. I. T. U. C.  
Received 3 чччч 28/7/66  
Accepted

Prague, 24th July, 1966

Dear Comrade Achutan,

I have received your letter dated June, 29th.

I agree with your opinion concerning the preparation for a visit of an international trade union leader in our country. It should be well prepared in advance. However, this unfortunate experience of Comrade Zavagnin's mission to India would be certainly a lesson to all of us.

I had a talk with Comrade Zavagnin just few days ago. He is now more or less satisfied after receiving letters of Comrades Ellias and Satish Lomba.

When I am to expect your non-official letter?

My greetings to you.

Yours fraternally,



220  
24 Sep 1966

Dear Comrade Satish,

Thank you for your letter and the cables. We are sorry to hear about the sudden illness of your wife and the fact that she has to have prolonged rest and treatment. Hope she is better now.

Expecting you here, I had made all arrangements for your stay. Anyway, we hope you would be able to come here soon.

Now, with regard to the Road Transport Federation Conference, the Hyderabad union which had gone well & ahead with reception arrangements is now in the midst of a Statewide all-TU (AITUC, HMS, HMP, Central & State Govt emp. orgs., banks & insurance federation, etc.) agitation and hence has declined to hold the Conference in October or November. After November, the election tempo will be the dominant feature and it will be difficult to hold any conferences. So it seems that the Conference will have to be postponed to early next year, after the general elections.

We had thought here to hold the Port and Dock as well as Road Transport Conferences on dates nearabout and also explore possibilities of having an All-Transport Conference drawing in unions of railways, aviation, etc. Now this programme has to be held over.

The Port & Dock Federation is holding its session in Madras on 29 & 30th Oct. But it seems these dates may be advanced since a general hearing of the Port & Dock Wage Board has been fixed at Madras from October 11 to 14 and all the leading union activists would be required to come to Madras earlier. They might therefore hold the conference on Oct.15-16 or so. Possibly the dates would not suit you. Anyway they will be sending you a cable when the final dates are fixed. It is difficult for them to shift the conference to November since Parliament session begins from November 1.

So, that is how it stands about the conferences. Com.Robi Ghosh had given your message. The fluid situation here must be making it quite complicated for you to fix your programmes. But then you know how complicated the situation is or can be, at this end.

Awaiting to hear from you,  
With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

(M.Atchuthan)

720  
23 October 1966

Com. Satish Chatterjee,  
General Secretary,  
Transport TUI,  
Prague.

Dear Comrade Satish,

Since writing to you last, I hope by now you have received the cable from the Waterfront Federation about the dates of their conference, i.e., 29th and 30th October 1966. We have received your cable stating that it would be possible for you to reach Madras on 29th itself.

The Wage Board meeting at Madras which had earlier complicated fixation of the final dates of the conference has since been cancelled. Therefore, the dates of the conference are firm and therefore, ~~kind~~ please do not make any change in programme as might have occurred to you after getting my previous letter.

The Road Transport Conference, however, has to be postponed since the Andhra Pradesh comrades are engaged in a busy agitational programme, on the basis of a united platform of action about which I had written to you earlier. The conference could therefore be held only early next year.

However, we consider that your presence in the Waterfront Conference is highly essential. You must have been seeing reports on the developments in this sector and organisationally and otherwise, our Federation has been able to make very significant progress since its last conference. I understand that Com. G.H. Kale has agreed to attend the conference and other welcome developments are also possible.

We hope that you will arrange your programme in such a way that it will be possible for you to spend some time at Delhi for discussions with us.

Com. Dange has been admitted to a Nursing Home at Poona where he will spend some 15 or 20 days. He was having a very hectic tour programme recently and badly requires rest and recuperation after the heavy strain involved. He was to come to Prague but had to cancel it for this reason.

~~xxxx~~ Com. R.P. Ranga Rao and Baba Kartar Singh are now in the AUCCTU School in Moscow. When you happen to pass through Moscow, I hope you will look them up.

Hope Mrs Chatterjee has by now fully recovered and that Bharti is okay.

Awaiting your reply,  
With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

(M. Atchuthan)

P.S. There has been no news from Panikkar. Did you have occasion to meet him recently?



1193  
New Age 220  
19th Session of the Administrative Committee of  
Trade Union International of Transport, Port & Fishery Workers

Debkumar Ganguli, Secretary,  
Port, Dock and Waterfront Workers  
Federation of India

The 19th Session of the Administrative Committee of the Trade Union International of Transport, Port & Fishery Workers (TUI) held at PRAGUE the capital of Czechoslovakia on 24-26 May 1967, discussed and reviewed the problems and as well as the recent struggles of the Port, Railways, Aviation and other transport workers in the various countries of the world.

UNITY AND STRUGGLES

In its review the Administrative Committee (A.C.) took into account the successes reached regarding unity in course of last year and has stressed the fact that it could have been achieved thanks to the activities of the T.U.I. and its affiliated organisations and also due to the new conditions created by the political and economical situation of the different countries which have of course influenced the activities and trade union relations.

The A.C. took note of certain phenomenon relatively new of the present time, such as the economic integration of large zones and internationalisation of capitals, which has made more clear the objectives posed by the capitalism in consequences which arise for the workers who are more and more conscious of their task. They put more and more clearly the demands aiming not only to maintain their positions but also to conquer new ones of the capital, in order to become a still stronger decisive force not only ~~in~~ inside the enterprise but also in the whole society.

Under the circumstances, the A.C. observed, the workers concerned pay no heed to the anti-unity propoganda who feel on the contrary the necessity to overcome all political ideological frontiers and to unite themselves in common front in order to be able to oppose the capital on the same level and with stronger force.

Such strong will and necessity for unity goes ahead on the national, regional and international level and it promotes many organisations of ~~kind~~ different affiliations to meet each other in order to discuss and struggle unitedly for common objectives.

The two most significant incidents of the last year, (i) at the conference of the ~~IXLXXX~~ I.L.O. in November last where T.U.I. and I.T.F. delegates registered a convergence of votes and (ii) participation of I.T.F. Railway unions with T.U.I's in the Budapest Seminar, are confirmation of the progress achieved in unity between the organisations affiliated to ITF and TUI. The A.C. has noted that such developments in favour of unity was possible due to patient work for unity done by the TUI and its affiliates and due to the new fact that there are workers in the ITF who lead struggle for unity.

The A.C. has welcomed the united struggle led jointly by the Transport workers, affiliated to the trade unions of different

jointly in several countries and the ever increasing international contacts established during last year.

The identity of views and the relations which are developing between trade unions of countries from Western Europe of different affiliations and the still increasing contacts between the organisations affiliated to ITF and the trade unions of the Socialist countries, the new voices speaking in the sense of approach arise among the unions belonging to the CISL and CISC and even inside the AFL-CIO, despite anti-unity orientation expressed by the direction of these Central which demands to reinforce TUI's efforts in favour of the unity of the workers.

The A.C. appreciated that the trade unions of the Socialist countries mainly have intensified and are still enlarging their relations with the trade unions of all affiliations all over the world but, the A.C. observed, bilateral contacts between the trade unions play a role still bigger and have to contribute to open the perspectives for the realisation of normal relations between the trade unions of CISL and those of WFTU of the capitalist countries. The experiences gained show that the bilateral contacts, the meetings organised with the aim of discussing specific demands in the branches permit not only to overcome the divergencies and to create the unity in order to put forward particular demands, but also to create in the same time the most appropriate conditions in an effort to achieve the most advanced general social aims.

In the given circumstances, therefore, the A.C. felt, if initiative for a struggle on the demands such as (i) increase in salaries (ii) reduction of working hours (iii) negotiation on all aspects of work (iv) defence and enlarging of democratic and trade union rights etc. may achieve broad-based unity and for which the TUI and its affiliates must take immediate and positive steps. The General Secretary in his report before the 19th session of the A.C. of the TUI summed up the tasks as follows: " We have before us new prospects for developing our activities and enlarging our contacts in order to seek the necessary unity for the common objectives of all workers."

#### MECHANISATION AND AUTOMATIC

Development of the technical progress has to become decisive factor for amelioration of working and living conditions of the interested workers and for the development of the society, viewed the A.C. For the Socialist countries - the problems arose out of mechanisation and automation are solved favourably for the interested workers by preventing measures determined between the trade unions and State organisations of these countries where modernisation is in the service of people and society. But in capitalist countries, it is through struggle that the workers are forced to act to maintain their rights once achieved and their job which are

endangered by the consequences of technical progress introduced in these countries with the only aim to increase the profits, observed the A.C.

In order to struggle against the application of technical progress as introduced by the monopolies inevitably in contradiction with the interest of the Transport workers, the A.C. is of the opinion that the following principal demands could serve for basis of agreement for the action:

- reduction of working hours without decrease in salaries;
- improvement of working conditions;
- prolongation of vacation time;
- decrease of age limit for pensioning with additional compensatory pension;
- guarantee for work
- training and professional requalification; and
- with prior discussion and approval of the trade unions.

These demands together with the increase of salaries are the most apt to eliminate the negative consequences of technical progress and capable to move the workers to participate in the profit created by the technical development transforming it into social progress.

The A.C. resolved to direct its Secretariat and members of the A.C. to study deeply with assistance of affiliated organisations, the national peculiarities of the developing countries and to take appropriate measures and help the trade union movements of these countries to achieve greater political influence and stronger trade union movements as a guarantee for economical, social and democratic progress and for national independence.

#### WORLD PEACE AND IMPERIALISM

The A.C. noted with great anxiety the alarming situation in West Germany and certain regions in Asia, Africa and Latin America and also in Middle East which are endangering the peace in the world. The A.C. has put the blame on the American imperialism for adoption of most criminal means to intervene into the internal affairs of those countries with the aim to suppress the liberation movement of the people. The American imperialism, the A.C. maintains, found allies among certain leaders of the trade union organisations, especially inside AFL-CIO who make direct interventions with the help of the American Government to find out certain trade unions in the capitalist countries, all in the endeavour to deviate from genuine role of defence of workers interests,.

The A.C. has resolved that it is the American imperialism that bears the heavy responsibility for the international tension.

Having in mind its responsibility, the A.C. has called upon all the transport workers to develop their actions requesting that the American Government should discontinue, without any condition the bombardments of the D.R.V., should recognise as a true representative

of the South-Vietnamese people the N.F.L., should withdraw its troops from that country and anywhere in the world, it should discontinue to interfere directly or indirectly into internal affairs of other countries.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Great October Revolution the 19th session of the TUI resolved to send a message of greetings to all the ~~my~~ people of the Soviet Union especially to the Transport workers in the Soviet Union.

session of the 19th /Administrative Committee of the T.U.I. was attended by members from various countries such as - France, Italy, Cuba, Rumania, Bulgaria, G.D.R., Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Soviet Union, Cypress, Argentina, Japan, India etc. From India in addition to Com. Satish Chaterjee, the General Secretary of the TUI, Com. Deb Kumar Ganguly, the Secretary, Port, Dock and Waterfront Workers Federation of India, attended.