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TÜSTAV
TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

TÜSTAV
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TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV
ARŞİVİ

ACTIVITES DU SECRETARIAT

Mission du secrétariat de l'U.I.S. en Amérique latine

En décembre 1983, le camarade Mario Merino, secrétaire de l'U.I.S., s'est rendu dans plusieurs pays d'Amérique latine pour s'informer sur les problèmes graves des travailleurs de la fonction publique du Brésil, d'Argentine et d'Uruguay et faire part de notre solidarité avec leurs luttes revendicatives et leur combat pour la démocratie et la liberté syndicale, qui ont été fortement amputées par les dictatures militaires et fascistes.

Pendant son séjour en Argentine, le camarade Merino a pris contact avec les organisations syndicales de la Confédération des organisations des travailleurs de l'Etat (employés publics et communaux, travailleurs de l'enseignement et de la justice).

La visite coïncidait avec une réunion importante de C.L.A.T.E.

Au moment de la visite du représentant de notre U.I.S., le peuple argentin célébrait solennellement l'entrée en fonction du nouveau gouvernement Bignoni qui met un terme à sept années de terreur, d'oppression et de corruption. L'enthousiasme et la joie du peuple n'ont pas couvert les revendications sur le châtiment des responsables des 30 000 "disparitions" et sur la solution des graves problèmes économiques et sociaux que la dictature a laissés derrière elle, en particulier le chômage, l'insécurité matérielle, l'endettement à l'étranger, la faiblesse des salaires des travailleurs.

Mission en Uruguay

Le secrétariat avait chargé notre représentant de se rendre en Uruguay et d'exprimer notre solidarité ferme et constante avec le peuple et les travailleurs de la fonction publique uruguayenne. Pendant les trois jours de sa visite à Montevideo, le camarade Merino a été témoin des violences et de la terreur qui sévissent depuis dix ans déjà contre les organisations démocratiques et syndicales, contre les démocrates et les syndicalistes. Dans ses longs entretiens avec les syndicalistes, il a pu se persuader de la détermination du peuple uruguayen de mettre un terme à la dictature et de rétablir la démocratie et la liberté.

Il s'est entretenu avec les employés de banque de l'Association A.E.B.U., avec les représentants de l'Association des employés et des ouvriers municipaux (A.D.E.O.M.), avec les travailleurs de la santé et l'organisation des travailleurs des postes et télécommunications. Il a été invité à une assemblée plénière de la présidence de l'Intersyndicale des travailleurs P.I.T., à laquelle il a proclamé notre solidarité ferme avec les luttes de ces travailleurs.

Pendant son séjour, il a insisté tout particulièrement sur notre solidarité et notre détermination de continuer à lutter à l'échelon international pour la libération de nos camarades Luis Iguini Ferreira, militant des employés de l'Etat, Elbio Quinteros et Eduardo Pulido, militants de l'A.D.E.O.M., qui ont été condamnés à des peines de plus de huit ans de prison.

L'U.I.S. s'est adressée à la Conférence de Stockholm sur des mesures consolidant la confiance et la sécurité et sur le désarmement

Dans une lettre, notre U.I.S. a transmis à la conférence la décision de la 35e Réunion du Comité Directeur et la Déclaration du Secrétariat sur la Paix

et le Désarmement, documents dans lesquels l'U.I.S. souligne, que conformément aux résolutions du VIIe Congrès Professionnel International, elle oeuvrerait résolument pour que la Conférence de Stockholm adopte des mesures préservant l'humanité d'un enfer nucléaire et ouvrant la porte à la reconversion des ressources gigantesques de la course aux armements, reconversion que permettrait la solution des grands problèmes, particulièrement dans les pays en voie de développement, tels que la faim, le chômage, la maladie, l'analphabétisme et au développement de la fonction et des services publics pour le bien des travailleurs.

ACTIVITES DANS LES BRANCHES

VIe Conseil latino-américain de C.L.A.T.E.

Les 7 et 8 décembre 1983 s'est réuni à Buenos Aires le VIe Conseil latino-américain de la Confédération latino-américaine des travailleurs de l'Etat (C.L.A.T.E.), à laquelle participaient des délégations d'Argentine, du Brésil, du Pérou, de l'Equateur, de l'Uruguay, de Curaçao et le camarade Mario Merino, représentant de l'U.I.S.

Le Conseil latino-américain a décidé de convoquer le prochain congrès de C.L.A.T.E., qui se tiendra en même temps que le congrès de la Confédération des services publics du Brésil (C.S.P.B.) à Sao Paulo les 27 et 28 octobre 1984.

Les participants ont réaffirmé que C.L.A.T.E. restait un centre unitaire des organisations syndicales des employés de l'Etat du continent, qu'elle participait à la solution des problèmes professionnels avec les trois centrales internationales (U.I.S., I.S.P., I.N.F.E.D.O.P.) et les organisations autonomes.

C.G.T. Santé France

Démocratiser la gestion des hôpitaux
Il s'agit actuellement de réformer la loi de 1970 votée par les forces réactionnaires alors majoritaires, et qui n'a jamais permis au secteur public hospitalier de donner toute son efficacité.

Aujourd'hui, le projet de loi déposé par le gouvernement fait suite à plusieurs mesures qu'il a déjà prises : suppression du secteur privé à l'hôpital public, réforme du financement avec le budget global. Il innove en proposant la réorganisation de l'hôpital avec la création de "départements hospitaliers". La C.G.T. s'est exprimée pour donner une appréciation favorable sur ces mesures dont le contenu favorisera les réformes engagées. Elle a proposé des modifications pour élargir le droit d'expression et d'intervention des personnels dans les conseils d'administration et les comités techniques paritaires, afin que leur intervention, gage de plus de démocratie, rende plus efficaces les mesures prises pour le fonctionnement des hôpitaux. La C.G.T. a également fait des propositions pour des attributions et une responsabilité plus grandes des conseils d'administration prenant en compte la décentralisation engagée par le gouvernement et la nécessaire transparence dans la gestion des hôpitaux.

Rencontre des syndicats des employés civils des armées des pays socialistes

Fin novembre 1983 a eu lieu à La Havane (Cuba), la première réunion d'information des syndicats des employés civils des armées des pays socialistes, à laquelle participaient des délégations d'Union soviétique, de R.D.A., de Tchécoslovaquie, de Bulgarie, de Pologne, de Hongrie, du Vietnam et de Cuba. Le secrétaire général de la confédération syndicale cubaine C.T.C. a dit que la réunion avait été un apport constructif au resserrement des liens fraternels entre les travailleurs et les organisations syndicales des pays socialistes.

Les syndicalistes ont adopté une déclaration commune dans laquelle ils insistent sur leur détermination de poursuivre la lutte pour le sauvegarde de la paix, condament le dé-

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ploiement de nouveaux missiles de l'O.T.A.N. en Europe de l'Ouest. Les participants ont déclaré qu'ils soutenaient les dernières déclarations de Youri Andropov ainsi que les contre-mesures nécessaires de l'U.R.S.S. et des autres Etats socialistes. Ils ont condamné vigoureusement la politique d'agression et d'intervention des U.S.A. dans diverses régions du monde et toutes les formes d'impérialisme, de colonialisme et de néo-colonialisme.

COSTA RICA Les travailleurs disent "non" aux exigences du F.M.I.

Les syndicats ont recommandé au Perlement de s'opposer aux exigences du Fonds monétaire international sur une augmentation des tarifs des services publics. Tous les dirigeants des grandes centrales syndicales ont concerté leur attitude au parlement au moment du vote du budget. Les dirigeants syndicaux notent que l'acceptation des exigences du F.M.I. entraînerait des licenciements massifs dans le secteur public, par suite de la grave crise économique que le pays traverse. Ils ont aussi exigé que les propositions soumises par le Front des ouvriers sur la réduction des dépenses publiques soient acceptées.

Les syndicalistes n'ont pas exclu qu'ils exigeraient la restituion des dérogations fiscales dont ont bénéficié jusqu'à présent les sociétés transnationales. D'après les estimations faites il y a peu de temps, les pertes encourues par le pays se montent à plus d'un milliard de dollars par an.

ACTIVITES DANS LES REGIONS

"L'aide économique" occidentale est synonyme de soumission

L'aide économique occidentale est utilisée systématiquement pour faire pression sur Le Caire. Plusieurs accords avec la Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement (B.I.R.D.) sont considérés comme une ingérence dans l'économie égyptienne. Les compagnies nationales qui bénéficient des crédits de la B.I.R.D. doivent en fait être rendues au secteur privé. Le rapport de la direction centrale pour le contrôle des finances de la R.A.E. indique que près des deux tiers des capitaux arabes et étrangers sont investis dans la sphère des services et non dans la production. Le vaste réseau des sociétés bancaires mixtes et étrangères qui transfèrent 40 % de leurs fonds à l'étranger joue un rôle négatif.

Il est évident que tout cela va à l'encontre des aspirations des Egyptiens, mais fournit des avantages aux couches sociales qui font la loi dans le pays.

Les contradictions qui s'affrontent sont lourdes d'ébranlements sociaux graves.

PAYS-BAS Les travailleurs de la fonction publique contre le programme gouvernemental d'austérité

En novembre et décembre 1983, l'ensemble du secteur public des Pays-Bas s'est mis en grève pour protester contre la politique gouvernementale d'austérité. (Voir nos informations dans le Bulletin de décembre 1983.) Confronté à un grave déficit budgétaire, le gouvernement chrétien-démocrate a décidé toute une série de mesures radicales "d'austérité" portant sur la plupart des prestations sociales et comportant une réduction de 3,5 % du salaire des fonctionnaires, des employés de l'Etat et des services publics du pays, devant entrer en vigueur le 1er janvier 1984. Durant les dernières années, les salaires de ces travailleurs ont perdu 12 % de leur pouvoir d'achat.

Les postiers et les cheminots ont fait grève les premiers. Le trafic interurbain a été presque entièrement paralysé dans tout le pays. Dans de nombreuses villes, les douaniers, les éboueurs, les travailleurs de la voirie et du service des eaux se sont

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associés au mouvement. Certains policiers ont fait grève eux aussi et leur syndicat a été traduit en justice.

Face à l'attitude résolue des travailleurs, le gouvernement a dû corriger la réduction de 3,5 à 3 %.

ISRAEL Grève contre la charge grandissante de la politique militaire

Fin décembre 1983, Israël a été le théâtre de nombreuses grèves par lesquelles les travailleurs protestaient contre les charges toujours plus lourdes de la politique militaire. Une grève générale a paralysé le port d'Eilat sur la mer Rouge. Les services administratifs, les magasins et les écoles sont restés fermés, le travail a cessé dans le port, à l'aéroport et dans les transports urbains. Des milliers d'habitants se sont réunis devant les portes de la ville pour un meeting de protestation contre les brutalités policières la veille alors que les mineurs étaient en grève.

Un grand nombre des 4 500 grévistes de la poste et des télécommunications n'ont repris le travail qu'après plusieurs jours, malgré les mesures de réquisition. Ils exigeaient une augmentation de salaire de 30 % pour compenser l'augmentation du coût de la vie qui a été de 160 % en 1983. Les employés publics se sont associés au mouvement revendicatif. Le gouvernement Shamir a décidé entretemps des mesures de réduction des salaires réels de un million et demi de travailleurs portant sur 12 %.

D'après les estimations des économistes israéliens, la crise se poursuivra en 1984. On s'attend à un taux d'inflation de 280 %. Le nombre des chômeurs passera à 100 000 et le chômage s'étendra aux services publics. La principale cause de cette évolution est la politique expansionniste d'Israël. Les dépenses occasionnées par l'occupation des territoires arabes dépassent de loin les possibilités économiques du pays. D'après les indications officielles, la dette extérieure se chiffre à 23 milliards de dollars, malgré les sommes immenses qui ont été offertes par les U.S.A. Israël est l'un des pays les plus endettés du monde, si l'on considère la population. Tout indique qu'il faut s'attendre pendant les prochains mois à un aiguisement des luttes de classes.

Les postiers australiens exigent la sécurité de l'emploi malgré l'automatisation

Telecom prévoit que d'ici 1988-1989 le "Service Order Systems" sera entièrement automatisé grâce au "Distributed Record Information System" informatisé. Dans les régions où les nouveaux systèmes sont mis à l'essai, on s'attend à la suppression de 230 à 290 postes. Au cas où le système serait généralisé à tout le pays, il y aurait 2 000 emplois supprimés, surtout dans les bureaux et aux guichets.

L'Union australienne des postes et télécommunications (A.P.T.U.) a noté que l'attaque contre l'emploi était préparée de longue date. Si Telecom applique le programme d'informatisation, les conséquences seront catastrophiques pour les travailleurs.

Le secrétariat confédéral de l'A.P.T.U. a donc décidé de s'opposer à l'information tant que Telecom ne satisferait pas aux exigences suivantes :

- l'établissement d'un programme approprié de sauvegarde de l'emploi qui garantisse le maintien de tous les postes malgré l'automatisation;
- le programme doit tenir compte du caractère spécifique des postes menacé par l'informatisation;
- aucun licenciement de membres de l'A.P.T.U. de toutes les catégories professionnelles par suite de l'informatisation ou de toute autre technologie nouvelle;
- une démarche concertée de l'A.P.T.U. et de Telecom pour l'informatisation.

Au cas où Telecom refuserait ces exigences, le secrétariat confédéral de l'A.P.T.U. envisagerait une grande campagne syndicale.

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Limitation radicale des services communaux en R.F.A.

Déclaration syndicale contre le déploiement des armes nucléaires de l'O.T.A.N.

Monika Wulf-Mathies, présidente du Syndicat de la fonction publique, a dit qu'il fallait s'attendre pour 1984 à une limitation radicale des services communaux et à la suppression d'emplois dans les villes et les villages de République fédérale d'Allemagne. C'est ainsi qu'à la suite des décisions budgétaires, il faut s'attendre à une augmentation de la redevance pour les jardins d'enfants et à la fermeture de services pour le troisième âge et la jeunesse. Ce sont justement les municipalités qui souffrent de la réduction de l'allocation de chômage et de l'aide sociale aux chômeurs car ce sont elles qui doivent intervenir quand les chômeurs cessent de percevoir une aide publique.

Dans plusieurs secteurs économiques et dans les services publics, il faut s'attendre à une réduction considérable du nombre des places d'apprentissage.

Le Comité directeur du Syndicat de la fonction publique et des transports de R.F.A. s'est prononcé le 30 novembre 1983 contre le déploiement de nouveaux missiles nucléaires américains en R.F.A. car c'est une mesure tournée contre les interêts de la majorité du peuple, le déploiement accélère la course aux armements et rend caduque la politique de détente. Le Comité directeur demande la conclusion d'un traité de renonciation à la force entre les alliances, la substitution d'un projet de sécurité à la stratégie de la dissuasion et la renonciation aux armes de destruction massive A.B.C. Son but est la création d'une zone dénucléarisée en Europe.

Le dernier congrès du Syndicat des postiers de R.F.A. a adopté lui aussi une résolution par laquelle il proclame son opposition au déploiement des missiles de croisière et des Pershing II en R.F.A.

SAINT-DOMINGUE Revendications des personnels de la santé

4 000 aides-soignants ont fait grève pendant plusieurs jours pour exiger l'augmentation de leurs salaires, l'amélioration de l'équipement des hôpitaux publics et la réintégration de 7 000 travailleurs licenciés. Les grévistes espèrent qu'ils seront soutenus par les médecins, qui ont annoncé qu'ils cesseraient de travailler pendant plusieurs heures dans les hôpitaux publics.

Le gouvernement a déclaré qu'il ne pouvait pas accepter les revendications des infirmières et a dénoncé les contrats de travail de 1 000 employés, d'où un échec des pourparlers engagés pour régler le conflit.

S O L I D A R I T E

40 mois de violence et de terreur en Turquie

Depuis près de trois ans et demi, le régime militaire réactionnaire fait sévir en Turquie la violence et la terreur la plus brutale. Toutes les velléités démocratiques sont réprimées brutalement par des méthodes barbares. Les syndicalistes progressistes sont poursuivis et condamnés à de lourdes peines ou même à la peine capitale dans des simulacres de justice. C'est particulièrement le cas de la D.I.S.K. et de ses syndicats de branche qui luttent courageusement contre l'inflation galopante, contre la réduction du pouvoir d'achat des salaires, contre la détérioration des conditions de travail, pour la démocratie et les droits syndicaux. (Voir également le n° 59 de Fonction publique, 1984.) A la fin de l'année dernière, les militaires ont lancé une nouvelle vague d'arrestations et de procès. Le nombre des syndicalistes traduits en justice est actuellement de plus de 2 000. 74 militants syndicaux ont déjà été condamnés à mort.

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Des procédures sont engagées contre 29 syndicats membres de la D.I.S.K. et leurs militants, en particulier :

- *Genel-Is (fonction publique), 35 accusés et 56 militants recherchés par la police ;*
- *Sosyal-Is (bureaux et affaires sociales), 16 accusés et 45 militants recherchés par la police ;*
- *Dev. Saguk-Is (santé), 20 accusés et 19 militants recherchés par la police ;*
- *Banksen (banques), 24 accusés et 90 militants recherchés par la police ;*
- *Haber-Is (télécommunications), 14 accusés et 50 militants recherchés par la police.*

Les listes de personnes recherchées comportant aussi les noms de 15 militants de Tum Has-Is (santé) ; quatre syndicalistes de Bank-Is ont déjà été condamnés à des peines de prison allant de 8 à 15 ans.

Nous devons nous opposer aux menées criminelles du régime militaire réactionnaire de Turquie et faire cesser ses pratiques honteuses ! Nous sommes solidaires de tous les militants et progressistes turcs poursuivis, accusés et condamnés.

SOYEZ SOLIDAIRES !
PROTESTEZ AUPRES DES AMBASSADES TURQUES DANS VOS PAYS !

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telegrammes +++ telegrammes +++

KAMPUCHEA *Le secrétariat de l'U.I.S. a transmis ses salutations solidaires et fraternelles pour le premier congrès syndical du Kampuchéa : "Puisse le congrès contribuer au renforcement de l'unité et de la cohésion des travailleurs de votre pays et mobiliser de nouvelles forces pour l'édification de la société nouvelle et la lutte anti-impérialiste."*

SYRIE *Fédération des travailleurs des services publics :*
"Nous condamnons vigoureusement la politique impérialiste de violence qui a pour but l'hégémonie politique et militaire des U.S.A. au Proche-Orient Nous sommes solidaires de la lutte du peuple syrien, de l'O.L.P. et des autres forces nationales arabes contre la politique de confrontation des U.S.A. et nous sommes pour une paix durable au Proche-Orient."

LIBAN *Fédération des syndicats des ouvriers et employés :*
"L'U.I.S. de la fonction publique condamne les préparatifs d'agression des U.S.A. et l'Israël contre le Liban ... Nous dénonçons la politique impérialiste de violence et d'oppression des U.S.A. visant à l'hégémonie politique et militaire au Proche-Orient."

GRECE *Fédération hellénique des travailleurs des télécommunications:*
"Transmettons à votre congrès nos salutations solidaires. Nous vous souhaitons de nouveaux succès dans les activités syndicales, en particulier dans les efforts des travailleurs de votre branche pour se protéger des conséquences de la crise et défendre les droits syndicaux."

ANGOLA *Sindicato Saude Administraçao :*
"Au nom de nos 28 millions d'adhérents vous assurons solidarité complète avec la lutte courageuse des travailleurs et du peuple de l'Angola contre l'agression criminelle perpétrée par les racistes sud-africains."

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Public Services

SED

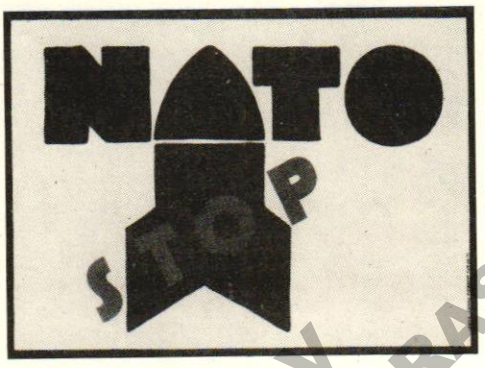
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ALLIED TRADES

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Stop the nuclear threat

"Never before the danger of a nuclear war was so alarming as now, and that is why we support the resolute peoples' and workers' struggle for peace and disarmament reflecting the seriousness of the present international situation. This danger has permanently grown as a result of the policy pursued by the US administration and the NATO circles. They intensify the arms race in an insensate way; they, starting from the position of strength, claim predominance over other countries; they increasingly practise obstruction of and interference with peace and disarmament talks; they fan and precipitate hotbeds in the different regions of the earth in order to justify the arms race and to extend the network of nuclear weapon bases; they force medium-range missiles upon the peoples in Europe, and they impertinently interfere in the sovereign affairs of other states.



These actions and struggles are inseparably connected with those public employees conduct to defend their right to work, the real purchasing power of their wages, their economic and social achievements and the public services themselves. Just the latter are extremely jeopardized by the deep economic crisis of the capitalist system."

(From the "Declaration on Peace and Disarmament" adopted by the 35th Directive Committee Meeting held in Bucharest in November 1983).

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„Now Is The Time for Quick Action"! Struggle against Nuclear Catastrophe

An "International Trade Union Conference against Chemical and Bacteriological Weapons" was held in Ho-Chi-Minh-City (Vietnam) which was attended by trade unions from 61 countries and representatives of 25 international organizations. (We have already reported about that in our "BULLETIN" No. 6/83.) Dr. Fuzi, Chairman of the Health Service Branch Commission, participated in this Conference as representative of our TUI of Public Employees. There he delivered a speech which we publish below.



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Health Service Branch Commission of the TUI of Public and Allied Employees I have the honour to welcome the participants in this Conference and through them the workers and organizations of the countries concerned.

This Conference is an important event for the trade union movement. As a matter of fact, trade unions meet here who are active in countries with different social orders and whose trade union affiliation shows different trends. They are, however, guided by the same will to demonstrate the unanimity of the trade unions to struggle for our world of today and tomorrow and to contribute by the struggle for peace to the termination of the insane arms race and thus to the prevention of a new war.

Nowadays it is of particular importance to the trade union movement to wage an intensive struggle for the elimination of the chemical and bacteriological weapons. We hold the view that the defence of peace is not only a political task, but also a traditional and lofty task for the trade unions to fulfil.

In the course of the last decades we have witnessed the multiplication of the factors which constitute a threat to mankind.

The dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima has ushered in a new era in the history of wars. This was and remains now as before a new threat to mankind against which no medical measure is effective. It is deeply regrettable that the opponents of peace do not shrink back from developing ever new weapons which lead to a slow and terrible death. They do not start back at all from using these weapons thus disregarding the relevant Geneva Agreements. Since the early 1950's up to now more and more sophisticated nuclear weapons have been produced and stockpiled and new methods are applied the effect of which would be the possibility of stamping out human life by biological methods.

In the early 1970's during the period of détente we witnessed the conclusion of certain partial agreements which led to a temporary slowing down of the arms race. These agreements

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provided among other things the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the prohibition of the production, development and stockpiling of bacteriological weapons.

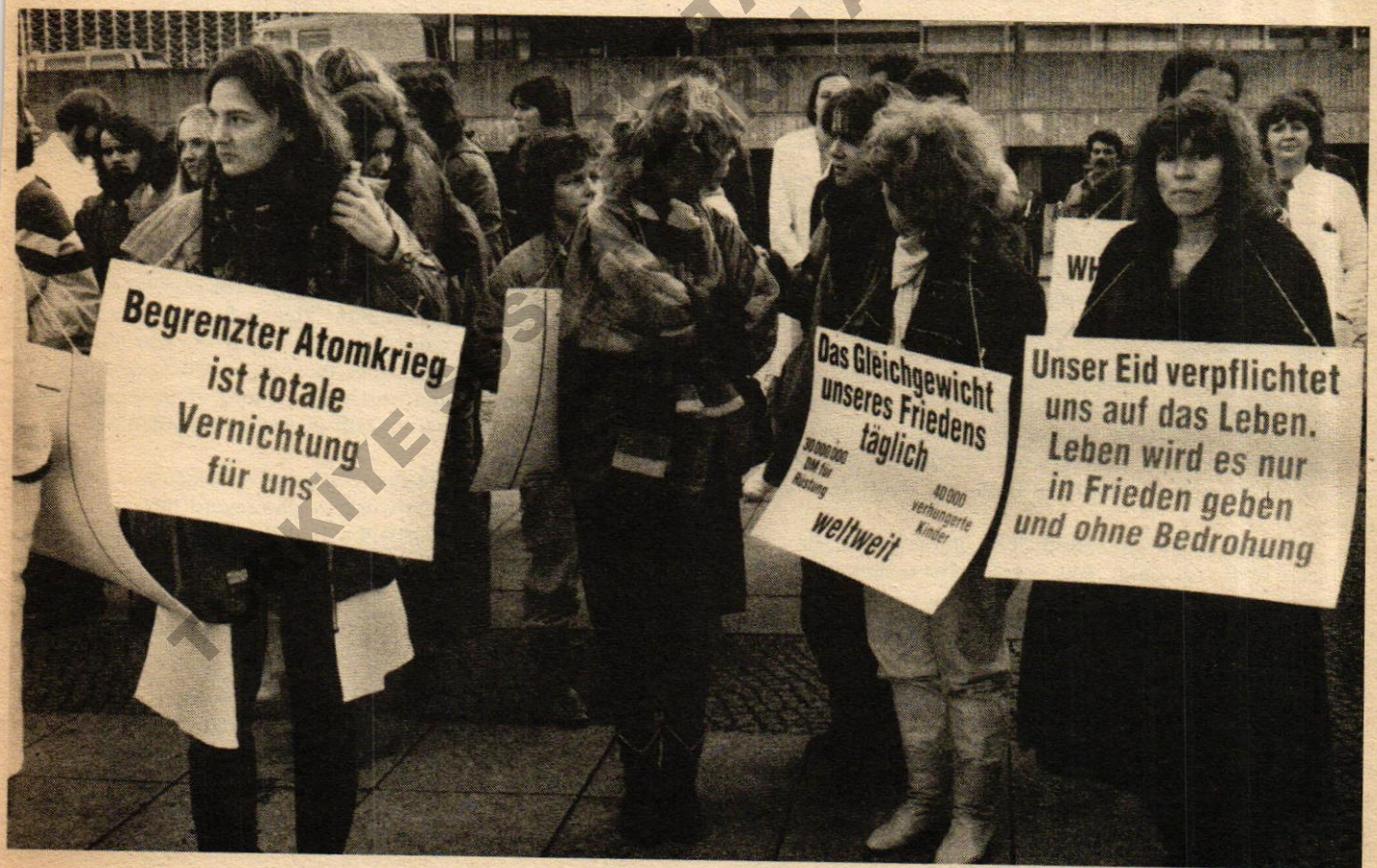
Since 1975, however, we have witnessed a considerable acceleration of the arms race. The imperialist forces, above all American imperialism have adopted such a course which creates for the whole world an alarming situation and endangers peace and security of mankind. This unrestrained arms race and record military expenditure have led to the existence of 60,000 strategic and tactical nuclear weapons the destructive power of which is several million times that of the bomb of Hiroshima.

In these conditions it is not only a particularly important and urgent task of the trade union movement but of all progressive and democratic forces and organizations throughout the world to encourage disarmament by concrete initiatives.

The significance of this Conference lies particularly in the fact that it was organized in a country which only recently had been the "place of testing" of chemical and bacteriological weapons. The thousands of tons of chemical warfare agents dropped by the United States on South Vietnam were an historical lesson to all peoples all over the world. It was just by these barbarous destructions that the peoples of the world became aware of the danger threatening their lives. Therefore, according to the joint and world-wide interests of the working people throughout the world, we must spare no effort to achieve that this Conference halts the arms race and we must fight chemical and bacteriological warfare in order to safeguard peace.

Dear Friends,

Protecting peace and demanding disarmament constitutes today a major task the trade unions are faced with. In this connection we would like to refer to the appeal for peace launched at the 10th World Trade Union Congress in Havana which says that "... we must prevent a nuclear catastrophe and consolidate peace on our earth."
Man's basic right, the right to life, is today in the foreground, for once these weapons should be used not only the lives of the military are endangered but also the lives of thousands of millions of civilians, working people, hundreds of thousands of innocent people constituting the coming generation. When the living space is destroyed, the entire enviornment and all the necessary prerequisites for survival are irreversibly devastated then we are all deprived of our most elementary right–the right to life.
The health workers are alarmed at the fresh attempts of the United States to fan the arms race and at the possibility of a nuclear catastrophe which can annihilate the entire human civilization. The health workers know, maybe even better than anybody else, what contradiction there is between war and the protection of human life and the humanitarian relations for preserving health.
A scant three years ago the International Movement–with Soviet, British and American professors at its head–launched an appeal to the physicians of the world urging them to struggle against nuclear weapons in order to prevent the annihilation of mankind.
More and more doctors from more and more countries join this international movement. Mindful of the Hippocratic oath to which they are committed they pledge to use all their strength and knowledge to cure their fellow-beings, to relieve



Doctors, nurses and other staff members of the Clinic in Steglitz/West Berlin protested in their medical institution against the deployment of US American nuclear missiles in the FRG.
Photo: ADN-Zentralbild



On October 22, 1983 one hundred thousand workers demonstrated in Paris against the deployment of new missiles in Western Europe. The demonstrators marched for hours through the town centre to the "Rue de la Paix". *Photo: ADN-Zentralbild*

the pains and ailments and to prevent diseases. For just these reasons we should consider it our natural task that the greatest threat mankind has ever been faced with is eliminated.
It is well known that 40 per cent of the research workers all over the world are busy developing new weapons. Many of them are withdrawn from development and research work which should be done for social purposes.
I would not like to repeat the data Alain Covet, Chairman of the International Preparatory Commission, has mentioned in his opening speech when he dealt with the victims claimed by diseases, hunger and the lack of safe water scourging mankind. The funds necessary for eliminating these disastrous conditions constitute only a tiny fraction of the expenditure on armaments. Hunger, misery, the non-existence of elementary hygienic conditions, which, among other things, result in lethal epidemic diseases, the struggle for wiping out diseases decimating the population require an intensive co-operation of the health workers not only for cure but also for prevention and for the struggle to obtain the funds necessary for this purpose.
The study groups for the anti-nuclear, anti-chemical and biological civil protection have come to the unanimous conclusion that in the case of such an attack there are no protection measures which could guarantee the security of the masses.
We all know the consequences of the lethal nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons for the descendants, for the living conditions of the future generations, the air pollution and the irreparable upset of the ecological balance which deprives the population of their most fundamental right–the right to life, although they do not directly participate in the military operations. I believe that this immense danger must be made clear to the millions and millions of people so that they can assess it. Now it is time for quick action! That is the only way, the only possibility not to get into such a situation.

To act is so much the more important because the role of public opinion and the influence of the masses have considerably grown in our century. We must raise our voices in order to defend the life of mankind against the greatest danger threatening the world.
We know that man is willing and in a position to protect everything he creates thus ensuring mankind today as well as future generations a healthy and happy life.

Dear Friends,

Our task consists in doing everything for the realization of the programme adopted in Alma Ata "Health for everyone by the year 2,000". I am convinced that the health workers all over the world endorse the appeal of the 10th World Trade Union Congress held in Havana which says among other things: "We must prevent the nuclear catastrophe and strengthen peace on our earth."
The trade unions can always reckon with the active participation of the health workers who regard the implementation of this lofty aim as their task. I am convinced that this Conference will play an important role in this process.

Dear Friends,

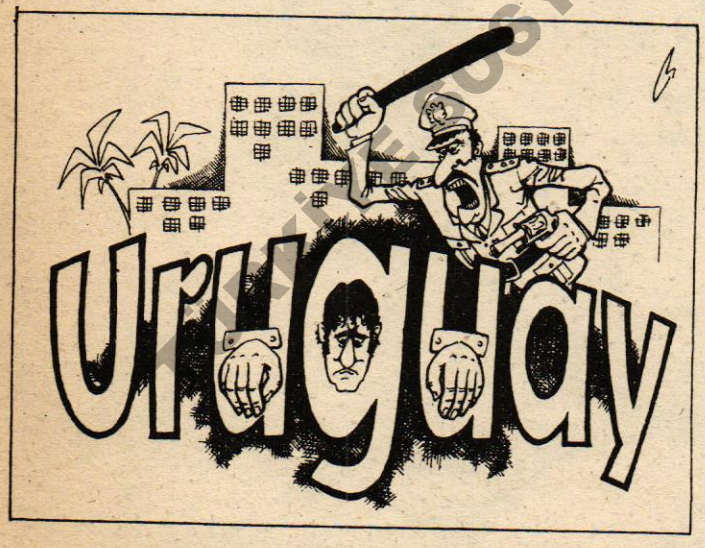
I would like to assure you that the health workers united in the Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees will do everything in their power so that the objectives of this Conference will be implemented.

TÜRK TARİH KURUMU SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ

Hospital Cuts and Nuclear Missiles in Great Britain

By Miguel Rivero

The London Guy-Hospital enjoys international reputation as a pediatric centre for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases. This hospital also has a neurological department and a department for the treatment of renal diseases.
Recently, however, the hospital had to close down part of the intensive care unit due to draconic budget cuts. Filled with consternation, Prof. Cyril Chantler said that was irresponsible and dragic. "We have the beds, the equipment and all facilities, but the budget is insufficient to pay the nurses", he declared.
In some cases the children do not have any refuge and must die. That was the horrible prognosis made by Prof. Chantler.
As a matter of fact, the Central Government is of the opinion that the costs for intensive care are "too high", and slashed the budget by an amount equivalent to 1.5 million dollars.
Malachi, a one-year old child, was one of the last lucky ones that was treated in the intensive care unit where he could be saved because of the devotion of doctors and nurses as he was born with the most severe internal complications.
The Guy-Hospital has cancelled all operations which are not considered to be urgent and dozens of children have already been denied admission. This hospital is regarded as national centre for the treatment of renal failures.
This is not an isolated case but one of the most dramatic ones to which the press drew attention with a view to "receiving some contributions" enabling the hospital to maintain the intensive care unit. With regard to education a statement was made that owing to budget cuts 6 university colleges would be closed down.
The majority of the institutions threatened by these cuts are situated in the south-east of the country. These cuts also mean that over 10,000 students cannot reckon with the continuation of their studies this autumn. Peter Danson, General Secretary of the National Teachers' Association pointed out that those were the results of the policy pursued by the conservative government. 10,000 students will have no chance to begin their studies and 6 university colleges will be closed down. The cuts will also result in the deterioration of the educational system's quality.
At the same time plans are being continued to spend over 16,000 million dollars on the purchase of highly sophisticated "Trident" nuclear missiles for submarines and more than 300 million dollars for the construction of a new military airport in the Malvians.



On November 27, 1983 despite brutal oppression and cruel terror over 400,000 people met in Montevideo for the biggest mass rally in the history of Uruguay expressing their determination to restitute democracy in the country. *Photo: ADN-Zentralbild*

Pharm. Profits

They are swindling, robbing, poisoning us!—louder and louder sounds that cry from scores of developing countries. These serious approaches are addressed to the multinational pharmaceutical trusts of the West, above all the United States.
In the United States and Western Europe there are regulations governing the marketing of medical preparations. True, the multinationals often manage to by-pass them, there are, however, certain barriers against the machinations of these corporations. Not so where developing countries are concerned.
Freely sold in most of Latin America, notes the Venezuelan newspaper Diario de Caracas, are some 40 American drugs banned within the U.S. as well as scores of preparations imported by the pharmaceutical corporations of other capitalist countries. Among them are dozens of experimental preparations. The "experiments" may, of course, have tragic results but the bosses of the U.S. pharmaceutical trusts plainly could not care less.

The picture is similar in many Asian and African countries. Malaysia's consumer protection society reports that of the 15,000 drugs on sale in Southeast Asia many are prohibited in the country of origin. Moreover, the accompanying descriptions are often mere publicity.

Especially brazen are the companies in pushing their products in counries without a pharmaceutical industry of their own. A TV programme screened by the American CBS network cited numerous instances of the criminal behaviour of the corporations, notably U.S. transnationals which deliver health-endangering drugs to developing countries.

And on top of it all the multis sell their stuff in the developing countries at prices far higher than at home. As the magazine "Jeune Afrique" points out the tranquillizer known in the West as Diazepam is sold in the Third World, where it is called Valium, at 50 times the price in the U.S. and Western Europe.

As we see, the machinations of pharmaceutical Big Business cost the new nations dear—and not only in terms of money.

At the International Trade Union Conference on questions concerning transnational pharmaco-chemical corporations (held in Moscow in November 1981) also the TUI of Public Employees dealt with these problems and stated among other things:

TÜRKİYE SOSYALİST İŞÇİ PARTİSİ ARŞİVİ MAKFİ

"The co-ordination would enable the trade unions in a given transnational corporation's home country and the trade unions in the host countries of that corporation's subsidiaries to act more effectively in defence of the common interests of the workers and peoples of different countries."

("Public Services", No. 48/81, Supplement, page 9)

Pay or Die

By Oscar Perdomo Marin

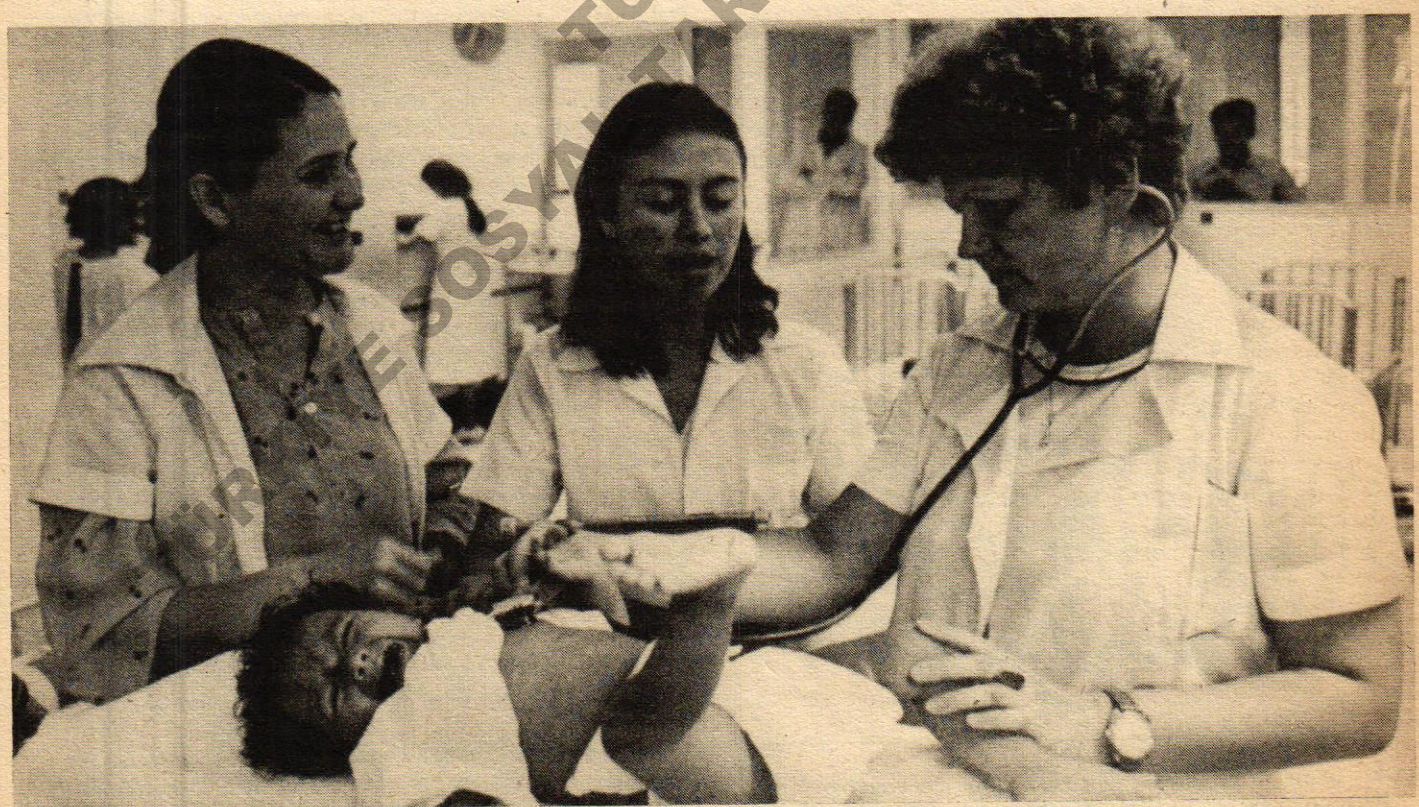
The 'Carlos J. Bello' Hospital of the Venezuelan Red Cross refused to admit a patient who was in a critical condition because he did not have the necessary financial means to cover the cost for medical care. These are the very words of a news item published in the newspaper "El Nacional" from Caracas, one of the papers with the widest circulation of this oil producing country where like everywhere it is a problem to be unemployed, but a crime to be ill. Proceeding from solid evidence, Dr. Armando Diaz Lovera, President of the Medical Association of a hospital in the West of Caracas condemned this case as the same source reports.
Diaz Lovera revealed that a 31-year old patient had been operated on in the Hospital of the Red Cross for complicated appendicitis. After his discharge he had, however, to return to hospital as he suffered from nausea, vomiting and pains in the abdomen. This very institution refused to readmit him, as the patient had no money.

From the clinical history sheet of the "welfare institution" we learn that the patient suffered from intestinal obstruction, and a final remark signed by the physician on duty says: "The patient is barred from hospital for lack of money."
The patient who had been refused admission by the Red Cross Hospital was in an extremely critical condition when he was admitted to the centre in which Dr. Diaz Lovera works. He was given a general anaesthetic and a surgical intervention was performed.
Dr. Diaz Lovera confirmed that there was such a system in the said hospital. It is known that doctors earn up to 30,000 bolivars a month (4.30 bolivars = 1 dollar).

A year ago a woman gave birth to a child in a private clinic, and the sum charged was that high that the husband, an employee with moderate income, was forced to declare that he could not pay the money. In answer to it the woman and her child had to leave the clinic.
A consultation with a dentist, an otorhinolaryngologist or any other medical specialist costs the patients from between 40 to 60 dollars. Costs for complicated operations run into thousands of dollars. And if the patient is an employee he can only pay if someone lends him money otherwise he has to confine himself to taking a sedative to alleviate the pain until treatment for curing the disease comes possibly too late.
For an unemployed it is better not to commit the offence to fall ill as he might suffer the same fate as the patient of the Red Cross Hospital.

By no means he should dare to die, because then his relatives have to do the impossible to bear the funeral expenses, the costs for the burial-place and lots of other costs involved.

(According to "Prensa Latína" of June 23, 1983)



The development and improvement of the health system is one of the tasks the Sandinist government of Nicaragua attaches special importance to.
Photo: ADN-Zentralbild

TÜSTAV SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

Some Travelling Impressions from West Africa

By Elie Mazzotti, Secretary of the TUI of Public Employees

In my capacity as Secretary of the TUI I travelled to five French-speaking countries in West Africa in order to prepare the 3rd Trade Union Seminar.
The 3rd Trade Union Seminar was organized by our TUI in co-operation with the colleagues of our affiliated Health Workers' Union and the other public employees' federations of Mali as well as with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO).
I was received by the colleagues of the public services at their trade union offices with justified and understandable pride. These offices were modestly furnished but they were their property, the unions' property. In fact, they first had to achieve independence in order to enjoy the right to their own offices where they could meet and work for the defence of the working people without any fear of reprisals.
The colleagues took part in our working meeting during their working hours. That presupposes that trade union rights had been obtained and effectively exercised. These trade union rights are, however, only exercised due to the resolve of the trade union organizations and the actual influence they have. The colleagues I met pointed out that in general these rights are better respected in the public service than in the other branches particularly with regard to the private sector.
At the invitation of the responsible colleagues of the Health Workers' Union I had repeatedly the opportunity to visit a hospital and satisfy myself as to the conditions of a patient during his stay in hospital and the medical care as well as the working conditions of the personnel.
Unfortunately, power cuts still frequently occur which affect the whole hospital including the power supply of all nursing and operating devices which endangers the lives of the patients.
When a doctor writes out a prescription for a patient the relatives are kept busy hunting up these drugs. That is why they often have to pay an excessive price or they have to fall back on a friend of the family who works in Europe and ask him to send it.
This permanent lack does not only concern special medicaments but also the most usual ones such as aspirin tablets as well as surgical cotton or gauze-bandages.
Despite these very unsatisfactory conditions the medical staff of the hospital manages to nurse and cure the patients. Thanks to the incessant devotion, an astonishing knowledge and the ability to mobilize and sensitize the patient's relatives and the environment it is possible to contribute to curing the patient.
Our colleagues of the health service try to overcome the practically complete dependence they find themselves in.
There is a dependence on the governments who hand over material goods which sometimes cannot be used as the basic equipment is inadequate: electricity, water, sewerage, waste water treatment etc.
One also depends on the indispensable supply of spare parts which are always in short supply because of the exorbitant prices.
There is another dependence in the field of the training of skilled personnel, for without a qualified staff a hospital will fail to fulfil its tasks properly.
Some fresh efforts must be taken with regard to some public employees who thanks to essential solidarity measures reached a genuine qualification but who cannot find a job according to their training and knowledge and either leave their country (mainly for a capitalist state) or prefer the private sector for personal reasons because jobs their are more lucrative.

In the course of the different talks conducted in various countries the most frequent demand for the entire public service was in connection with the arreas of wages. Sometimes these arreas of wages had accrued for months. In order to force the employees to put up with this situation the trade unions and their members were often fobbed off with the argument that they were "public-sector" workers with all its consequences and that with a "sense of responsibility" the continuity of the services to be provided for the population must be ensured. Thus the fact that there is a relative employment security is taken unfair advantage of whereas unemployment is the reality most of the working people are faced with, with only little chance to find a job.

For the trade unions the point is to remain within the framework of their orientation which is based on responsible participation without abandoning the defence of the workers' interests.
In their consultations our colleagues agreed upon to conduct negotiations with the state authorities and, if necessary, they provide for a consistent and suitable trade union action in order to put an end to this intolerable state which otherwise could lead to undermining the aspirations of certain public services so that the public-sector workers' families are plunged into great misery. Our Trade Unions International pursues its activities with regard to the trade union schooling of the colleagues from African countries within the framework of its fraternal solidarity. The 3rd Trade Union Seminar of public employees of the French-speaking African countries testifies to this continuity.

It must, however, be borne in mind that this is not only an aid how effective it ever may be, and it should never lead to the conclusion that one could carry out the trade union activities of our African colleagues oneself or that one could replace them.
The question of trade union cadres is a topical one in all trade union organizations including those in the most advanced countries. It is, however, evident that for our African colleagues this is a question of great urgency. After the different meetings I had it seems to me that here is an urgent need to provide a short-term basic training for a large number of trade union cadres without slackening our efforts to train trade union cadres in long-term courses. This allows mobilizing the working people and provides opportunities for their participation in any place where they work in order to defend their material and moral interests on the one hand and to maintain and improve the quality of the public services with consciousness and sense of responsibility which are peculiar to trade union cadres.

Then the trade unions could nominate those colleagues for a long-term trade union training with general or specific character who proved to be the most resolute and capable for such a training.
In this sense the colleagues in the course of the meetings in the different countries suggested that several seminars should be held in different countries which can be attended by

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ENSTİTÜSÜ

officials of any federation of public employees as this would be more effective and less expensive than assembling several officials of different countries in one place with the norms being observed in order to win the support of the ILO with regard to its effective participation and financial aid.

Certainly, I found different situations in the various countries which I visited. But these differences did not prevent the responsible colleagues from making very many and different requests related to most multifarious trade union issues and their own activities, the trade union rights and their demands and how to enforce them, but also to problems concerning the TUI and the WFTU, their respective role, method of working and what we could do to help them.

I met colleagues who were waiting for the assistance which, in their opinion, we or others should give them, but also other, more resolute colleagues who had more confidence in their members who resolutely organized their own actions and trade union activities with a sense of responsibility.

Nevertheless, we cannot ignore the abject poverty in which these countries were left to their own resources after years of colonialism. Instead of being diminished this misery is even aggravating in most cases despite all the efforts and sacrifices to try to overcome the underdevelopment in which they find themselves.
Our colleagues must cope with the strong pressure on the part of the imperialist countries, the multinational corporations and the International Monetary Fund which steadily aim at realizing maximum profit even though this is achieved by the misery of the population, at the expense of the most urgent needs of the countries concerned which renders the efforts extremely difficult and often dooms them to failure.

Certainly, it cannot be tolerated that such a situation continues to exist, that the huge natural resources of Africa continue to be plundered without the adequate counter-value in the form of equipment or other materials these countries do not possess.
Without being excessively high in absolute terms, in proportion to the number of inhabitants the foreign debts have reached a point where it is necessary to raise new loans just to pay back the interests for loans raised at an earlier date.

This requires a more intensive joint trade union action of the working people of the African countries and the working people of all countries in order to achieve a profound change of the system of international relations which today are still subject to the laws of speculation, particularly with the dollar, and excessively high interest rates.

In order to overcome underdevelopment it is necessary to establish equal and juster relations among the countries on the basis of the mutual interests of every state and every people within the framework of the development of a new international economic order. The vigilant, active and responsible participation of the trade union organizations testifies or will testify to an important democratic progress which allows the trade unions to take that place in the social life of the country which they are entitled to and which permits these decisive public services to play the role the working people expect them to play.



Partial view of the Trade Union Seminar in Bamako/Mali carried out by the TUI in co-operation with the colleagues of the Public Service of Mali from November 22–25, 1983. In the middle of the photo the Minister of Labour and Public Services of Mali during his welcoming speech. *Photo: ADN-Zentralbild*

Astronomical Costs for Medical Care in Japan

By Carlos Iglesias

Is it the state of health of the Japanese that deteriorates or is it their purse?
This question is justified in view of the latest announcement according to which the Japanese spent 53,750 million dollars on medical care in 1981. This amount exceeds the 1980 figure by 3,700 million (7.4 per cent) with annual rates showing a clear downward trend.
Since 1979 this index has been below 10 per cent with 9.5 per cent in 1979 and 9.4 per cent in 1980.
The Ministry of Health and Welfare confirms that the reduction was initiated by the health facilities themselves who are worried about the decreasing number of patients to be seen in the consulting hours as a result of the increased fees.
Corresponding to the individual incomes the costs were 6.3 per cent higher in 1981. One single consultation cost no less than 12 dollars. The costs for drugs must be added to this amount which often are not very effective so as to protract treatment as long as possible.
So the fear of the patients in this respect is justified in the face of the fact that the costs increased to 5.07 per cent of the gross national product and to 455 dollars for each of the 118 million Japanese.
To alleviate the situation for the patients the state bears 30.3 per cent of the costs, the national social insurance system defrays 29.8 per cent of the expenses, the big enterprises pay 23.8 per cent of the costs and 10.8 per cent of the costs involved must be paid by the patients themselves.
The income of a doctor is four times that of an employee and can total up to 100,000 dollars a year.
These excessive fees cause unease in some circles who appealed to the Japanese Medical Association to rigorously interfere in this matter and other voices demanded the revision of the taxation system which favours physicians.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE

In France One in Five Salaries Comes within the Scope of the Public Service Statute

In France the National Assembly adopted the general State and Municipal Officers' Statute.

In order to judge the significance of this Statute the "VIE OUVRIERE", the journal of the CGT organized a round-table talk in which Louis Viannet, Secretary of the CGT, Thérèse Hirszberg, General Secretary of the General Union of the Officers' Federation, CGT, and Alain Pouchol, General Seretary of the CGT-Federation of Public Employees took part.
George Beaulieu, journalist of the VIE OUVRIERE, led the discussion.

George Beaulieu: The CGT and the Federations affiliated to it appreciated the Public Service and Municipal Statute as an "event of great significance, as one of the greatest reforms enforced by the left-wing government". Could you comment on this general assessment?

Alain Pouchol: It is a Statute of great significance as it means progress to almost every 5th worker in this country. Therefore it constitutes an important clue for all working people and democracy. Apart from the officers it also is an important document as it aims at democratizing life in our country.

The right-wing Giscardists, and we should not forget that, had intentions which the CGT mostly fought alone. It was the case when the skeleton law was to be introduced just at the moment when these right-wing forces aimed at stifling the municipalities and imposing on them burdens by increasing the pressure of taxation on the population thus leaving the staff of the local governments in an unjustified situation with regard to the 1946 Public Service Statute. These reactionary conceptions did not automatically disappear on 10 May. This is testified particularly by the attitude of the right-wing representatives elected to the parity organs who had to comment on this



From right to left: Thérèse Hirszberg, General Secretary of the General Union of the Officers' Federation–CGT, Louis Viannet, Secretary of the CGT, Alain Pouchol, General Secretary of the Municipal Employees' Union–CGT, Georges Beaulieu, journalist of the "VIE OUVRIERE".

Statute. Their positions were completely negative. In the light of that the Statute is to be explained like this: What is good for the workers is good for the officers.

Now and then the ideas of the right are taken up in certain left-wing groupings. This, for instance, is true of the ideological topics propagated by them, e.g. that the Statute would turn into fetters, lead to "bureaucracy" and to the "authoritarian state".

Georges Beaulieu: Have there not been, by the way, different conceptions from the very beginning including important issues?

Alain Pouchol: Indeed, we were faced with certain issues. Were we to head for different Statutes which are bound to lead to the abandonment of the guarantees conceded to all officers on a national scale and which would jeopardize the prerequisites for the citizens for access to the public service? Or should we, on the contrary, aspire to a text permitting the uniqueness of an Officers' Statute ensuring great national guarantees, a permanent instrument for implementing decentralization in favourable conditions desired by the government and which we have supported on our part? That was the question. The decision taken by the government to adopt a text entitled "General State and Municipal Officers' Statute" and not a text which was called public service law suggests the choice made, i.e. uniqueness of the Statute and national guarantees for all. This proves that the granting of such guarantees does not mean any basic contradiction between the different institutional levels for four million workers. We can only congratulate ourselves on that.
That is why we described this Statute as being of great significance. This important reform of the left-wing government must be seen in respect to its contents and also to the exemplary practice as far as the elaboration of this document is concerned. There were genuine negotiations between the government and the trade unions in order to reach this text. That is why the CGT and its interested Federations have come to this assessment.

Georges Beaulieu: What were the effects of this progress for the workers directly involved?

Thérèz Hirszberg: It should be recalled that the very conception of the officers' situation in this country has always been subject of a fierce struggle between the reactionary and progressive forces. The new Statute is in one line with that of 1946. Then in France the conception of the officer as a citizen won the day, i.e. of a fully qualified worker irrespective of the political power and enjoying ensured rights.

The new Statute applies such democratic principles which in essence are marked by equal rights for all (irrespective of their opinions about employment and career«, basic rights (right to strike, right to organize), and improved protection during their whole active life with regard to the possible change of the political situation. Today we proceed from the 1946 Statute concerning 800,00 people, from the preceding one comprising 2.5 million people, to the new Statute which is valid for 4 million workers. The officers working in this country at the levels of municipalities, departements and regions or at central government level in the public services are now fully qualified officers.

The second feature of this text is that it contains all achievements reached since May 10, 1981, which thus pass into law (equality of sexes, new rights, expansion of the trade union and political liberties, the setting-up of hygiene and safety committees, preventive medicine, turning non-established personnel into established personnel etc.).

Already during the phase of negotiations further essential progress could be obtained. These are new achievements such as particularly the right to collective bargaining, the right to vocational training and further education, the right to social, cultural and sports activities, freedom of opinion and the freedom to express one's views.

This Statute, however, also contains the so-calles duties of the officers which should be duly emphasized. The new duty, for instance, to inform the user, the obligation to put into practice all the decisions taken by the various assemblies at different levels constitute democratic bulwarks with a conception of an officer whose employer is not a member of the National Council of French Employers (Conseil National du Patronat Français–CNPF) but whose employer is the State Power, the elected of the nation.

As in 1946–and that is an important fact which assumes today quite new dimensions–this new Statute contains a series of rights and guarantees constituting thus a unique instrument in the world. So everybody can judge how big the difference is which separates the conditions in which the French officers find themselves as compared with those of his colleagues in the FRG (with the job ban practices), Great Britain (where the officers are not conceded any rights as citizen) and in the United States of America (where the spoils system prevails, i.e. the change of officers at different administrative levels according to the political changes).
The main importance of the Statute in this sphere consists in the protection of the officers, but also of the citizens, from a conception of employment and promotion on the basis of affiliation. If such a procedure existed in practice then that would mean for the person concerned to be reduced to the status of a subject. It also had very grave repercussions with regard to guarantees for equal treatment of all by the public service. Strictly speaking the new Statute protects from such a rock.

Georges Beaulieu: Who else is, apart from the officers, concerned by this new Statute?

Louis Viannet: The fact that the Union has got in contact with all its Federations of the Public Service in order to assess the repercussions and the significance of this new Statute should not be regarded as a simple manifestation of solidarity. It is the expression of a full awareness of an event which primarily concerns the officers, but which exceeds this framework by far. Its consequences concern all citizens, i.e. all working people and this in two respects. As users of the public services and citizens of a municipality they are interested in this Statute in as far as it constitutes one of the prerequisites for the success of decentralization, the main features of which, as has just been recalled, prove to be inalienable in order to take steps in the direction of the participation of the citizens in the life of the nation, in decision making in issues of daily life.

The confirmation of big national guarantees for the officers is a point to which the CGT has referred to time and again. It constitutes the absolutely necessary support for actual equality of all citizens before the public service and the administration. By way of contrast the right-wing forces have always launched their attacks and offensives against the public service, against the rights and guaranties of the officers in order to stifle the municipalities.



This photo was made before May 1, 1981. Thanks to the steady activities of the trade unions and the left-wing government these demands have become reality in France. The general statute for officers in the state and municipal services is one of the most important reforms ever carried out in France.

Photo: ADN-Zentralbild

It is the working people who are concerned. The Statute is applicable to one in five workers.
This Statute meets the basic demands of the working people who want to reach important national guarantees by collective bargaining concerning their wages and working conditions, who want to have a concrete answer to the question of their place and role in the sphere of production. This document constitutes an aid for their actions.
Summing up it may be said that this progress will help us to strive upward at a time when there are quite a lot of attempts to draw downward. The Statute confirms what we have never stopped emphasizing: in order to really ensure the success of the great democratic reforms the working people must identify themselves with them. Proceeding from that the Statute is of great national significance.

Alain Pouchol: It must also be taken into account that if the CGT did not have the power and very large membership as it is the case in the public service it would not be clear that this text could have been agreed upon so quickly. By creating a positive counter-weight in view of the offensive pressure of the right-wing forces and some elements in the left-wing groupings who aim at eliminating step by step the achievements reached in 1946 or what was left of those achievements or the demands arising therefrom, the CGT has played an outstanding role in the interest of the personnel and the population.
When we congratulate ourselves today on such a text, then that does not mean that it was easy to enforce our proposals in the negotiations with the government. The most different ideas had their influence in drafting the text. In Parliament we were confronted with a struggle on the part of the right which was determined by certain interests and aspirations. The fact that it took place just before the municipal elections aggravated this struggle even more. Obviously the reactionary forces intend to use this institutional level as a counter-weight to a genuine policy of changes.

Thérèse Hirszberg: It should be added that we deem it important that the officials of the public service primarily measure the activities and the contribution of the CGT against what we appreciate as a victory of democracy and social progress. This includes the popularization of this progress among the working people and on this basis also the growing strength of the CGT in the public service in order to be better in a position to come out in favour of putting these changes into practice and advocate a public service which meets the requirements of our times.



NO to the arms drive! NO to war!
That is what the doctors and the whole medical staff of the 1st Hospital "N. Semashko" in Baku/Soviet Union voted for at a meeting.
Photo: ADN-Zentralbild

TÜRKİYE SOSYALİST İŞÇİLERİN İNTERNET ARŞİVİ

Interview

In the following we publish an interview which we were granted by Sister Galina Pavlovna Sorokina, Chairwoman of the Local Industries and Municipal Public Utilities and Services Workers' Union of the USSR on questions of securing peace and the trade unions' role.

What is your point of view about the present strained international situation?

Recently the international situation has aggravated, and the aggressiveness of imperialism, particularly US imperialism has intensified. An unprecedented arms drive, increased provocations and criminal subversive acts, pathological anticommunism–that is the misanthropical, militarist policy pursued by Washington thus seriously threatening world peace.

In these conditions the declaration made by Y.V.Andropov, General Secretary of the CC of the CPSU and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, is of greatest significance which gave world public another important chance to compare in greater detail the positions, the two different courses taken by the governments of the Soviet Union and the United States in international affairs. That means to compare the attitude towards the key issues of war and peace, the hotbeds of tension, the mass movements, and to contrast the different approach to the disarmament negotiations on the outcome of which depends to a great extent the destiny of international security.

The alarmed world must know where the threat comes from and how to escape it.

What possibilities do you see to stop the dangerous arms spiral?

Y.V. Andropov's declaration says among other things: "The Soviet leadership is not faced with the question what line to follow in international affairs in the current aggravated situation. Our course is now as before set for the preservation and consolidation of peace, détente, the curbing of the arms race, the expansion and deepening of co-operation among states."

The Soviet Union proposes to halt the dangerous race in the production and stockpiling of mass destruction weapons, and if there should be any emulation then in the search for more effective ways and means of maintaining peace and raising the material and spiritual living standards of the peoples. In the field of foreign policy the Soviet Union's credo materialized:

— in the unilateral commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons;
– in the joint proposal of the Warsaw Treaty Member States submitted to the NATO countries to conclude a treaty on the mutual non-use of military force and the maintenance of peaceful relations;
– in the proposal to freeze, limit, reduce and finally destroy completely all nuclear weapons;
– in the proposal to free Europe of medium-range nuclear missiles and tactical nuclear weapons;
– in the proposal to prevent the arms race being extended to outer space.

Our trade union just as all Soviet trade unions and all Soviet citizens unanimously agree with the peace initiative as they hold the view that there is no question more important now than safeguarding and consolidating peace.

What is to be done at trade union level to stop the arms race and to preserve peace?

We express our readiness to co-operate with all trade unions irrespective of their orientation and international affiliation in the struggle for peace, détente, disarmament and peaceful coexistence. We attach particular importance to joint actions of the trade unions in Europe which are directed against the deployment of new American medium-range nuclear missiles. A good basis for finding a common standpoint of the unions of public-sector workers of different orientation can be an appeal of the European trade unions of socialist countries to all trade unions and working people in Europe.

We call upon all trade unions of public-sector workers to forge the unity of action in the name of peace. The matter is urgent. It is high time to act before it is too late.

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TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI · TÜSTAV ARŞİVİ

What is the GENEL-IS Accused of?

In the following we publish extracts from the indictment of the military prosecutor against the GENEL-IŞ (Municipal Workers' Union) of Turkey. This indictment unmasks the reactionary regime of Turkey and furnishes proof that in this country the democratic and trade union rights are trampled under foot. It is up to the reader to judge...

Apart from the lawsuit conducted against the Federation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey (DISK) by the Military Court in Istanbul several other proceedings were instituted against trade unions affiliated to the DISK. In these parallel trials the military power tried to "prove" by the logic characteristic of the military that these trade unions were illegal and subversive organizations and in addition to that involved in terrorist acts.
The methods applied differ very much, from systematic tortures to extort "confessions" to various methods of intimidation as well as "brilliant rhetoric mastership" of the military prosecutor with a view to legally justifying these accusations.
It is interesting to state that frequently (just as in the case the proceedings initiated against the Genel-IŞ) the statutes, congresses and trade union activities are looked upon as relevant evidence although all statutes, congress decisions and activities were in full conformity with the laws then in force and had been ratified by the courts, competent authorities and administrations... After all, these accusations are not based on conclusive evidence and facts but on presumptions as well as on "conclusions and remarks" on the part of the military prosecutors.
On the other hand the trade unions being members of the DISK are particularly reproached with their affiliation to the DISK. The internal history of these trade unions is also called

in question. It is indeed very informative to acquaint oneself in greater detail with the bills of indictment in order to realize with what the progressive Turkish trade union movement and its outstanding representatives grouped around the DISK are reproached.

SUMMARY OF THE INDICTMENT

– Bill of indictment of the military prosecutor, M. Savaşan, at the command post of the state of emergency, Istanbul.
Total number of defendants: 315. Verdict of not guilty: 228. Others: 65. Accusation: Violation of Article 141 of the Turkish penal statute (establishment of the rule of one social class over another, creation of an organization whose objective is to overthrow the economic and social order of the country; organizing, managing and advising such an organization as well as membership thereof).
Delicts committed in the period from 1974 to September 12, 1980. Names of defendants.

Legal Basis

Article 1 of the trade union law says that the trade unions and trade union federations pursue the aim to protect and develop the lives and the common economic, social and cultural interests of their members. The book entitled: "The Trade Unions and Trade Union Finances" one of the publications of the GENEL-IŞ which appeared in 1966 gives the following definition of the trade union:
"The trade union is a permanent organ created by the workers for the protection of the working class within the limits of the legal regulations so as to enable them to improve to the maximum their working and living conditions according to the structure of the collective agreements and to contribute simultaneously to the economic development of the country and the settlement of its political, social and educational problems."
Despite the fact that trade union activities were free, provided that the constitution and the definition given by the GENEL-IŞ were respected, it must be stated that certain trade union members and officials committeed themselves to a series of illegal actions under the cloak of the trade unions instead of promoting the social and cultural interests of their members with a view to overthrowing the economic and social order prevailing in Turkey and seizing power.
It must be stated that this trade union does not mean that nowadays the class struggle is a simple struggle of interests between the workers and the employers which is to be considered individually, but a struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie (...) and that in pursuance of this objective they have tried and endeavoured to use all possible legal and illegal means–and that in an irresponsible and shameless way–and that they took unfair advantage of the most negligible dissension between workers and employers or made use of all the other political and social causes although these were not to be seen in connection with the rights of the working people in order to make it a topic for propaganda.

The Chronological Development of GENEL-IŞ

The trade union GENEL-IŞ was founded in Istanbul on April 22, 1962. Its declared aim was to unite all street-sweepers in Turkey. As early as in June of the same year this union developed in the towns of Izmir, Ankara, Antalaya and Konya. At the first Congress which took place in Ankara on November 15, 1962, Abdullah Bastürk, a founder member of the union, was elected chairman. Later on the trade union amended its statute to the effect that also those working in the different services, particularly the dustmen, the health workers, the personnel of the scientific and technical branches as well as the transport workers were organized at municipal level.
Originally the trade union was affiliated to the TÜRK-IŞ. But in a speech delivered on the occasion of the 6th Congress, the chairman of the union declared publicly that the GENEL-IŞ dissociated itself from the principles of the TÜRK-IŞ:
"... The working class is neither outside the policy nor neutral in this respect, for the trade unions are the workers' organizations whose aim it is to protect the workers from the capital; they take an active part in politics..."
The differences in opinion between the trade union and the federation aggraveted more and more until Bastürk declared at the Extraordinary Congress held on August 3, 1975:
"... When we say that we have to leave the TÜRK-IŞ, then it is not our aim to split the working class. On the contrary. The TÜRK-IŞ which plays the role of a superior structure is in contradiction with the historic march of the working class itself. It opposes the process within the working class to become aware of itself. It betrays the working class and its determination to unite and strengthen by unity. That is why we as GENEL-IŞ demand that we should break with this decayed organ which has lost its right to exist and which offers us no more vistas. It is only by so doing that we can avoid getting involved in contradictions to the historic path of the Turkish working class... For years the TÜRK-IŞ has striven for preventing the working class from becoming aware of its role and has developed into a mouthpiece for the American-style satellite trade union system–a conception according to which the trade unions should stay outside the political parties and the consciousness of the working class is replaced by nonsense ending in nationalism..."
Owing to that and due to the vote on a motion tabled by 59 delegates the GENEL-IŞ left the TÜRK-IŞ Federation.
After a certain period of independence, the GENEL-IŞ orientated itself towards the DISK. On the occasion of the signing of a joint protocol by the leaders of the DISK and GENEL-IŞ was stated:
"... Our working class is split both ideologically and organizationally. The main task of our struggle for democracy, independence, peace and social progress consists in ensuring the unity of our working class at all levels. The organization founded under the banner of trade union unity of the working class must be characterized by the following features:
– above all it must be independent of all employers and eventually of all political parties;
– it must be progressive and by no means reformistic;
– it must be the trade union mass organization of the working class."
As a result of the protocol the GENEL-IŞ joined the DISK on the occasion of the extraordinary congress in June 1976.
In the part entitled "For the Unity of the Working Class" the trade union explained the reasons for leaving the TÜRK-IŞ as follows.
"...The workers of Turkey are part of the worldwide working class and that is why the worldwide objectives of the working class also apply to the workers of Turkey. (...). We join the DISK in order to fight together:
(1) against fascism which one tries to introduce into our country;
(2) against capitalism which exploits our labour and for the construction of democratic socialism;
(3) against war-mongering imperialism;
(4) for the establishment of an independent Turkey without exploitation, free from foreign mortgages and military bases..."

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This shows the ideological objectives of this membership.

Investigation of the Statutes

Suffice it to investigate the development of the statutes of the trade unions in order to realize how it developed into an illegal organization and how the statutes were changed in a direction with a view to toppling the constitutional order (Remark: Here it should be recalled again that these statutes had been ratified by the then responsible and legal authorities).
– When in 1968 the trade union was affiliated to the TURK-IŞ the statutes provided for the struggle against fascism, communism, reaction, poverty, misery, injustice and ignorance. In the new statutes changed in 1972 the struggle against communism is no longer one of the objectives which shows that there are aspirations to establish communism. (Remark: Beyond doubt the reader will be delighted by the incomparable logic of the military prosecutor).
– Whereas the 1968 Statutes provided that the trade unions would lean on (among other things) the principle of nationalism this principle was deleted from the texts of the 1972 Statutes. This shows that the trade union has assumed a Marxist position and furnishes proof of its transition to internationalism. (Remark: The opening of the trade union which should be regarded as a very positive development in the emergence of the consciousness of the Turkish working class becomes in the eyes of the prosecutor a subversive crime and he draws the brilliant conclusion that the fact not to want to be any more "nationalist" is tantamount to "communist"...)
– The new 1975 Statutes provide that the trade union will give its support to the economic and social struggles in the other countries. (Remark: What a crime in itself!).
– The new Statutes regard the education of the working class as one of the most important objectives. This new version in the text of the Statutes shows that one aims at creating a basis in order to topple the power and to seize it by force with the support of those who are dissatisfied with the existing economic order and who were exposed to the brain-wash of Marxism. (Remark: No comment!)
– Whereas in the 1968 Statutes one made it a principle to pursue a policy independent of the political parties amendments were made after 1972 according to which the trade union in case it deemed it necessary could support one party in the elections, provided that it preserved its independence. The GENEL-IŞ indeed, supported one party in the elections, nominated its candidates who ran in the elections for this party and won several seats which brought them closer to their aim. (Remark: The party in question is the social-democratic Republican People's Party whose Chairman was Bülent Eçevit!).

Using Trade Union Rights and Duties for Unlawful Purposes

It is evident that by intensifying the indotrination of the members the trade union aimed at overthrowing the existing order and creating a broad Marxist basis by strikes, actions and relations with other organizations.
A trade union report says:
"Our trade union has fully participated in the actions organized by the DISK in line with the statements made by our Chairman. All our members have fulfilled their tasks during the demonstrations on May Day and on 20 March. (Remark: Demonstration under the slogan "Warning of Fascism" organized by the DISK in the universities and particularly as protest against the assassination of 6 university students in Istanbul who were killed by a bomb attack carried out by fascist forces). The same is true of the protests against the massacre of Kahramanmaraş, (Remark: More than 100 people were slaughtered by fascist gangs in Kahramanmaraş) as well as of the demonstrations for democracy which took place in Izmir, Mersin, Antalya, Ordu and Kocaeli".

Indoctrination Actions

It must be noted that the trade union attached great importance to the indoctrination and education of their members. That shows that they wanted to educate the workers with a view to establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat.

(...) The trade union taught their members that the working class must fight in order to diminish exploitation and pressure to begin with and to completely eliminate them in the long run and that one of the means at their disposal in this struggle was the strike. The strikes in the workplace are tantamount to a pistol-shot, the strikes of a sector are tantamount to a rifle-shot, whereas the general strike is, after all, their heavy gun and that the moment at which it is used must be well chosen, for that should only happen when all forces are gathered and one is sure of the result. (...).

The following passage from the opening speech delivered by Ekrem Akkuş, Chairman of the Indoctrination Department, on the occasion of a seminar held on July 5, 1979, is conclusive evidence that the GENEL-IŞ wanted to create a team formed along Marxist principles:

"...We know the current extremely difficult situation of our country. Apart from the economic crisis and the grown repression and exploitation it is the current capitalist and imperialist system which jeopardizes security due to numerous attempted assassinations and confrontations.
Our parent organization, the DISK, try to fulfil their tasks and duties in order to find a way out of the crisis. The DISK have repeatedly declared that the only way out is the conscious organizing of the working class at political level, and that the conscious and organized force of the working masses opposes this state of affairs..."
(Remark: The military who try to prove that the DISK advocated terrorism and was actually involved in it had made a bad choice by selecting just this passage!).

In a mimeographed notice those people were listed who are affected by a subversive education:

"In the GENEL-IŞ indoctrination is organized on a mass basis and in groups. The indoctrination in groups serves the training of officials whereas the mass indoctrination has to train the masses at the basis and tries to keep them currently informed about social developments. The indoctrination comprises both the rank and file and the officials and instructors themselves and aims at the formation of a public opinion". (Remark: No comment!)

Actions and Other Activities

– The Genel-IŞ did not participate in the big violent demonstrations of the workers on June 15 and 16, 1970. In the following years, however, they devoted much room to the anniversaries of these demonstrations speaking highly of them. That shows that they wanted to make their officials familiar with continuous action and that they tried to legitimate these actions.
– According to the guidelines issued by the Chairman Bastürk the trade union participated in the protest strikes and demonstrations against the security measures of the state of

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September 16, 1976 in order to prevent Pariament from passing them.

The anniversary of this resistance was also widely covered in their organs.

– The GENEL-IŞ fully participated in the demonstrations for the "Warning of Fascism" which took place on March 20, 1978. (Remark: See remark above). Bastürk clearly defined the objective of these actions in the press organ of the trade union on April 1, 1978. "... We are socialists, and the socialists' task consists in the class struggle... We know very well, just as the entire working class all over the world how and against whom the struggle against fascism must be waged..."
– The trade union also participated in the actions and strikes organized by the DISK in 1980. The following slogans were used then: "Shoulder to shoulder against fascism!", "No to the state of emergency!", "The general strike is a right–We will obtain it!", "No to the Articles 141–142!", "Long live the unity among the working people", "Fraternity among the peoples!". Even the loudspeakers of the town hall were used for this purpose.
– On January 26, 1980, the trade union members together with Bastürk participated in the demonstrations for the support of the resistance of the workers of "Tariş" in Izmir.
– The trade union also participated in the May Day demonstrations and particularly in those in 1976 where 36 people were killed. (Remark: By whom? By the fascist forces and agents of the so-called "Guerilla-Counter-Intelligence" of the army who had planted themselves on the roofs of the buildings surrounding the square!). The GENEL-IŞ made 780 people carry banners and also used 8 cars for this purpose. They also realized the unity of action with several other organizations. On April 30, 1980 it participated in the strike called by the DISK in order to protest against the prohibition to celebrate May Day in Istanbul.

Relations to Other Organizations

The trade union maintained relations with numerous organizations, for instance (...) the TYTTD (Organization of the Higher Technicians), the TÖB-DER (Teachers' Association), the TÜM-DER, TÜTED (Federation of Employees and University Professors), the IGD, IKD (Progressive Youth and Women), the DDKD (Progressive Cultural Home of the East), the Turkish Peace Committee, the TÜS-DER (Public Health Workers' Federation), the HOKD (Federation of Folk Singers), the Bar Association of Istanbul, the Federation of the Economists of Turkey, the TUMAS (University Assistants, the TMMOB (Board of Engineers and Architects), the TMDD (Association of Solidarity with the Prisoners and Convicts), the DEV-GENEC etc....

Among the trade union members there were sympathizers with different illegal splinter groups. Addressing the 8th Congress Zeki Adsiz, official of the section of Diyarbakir, speakes of the existence of the Turkish and Kurdish peoples. That proves that the trade unions also served the cause of the separatists. (Remark: Admirable Logic!). By the way, publications of the different splinter groups were confiscated in the various trade union offices; among them were those of Halkin, Kurtuluşu, Alarizgari, Işçinin Sesi, Revolution and Democratic Left...

Proof could also be furnished that the trade union maintained relations with several political parties, including the Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey and the Party of Unity of Turkey... Above all it was proved that various local officials of the trade union were members of the illegal Communist Party of Turkey. This became evident during the trial against the members of this Party which took place in Ankara.

(Remark: It is a pity that the military prosecutor himself reduced to absurdity his thesis of the favourite relations between the GENEL-IŞ and the Communist Party of Turkey in the following passage dealing with the general policy of the trade union):
(...) "The General Secretary Ertan Andaç has strongly criticized the trade union MADEN-IŞ who opposed the Executive Committee of the DISK and published slogens such as "Freedom for the CPT!", "Long live comrade Bilan!", "Long live the USSR!" He declared that it was an unacceptable lack of discipline to publish slogans of the National-Democratic Front and to paint them on walls, for that would threaten the unity of the DISK. He launched an appeal for respecting the decisions taken and keeping discipline..."

Legal Investigation

(...) Article 141 aims at communism. Marxism means dictatorship and therefore cannot be mentioned with freedom in one breath. Therefore it is a necessity for democracy and the democratically governed countries to forestall communist activities. That is why there is Article 141. (Remark: The remaining 20 member countries of the European Council are urgently advised (since evidently they have not realized that yet) to follow this example and to include this "democratic article" which is borrowed from the penal statute of Mussolini in their legislation!").

The means used in order to change the established social order are irrelevant as far as Article 141 is concerned. The factor of violence is not essential to come under this article. On the other hand the mere will is sufficient to incur punishment. It is not necessary that the action has failed. The crime consists in the intention to change the social order. (...)

(...) That is why we demand the dissolution of this trade union which has become an illegal Marxist-Leninist organization. (...) We also demand that the sentences be increased, because the unlawful deeds were committed in a trade union. However, the evidence required could not be furnished against the most important representatives in the enterprises and the officials of the groups and sub-groups. After all we had to state that Ertan Andaş and Haşim Adeletioglu had died and that Hüseyin Osdemir had not been members of the union any more. Consequently, we demand a verdict of not guilty for 228 people.

It is not possible to institute a second similar legal proceedings against Abdullah Bastürk, the union's chairman and eight further trade union officials (...) of the DISK who were placed on trial for the same changes in a lawsuit brought against the DISK.
Furthermore, 56 further defendants have not been found so far and therefore they will be sued later.

Against another 22 defendants we demand the application of the Articles 141/1-6, 31, 33, 173/3 and the punishment provided by them and the dissolution of the trade union GENEL-IŞ.

December 1, 1982
sgd Muhteşem Savaşan
Military Prosecutor

These are the accusations brought against the GENEL-IŞ" issued by the liaison office of the Federation of the Progressive Trade Unions of the Workers of Turkey).

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The Development of Services and the Trade Unions' Share in the Development of Workers' Initiatives in the CSSR

By Richard Štěch,
Chairman of the Central Committee of the Local Industries Workers' Union of the CSSR

The growth of the trade unions' role in the life of socialist society is an inherent law of socialist construction. This results not only from the complexity of the conditions and high demands in the further development of socialism, but first and foremost from the far-reaching economic and social changes our society has to bring about at the stage of the construction of advanced socialist society the materialization of which is unthinkable without the active participation and support of the working people.

That is why after the 10th National Trade Union Congress we as trade union organization settle down to our current work bearing in mind that in our socialist society the trade unions are and must be an important political and social force. What they have to do is to participate ever more actively in the shaping, implementation and control of the policy pursued by the socialist state.

We want the trade unions' rights to grow and strengthen further in conformity of the interests of society as a whole. At the same time we strive after increasing joint responsibility for the fulfilment of the socio-economic programme of the Communist party of Czechoslovakia, for the implementation of the policy in the interest of the working people.
The economy run by the national committees plays an important political and economic role in the development of socialist society. At the same time it has to fulfil a major social task. Lots of people regularly come into contact with the services and these services have a direct influence on them. The growth of the services provided reflects not only the degree of the material and cultural level reached by the population, but also the rapid growth of the income and the gradual increase of the standards as far as the outfitting of the households is concerned.

The services paid for by the population play a particular role in the process of satisfying the needs of the citizens. At present the population of the CSSR spends some 49 thousand million crowns on these services, i.e. nearly 13 per cent of the total receipts. The other services are paid for from the budgets of the various state organs.

Services like repair and maintenance work as well as other activities enabling the maintenance of durable consumer goods and which help to abolish physically hard work in the households and actively influence leisure time actitivies, the way of life and the style of living are and remain the most dynamic part from the point of view of material consumption.

Their satisfaction which in the current conditions cannot be replaced by anything else lies to a decisive extent with the enterprises of local industry.

In the 35 years of socialist construction we have scored quite a success in this field. An analysis of the present state shows, however, that some services are afflicted with a series of shortcomings, which manifest themselves in the structure, quality, availability of and access to these services.

The non-differentiated and not very purposeful arrangement of the enterprises and facilities from the point of view of organization is among the current deficiencies. These facts which have given rise to justified criticism not only on the part of broad strata of the population but also of thousands of experienced and conscious workers in the services for years, induced party, trade union and state organs to adopt a "document" for the improvement of this state of affairs.

The implementation of the principles adopted in the field of the paid and non-paid services met with full support and understanding in all our trade union organs, basic units as well as at managerial level. Their introduction into daily practice is one of the prerequisites for the fulfilment of the decisions of the 10th National Trade Union Congress.

At the deliberations of the Congress it was clearly stated that it was a highly topical and necessary material in which on the basis of an objective assessment one had succeeded in pointing out the political standpoints, determining concrete directions for improving the existing state of affairs and laying down objective directives in the politico-economic principles as far as the approach to the solution of problems and shortcomings is concerned which exist both in the relations to the customer and citizen and in the internal and supra-enterprise spheres.

One of the basic aims of this document is to diminish the economic interest of the organizations of local production and services in activities which are not their main concern and to motivate them for satisfying the immediate needs of the population. One means to reach this goal are above all the newly created economic levers and indices which pursue the aim that the initiative for reaching the turnover rates should proceed from the enterprises and the customers.

To simplify the entire managerial process above all its administrative side to the greatest extent possible is one of the intentions linked therewith.

That part of the document dealing with additional forms of the

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services to be provided is characterized by the new approach. The aim is to obviate tendencies to oppress these new forms, and, on the contrary, to enable and support their development everywhere where this appears advisable from the economic and social point of view.
In so doing gaps should be stopped which had emerged by the unjustified concentration of the facilities and services.

The document adopted does, however, not mean at all that any changes in the existing forms of socialist ownership will take place. On the contrary, we strive for a more complete development and utilization of the functions of production of all forms of socialist ownership in the interest of the steadily improving satisfaction of the needs of man.

We presuppose that the system of running the enterprises of the local industries will further improve and change as occasion demands dependent on the further progress reached in the entire system of planned management. This emanates from the objectives and tendencies laid down by the managerial system and is in itself a contribution towards its further development.



In the towns and villages of the CSSR the services provided for the population have been considerably improved. The Local Economy Workers' Union is largely responsible for that. Our photo shows a sewing centre where women can attend sewing courses or get dresses and household linen made.

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We can only reckon with current financial levels in the next few years. In the face of capitalist inflation this means in real terms that we must operate at lower financial levels.
It would be financially convenient for the TUI if one could arrange delegation exchanges to coincide with meetings and conferences of the TUI. This would be particularly convenient for visitors from Latin America, the Arab region, from Asia and Africa to Europe. We therefore welcome the projects of the member organizations of the European socialist countries to invite friendly organizations from Latin America, Asia and Africa to their countries at times enabling them the participation in sessions, Branch Meetings etc.

Promote unity of action

Our mission consists in encouraging worldwide unity of action. This is of great necessity for the success of struggles of public employees at a time when as a consequence of the capitalist crisis trade union rights and democratic liberties are under attack by the monopolies. The struggle is on the increase. As never before the TUI is called upon to co-ordinate the action of all forces in order to oppose the co-ordinated procedure of the transnational corporations.

Our appeals and impulses will find an echo if we apply the correct methods and if our organizational abilities meet the requirements. In our draft plan of the most important activities we tried to describe a number of problems following from the 7th Congress and measures for their solution. Although we have discussed the plan of the most important activities very thoroughly and how perfect it may be, without full participation of the member and friendly organizations it cannot be implemented. Only if we all do co-operate it will be possible that the whole international trade union movement will make an effective contribution to solving the problems of the public services.

The Orientations of the 7th International Trades Congress Are Being Realized

From the Introductory Report of the General Secretary Hans Lorenz given at the 35th Meeting of the Directive Committee of the TUI Held in Bucharest/PR Romania from November 3–5, 1983

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In recent months the struggles waged by the public-sector workers for the enforcement of their demands have received a fresh impetus. They often go beyond the purely professional and economic scope and aim at demands for economic and political independence, peace and disarmament. As leading officials of important organizations affiliated to our TUI you are well aware of these facts and tendencies. That is why I would like to emphasize just a few aspects.

(1) In a world marked by difficulties, tensions and contradictions which are aggravated in a dangerous manner by the policy of interference and confrontation of US imperialism and its allies which even increases the danger of a nuclear inferno, the public-sector workers among them the 28 million members of our TUI are in the forefront of the struggle for peace and disarmament, a struggle which is closely linked with the defence of the public services and the fight for securing jobs, employment and living conditions.
There are two main issues which determine the thinking and action of millions of organized and non-organized public-sector workers at present: the worst economic crisis of the capitalist world since 50 years and the imminent threat of a nuclear war linked with the most dangerous arms drive ever in history. Both problems are closely linked with each other. The arms race costs thousands of millions of dollars. In the last year alone some 650 thousand million dollars were spent on it. Thus dangerous war material is stockpiled which could destroy the world not only once but many times. With this insane waste of material and financial means resulting from the arms drive the crisis in the capitalist countries assumes alarming proportions, and the governments of these countries impose a policy of restraint on the working people which means nothing but shifting the burden of the crisis on to the shoulders of the working people.
The public-sector workers are badly hit by this policy. It entails growing unemployment among the public employees, it leads to the freeze of wages and salaries, the loss of rights to social ensurance, it results in privatization of services and in the curtailment of the democratic rights and trade union liberties.
The public-sector workers have given a militant answer to their conditions. In the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Great Britain, Peru, Argentina, in India and in many other countries thousands of working people participate in powerful actions to defend their working and living conditions.

For the developing countries the consequences of the crisis show a particularly disastrous effect, for currently these countries' indebtedness amounts to some 600 thousand million dollars. It becomes more and more difficult for them to get financial aid. In many cases it is just sufficient to pay the interests to the international bank monopolies, with the International Monetary Fund adding additional unbearable conditions to the granting of credits which even aggravate the dependence of the developing countries, such as, for instance, the liberalization of imports, the stimulation of private foreign investments, overemphasis of the export etc. In many countries the sale of imported goods leads to dumping prices, to the collapse of the national industries. Unemployment (in the developing countries one in three workers is jobless), inadequate health protection, limited educational possibilities, hunger, misery and illiteracy are phenomena which are typical of the majority of these countries.
The public-sector workers in the

importance. Both quality and topicality must be improved. The documentation service in the TUI will from the fourth quarter of 1983 onwards attempt to obtain information from member organizations on their initiatives, action, demands and social, economic and specific occupational problems. The TUI could possibly be then able to compile documentation on strikes, specific occupational problems of the branches etc. and to publish this information which would then be of immediate interest for the receiver.
It would be of great help for the leadership of the TUI if member organizations would report in suitable form on certain results in their bilateral relations. This coold be useful in contacts and talks of the TUI with non-member organizations.
The material received could provide elements for solutions which we submit for discussion. At one of the next sessions of the Excutive Bureau and the Directive Committee meetings we should take a decision about our publications after thorough examination.

Solidarity

The 7th Congress designated solidarty as a great responsibility to be borne by each trade union. It is a higly important, fundamental and essential justification for the existence of the trade union movement. Finding the best form of co-ordination of solidarity action for more concrete co-operation of public employees' unions regardless of their orientation is now a decisive task we are faced with. The Secretariat has, since the Congress was held, supported numerous important strikes of public employees as, for instance, those of health and municipal workers in Great Britain about which we reported regularly in our Bulletin.
We still have to resolve the question of obtaining faster up-to-date information on strikes and other action in the future and how we as Secretariat can react with more effect despite our limited finances and material resources. We expect from the present meeting important suggestions which will open up new possibilities of expressing the militant solidarity of our organization worldwide.

Financial policy

(4) If we put the orientation imparted to the branches in concrete terms and wish to react positively to expectations expressed by the regions regarding greater efforts on behalf of the TUI with respect to developing countries, especially in the area of training and solidarity, then it becomes necessary to
(a) use the available financial means more efficiently and economically.
This requires a careful selection of initiatives and missions. These should be developed with a minimum of expense and a maximum of effectiveness.
Administrative expenses of the TUI should be reduced to a minimum. The priorities of the individual items of the TUI budget should be examined and decided with even more care.
(b) Attempts to find new contributions and sources of solidarity must be continued more intensively. No new donations were paid into the Solidarity Fund formed in 1980 in the years 1981 and 1982. However, in preparation for the 7th Congress some member organizations offered considerable support as an expression of solidarity. Air tickets for delegates were provided by the USSR, Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, France and Cyprus. Member organizations in Czechoslovakia created the material, financial and organizational conditions for holding the 7th Congress. These were considerable financial efforts. There was a similar financial support in 1983.

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democratization of public services and their defence against privatization. It should be emphasized that these problems are dealt with in all their interrelations. At the same time the analysis underlines the two tasks described in the report to the 7th ITC:

(a) Strengthening of the orientation with respect to the Branches. In particular more articles and pieces of information must be published condemning the numerous attempts of transnational corporations to dominate sectors of public services. Publications on the impact of transnational pharmaco-chemical corporations on the health service were a good beginning. The coverage of questions concerning a new international economic order and the role of public services in developing countries must be improved. Criticism of corresponding theories and practices of the International Monetary Fund and other neocolonialist institutions of big business should be extended.

However, for this purpose we need continuous and qualitatively founded collaboration of authors from member and friendly organizations. Finding these authors and making arrangements with them should above all be the task of the Editorial Board. It will meet for deliberations during this 35th Directive Committee Meeting.

(b) Improvement of the topicality of the review "PUBLIC SERVICES" and of the "INFORMATION BULLETIN". In consultations with the publishers Verlag Tribüne we have re-examined publishing deadlines for our review. We found that the lag in publishing our review precludes publishing the very latest material. The review should then as before be conerned with articles, analyses and studies and medium to long-term reporting.

The "INFORMATION BULLETIN" should be used more for up-to-date material. The bulletin should give information on the situation of workers in the various branches and regions, their struggles, interests and needs. Concrete examples of trade union action, short analyses of different forms of action, short reports on experience gained and results achieved in such action and initiatives should be in the line of the "Information Bulletin". Fixed columns in the "Information Bulletin" should be retained. Layout and design should be improved given the quality of the paper. The "Information Bulletin" is produced in the apparatus of the TUI which can thus influence its topicality. However, material restrictions (paper quota cannot be extended and finances for translations are limited) restric the "Information Bulletin to 10 pages in 7 languages with a total issue of 450 copies per month.

The recently acquired new printing facility did bring a certain improvement, the maintenance costs as a foreign currency budget item have at the same time risen considerably. Possible introduction of two-colour printing with the inclusion of photos would raise foreign currency costs even further and would create more work for the same number of workers.

We experience great difficulty in updating the address card file. At present we can only accomplish this work with special measures, i.e. by working overtime. However, the crucial question is how up-to-date is the flow of information. We have made an analysis of professional publications, documentation and other information received. The analysis shows that we receive little concrete professional and trade union information despite repeated repeals of the Secretariat to member and friedly organizations to maintain a better flow of information. Up to the present day there has been little change in this situation.

The mutual flow of information between the TUI and member and friendly organizations is, however, growing in

developing countries are among those who are particularly affected by the dictate of the International Monetary Fund. It demands the cut in public expenditure. This involves mass dismissals, the decrease of real wages, the acceleration of privatization and the transformation of the activities of entire public sectors which are geared to the profit of big business. The public employees are deeply concerned about the obstructionist policy pursued by US imperialism which resulted in a standstill in the arms reduction talks whereas the Reagan Administration enforced that in the next five years 2 million dollars will be allocated for the military budget. An enormous escalation of the arms race! The US and its allies keep sticking to their decision to deploy Pershing II and Cruise missiles in Western Europe despite the opposition of the majority of the trade union movement, i.e. they abide by the policy of militarism and nuclear blackmail. Against this background one must see the support given by US imperialism and its allies to the aggressive ruling cliques in Israel, South Africa, the fascist or military regimes in Chile, Africa and Asia and also in view of the imperialist assistance given to the counterrevolutionary attacks against Afghanistan and Kampuchea, the recent particularly brutal American aggression in Grenada and the notorious attempts instigated by the CIA to destabilize the democratic regimes in different countries.

The workers and peoples all over the world strongly oppose this policy of destruction. A movement unprecidented in its breadth and different composition reaffirms the resolute determination to put an end to the policy of confrontation and the arms race and not to allow the introduction of new weapons of mass destruction. The actions taken by the public employees' unions also contribute to that. The importance of the struggles waged for peace and disarmament, the significance of the demonstrations and activities of different kind clearly manifested themselves on the occasion of 1 September and on the occasion of the World's Week for Disarmament in October 1983 proclaimed by the United Nations.

We reaffirm our point of view explained at the 7th International Trades Congress and fully appreciate all proposals which reflect our opinion, our will and our responsibility for peace throughout the world. Among them there are the proposals made by the trade unions of the European socialist countries, the suggestions made at the International Trade Union Meeting in Sofia in October 1983 which provide the convening of an International Trade Union Conference on Disarmament, the proposals submitted at the Session of the Bureau of the World Federation of Trade Unions held in Damascus as well as all the other initiatives inspired by political and trade union organizations which aim at concrete disarmament measures.

A talk which we had recently with the General Secretary and the Chairwomen of NUPE (National Union of Public Employees) from Great Britain about the latest trade union struggles of the public employees reaffirmed once more our view that there is a wide field of consensus among trade unions on the basis of mutual interweaving of professional interests with those of all workers and peoples–their right to life, peace, work, bred and an existence in security, dignity and justice.

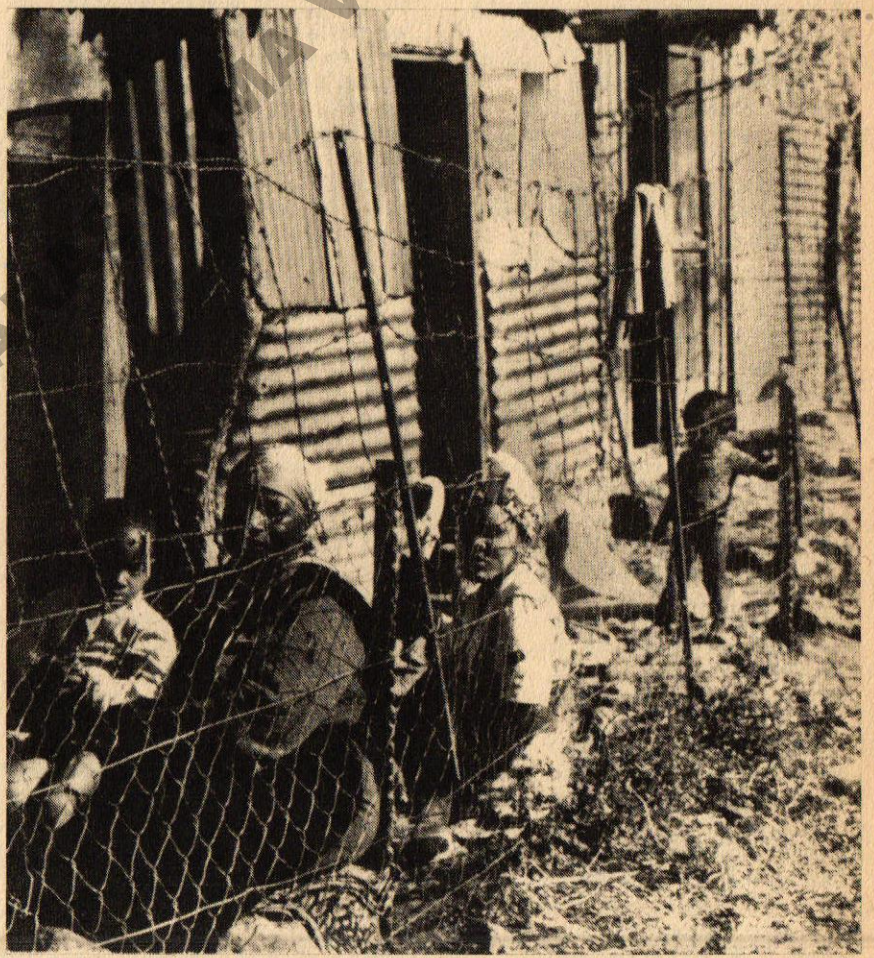
The draft declaration on peace and disarmament worked out by the Secretariat and submitted to the Directive Committee of the TUI reaffirms our orientation given at the 7th International Trades Congress. We want to take the offensive even more than before and support all aspirations in order to reach a

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Disarmament instead of social dismantling! Jobs instead of nuclear missiles! These are the demands made by the public-sector workers and employees together with the other working people throughout the world. Our photo shows participants in the "People's Assembly for Peace" in Bonn, capital of the FRG. The some 500,000 participating workers and employees protested against the deployment of new American medium-range missiles in Western Europe. *Photo: ADN-Zentralbild*

„homeland"



Abject misery prevails in the reservations for the black population designated as "homelands" by the South African racist regime. According to offical data some 3.5 million black people have been resettled in the last 20 years. Experts hold that the real figure is much higher. *Photo: ADN-Zentralbild*

unity. The most important action must be conceived in ample time and be planned in concrete terms so that member organizations may prepare themselves thoroughly for certain tasks or so that they can incorporate it in their own international activity. In this way TUI activity will reflect member organizations.

As far as the work performed by the Secretariat and the apparatus of the TUI is concerned we find that the pace of this work has increased considerably after the Congress. TUI assistants and the Secretariat have undertaken a variety of activities aimed at putting the guidelines worked out at the 7th TUI into practice.

Thus extensive translating and editing of all documents, discussion contributions, etc. were carried out in order to publish all this material by the middle of 1983 thus making it accessible to all member and friendly organizations ("PUBLIC SERVICES", Nos. 54, 55 and 56). The minutes of plenary discussions and branch and regional meetings were studied carefully, and the ideas, criticism and comments of this broad and creative exchange of views were then evaluated. They form the basis for preparations for the present Directive Committee Meeting. The General Secretary and the Secretaries of the TUI undertook various missions to give information on the results of our Congress at the locations of public employees' action and to give assurance of TUI solidarity and support (France, Portugal, Argentina, Bolivia, Syria, Kuwait, India, West Africa). Numerous delegations visited the Secretariat in Berlin. Views and experience were exchanged on the implementation of the resolutions of the 7th ITC. In February alone there were four such meetings in Berlin (Japan, France, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria). In May a TUI observer delegation particpated in the deliberations of the Third Session of the Joint Committee on the Public Service in Geneva.

Publication and information

(2) It is evident from the assessment of articles and information in the "PUBLIC SERVICES" and the "INFORMATION BULLETIN" that progress has been made in comparison to earlier years. "PUBLIC SERVICES" and "INFORMATION BULLETIN" are concerned with the most important topical trade union themes of our Branches, they contain articles on important ILO meetings involving public services and pay special attention to basic problems such as solidarity, the struggles of peoples and workers and united actions. From the point of view of regional matters the articles have improved somewhat. The supplements of the review "PUBLIC SERVICES" contain more space for analyses, decriptions of symposiums and trade union meetings in our Branches. Our publications reflect the versatile nature of initiatives of the TUI as an international trades organization operating on the principles of mass and class trade unions. At the same time numerous authors from trade unions of other orientation and from other countries, for instance Finland, Japan, Australia, have their specific views and experience in topical trade union and occupational problems published in our review. We wish to continue this exchange of views. Obviously questions concerning trade union action for peace and disarmament have their due place in our publications. They show better than in the past years how the TUI gives its support in a constructive and unity-oriented fashion for peace and disarmament, national independence, trade union rights and democratic liberties, the interests and needs of working people, the broad unity of action. In so doing we lean upon the genuine demands of the public-sector workers all over the world which underlie their trade union struggles for peace, against the arms race and for disarmament.

(2) In the last analysis our efficiency in the fight for peace, disarmament, democracy and for the defence of the democratic and trade union liberties depends on the development of all our capabilities to give fresh impetus to the professional actions.

Proceeding from their daily worries and sorrows we can induce broad masses of public employees to rally round the conscious part of the working class in order to resolve together such worldwide issues as peace and disarmament on which the future of all depends. That means that we on our part must learn to even better get to grips with the questions closely linked with the professional work in the different branches, and on the other hand to make all working people sensitive to the permanent threat of a nuclear war, to the increasing danger to life. And last not least everybody must realize that the squandering of material and financial means for the arms race has such an effect on their daily lives that they are ready to fight back. It is in this way only that we can mobilize the public-sector workers, i.e. by expanding their political knowledge and deepening their political understanding to such a point that their political consciousness clearly reflects the issues of their class. The issues of the classes from which originate the clashes of the forces of peace and those forces who fan a new world conflagration.

Proceeding from the disastrous impact of the capitalist crisis the branches must investigate professional issues more thoroughly and at shorter notice. In each capitalist country the economic and social crisis has national aspects and therefore national solutions should be found. To hear about that is indispensable to all of us, for apart from those countries in question all other countries are affected by the crisis. The socialist countries too suffer more or less from these repercussions.

But their economic and social systems enable them to make use of the means available thus giving them the chance to counteract the crisis and to largely protect the working people from it.

In the developing countries the situation is particularly grave. Imperialism unequivocally endeavours to shift the burdens of the crisis on to their shoulders. The phenomena of underdevelopment and the remnants of colonialism together with the burden of the crisis lead to disastrous living conditions in those countries. That is why our branches have to redouble their professional efforts with regard to these trade unions. This is one of their essential tasks at present. Summing up it may be said:

The branches have to take into account ever more concretely the grave impacts of the crisis on the public sector, i.e. on the living standards of the public employees, on their careers, their liberties, nay their place in society. We have to do our utmost to help them and thus trigger off support and solidarity. In this sense the point is to defend our professional field with great energy.

At the same time it is essential to clearly realize that the gravity of the crisis of the capitalist system itself aggravates the aggressive character of imperialism and therefore a resolute struggle for the defence of peace must be given priority.

(3) The ever fiercer attacks on the public services in many capitalist and developing countries raise ever new problems for our trade unions. The basic question is: either to knuckle under or to fight. In view of the hunger, unemployment, underdevelopment and exploitation, the

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economic and social crisis, privatization of the public services there is no room for the slightest yieldingness or adaptation. The only alternative is struggle. Many of our affiliated and friendly organizations already set outstanding examples of that. They decided on hard and unrelenting fight which they wage in close conjunction with the national trade union centres.

Also in this respect the talk with the General Secretary of the NUPE was very informative. Not only in Great Britain but also in other countries it becomes evident that the problems in the public service caused by the capitalist crisis affect all working people. The struggles directed against privatization and the dismantling of the public services are therefore waged not only in the interest of the members of the public-sector workers' unions but in the interest of all working people and the trade union movement as a whole. That is why the public-sector workers' unions have to explain even more clearly the contents of their struggles and activities to the members of the industrial trade unions and to the entire population. United actions are necessary which go far beyond the scope of the public-sector workers' unions. The public-sector workers' unions, and above all our affiliated organizations should therefore raise their voices and make themselves heard in drafting long-term national alternative strategies for the public services. This particularly applies to the public services which are most badly hit by privatization.

Despite the precarious situation some public-sector workers' unions still hesitate and pay only insufficient attention to the co-operation with the national trade union centres, to the co-ordination of their demands and problems and to the elaboration of common trade union alternatives.

At our today's meeting of the Directive Committee we should pay special attention to the elaboration of such national long-term alternative strategies for the defence and development of public services.

(4) The events of the last months show that the political, economic, financial and military presence of imperialism and of the transnational corporations in the developing countries has grave repercssions on the economy and the working and living conditions of the working people in those countries.

We know that the only democratic alternative to a strategy of economic recovery in the conditions of the capitalist crisis is the introduction and development of new international economic relations.

But the big national and international finance capital, the transnational corporations and the governments in their service go on ignoring the just demands of the trade unions representing the public-sector workers for a genuine economic and social development and for democratizing the national and international economic relations, i.e. for changes which are suitable to alleviate the profound structural crisis of the capitalist world and to develop the public social services. Instead of that these countries continue to be victims of the direct and brutal exploitation due to the neocolonialist relations, by the transnational corporations and the financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

On the basis of the decisions taken at the 7th International Trades Congress we demand again and again the satisfaction of the immediate socio-economic needs and requirements of the working people, the improvement of their living standards and working conditions as well as the development of public social services in the interest of the population.

The various trade union struggles waged

power and the endeavours of the forces of capital to curtail all social expenditure. The crisis itself does not induce the workers to embark upon the road of class struggle spontaneously. On the contrary, it often results in the workers' retiring into their own shells, in the revival of individualism, in the readiness to put up with some sacrifices as they hope for avoiding the worst. This attitude is the result of insecurity and worry about employment and the future.

Reformism bases its strategy of adaptation to the crisis upon this contradictory behaviour of the workers towards the crisis. And when this strategy fails, for example in countries like Britain, the FRG and some Scandinavian countries, the forces of reaction will benefit.

The strategy of reformism of adaptation to the crisis means, in case of the limitation of the social dismantling, for those who are without any means nothing else but the social regroupings to the disadvantage of the intermediate strata of wage earners and the qualified working class.

It also comprises the whole ideology about the inevitability of the crisis according to which the crisis is worldwide and not only a crisis of the capitalist countries and the imperialist system. That involves also all the theories about the "end of the Welfare States" the systems for social protection of which cannot be covered by the means available. The OECD calls it "Welfare State". This, of course, means to resort to anticommunism.

We have to exactly assess this reality. It shows us again and again the necessity to analyse the crisis properly, to reveal the means for a way out, to seek concrete national solutions according to the specific political, economic, social and cultural means available in each country and it also shows that it is indispensable to take into account the concrete conditions of the class struggle at national level.

This must induce us to put the question of unity at national and international levels in the context of the conditions resulting from the crisis and the strategies of the various social forces.

Unity must be created in clear conditions, that means the public employees must be given all available information with regard to the existing positions. Our analyses, our proposals have to be popularized, and above all we must create the preconditions for action, for the demands, for democratic reforms and for structural reforms in order to eliminate the repercussions of the crisis.

Work and influence of the TUI are determined essentially by the activity and strength of the member organizations. This implies two consequences:

– further development of genuine leadership in the TUI;
– greater activity and greater commitment of the member organizations to the TUI.

These two conclusions lead to the following considerations in the case of four important areas of activity:

Work of the managerial bodies

(1) Executive Bureau Sessions and Directive Committee Meetings must together with themes and venues be planned on a long-term basis; in our opinion for the period extending to the 8th ITC.

Study material compiled by the Secretariat can then be forwarded to the Directive Committee Members early enough in advance to allow them to peruse it thoroughly. Only then can we expect constructive discussion and true collective leadership activity.

The lines of orientation, work plans and conceptions must define objectives, main points, forces and means and form a

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WHO in Geneva to define the problems of future co-operation and to bring the designation of observer status for the TUI to a successful conclusion.
Proposals for UNESCO concerning joint educational measures in the public services of developing countries were submitted to the WFTU Department of Education. The WFTU will submit these proposals to the UNESCO Annual Conference in Paris in December 1983 for examination.

Overcome old and outdated methods faster

On the basis of the lines of orientation of our 7th ITC we can strengthen the authority of our TUI and its significance in the international trade union movement. We must use the experience and lessons of the 10th World Trade Union Congress in our practical work, which is oriented towards a careful study of the many features of the modern trade union movement in the world, an open constructive dialogue, the search for common solutions and continuous improvement of the methods, forms and means of our activities.
In this manner we can express the internal democracy of our organization with greater emphasis, raise the level of Directive Committee Meetings and Executive Bureau Sessions and redouble our efforts with the aim of achieving more versatility based on common standpoints and positions. Without betraying our own principles we must nevertheless also tackle questions together with others who take different stands on them.
We encourage new member organizations, who may rest assured that membership will not impair individual characteristics of their organization, their autonomy, inner unity and relations maintained outside the TUI. The TUI is open to all organizations prepared to act for the protection and security of the basic interests of public employees. Our Statute, which was re-examined and supplemented in the light of new conditions, guarantees that the independence and sovereignty of each organization in any question will be respected and that there will be no outside interference in these matters.
Applications for membership from Togo, Costa Rica, and France are on hand, and we have information from Nicaragua, Ghana and Cyprus expressing willingness on the part of further organizations to join our TUI.
Special attention must be paid to the relations with organizations which although not members have friendly contacts with the TUI. Here are opportunities yet to be exploited.
Although the 7th Congress has shown that we have the same views on many questions we are still looking for concrete forms of co-operation and joint action.
The capacity of reformist-oriented leaderships to prevent their members from participating actively in our TUI is decreasing since attacks on trade unions increase as the full impact of the capitalist crisis is felt in the public services; more and more public employees thus lose their illusions about the policies followed by reformist-oriented leaderships.
Reformist ideology is in a crisis which is quite understandable. It would, however, be a mistake to underestimate the adaptability of reformism the the crisis which shakes the capitalist countries, for we could draw the wrong conclusions therefrom.
Concrete experience proves indeed that the crisis does not automatically result in the readiness for battle of the workers or makes them aware of genuine solutions showing the way out of the crisis despite the dramatic situation the working people are faced with due to unemployment, inflation, the decrease of the purchasing

in the developing countries in the last months also show us clearly that principal declarations and orientations of the TUI alone are not sufficient, but it becomes evident that in view of the particularly grave repercussions of the capitalist crisis the efforts made by our TUI must entail concrete united actions of the public-sectors workers' unions of all orientations in the developing countries. Only in so doing we will reach our aim to turn the public services in the developing countries into really democratic instruments of the struggle for social progress. That is why the unitary position of the public-sector workers' unions towards such vital questions as the economic and social development becomes an acute necessity.
The TUI reaffirms its support for the positions set forth at the 10th World Trade Union Congress with regard to this problem and declares once again that it regards the Final Document on Development adopted at the World Trade Union Conference (Belgrade, in April 1980) as the basis on which joint actions of the public-sector workers' unions can be triggered off at national, regional and international levels.
The TUI must become active in the process of uniting the great number of small organizations of the public services in the developing countries because these trade unions must become aware of their strength and their capability of enforcing their objectives in the struggle for social progress. Therefore it is particularly necessary to encourage these trade unions more actively with all the means available to the TUI.
This also implies that the TUI promotes the free exchange of standpoints and opinions, for instance, about the problems the itinerant workers are faced with in these regions as well as about the aspects of regional economic co-operation of these countries and formulates class-oriented trade union alternatives.
(5) In its written report the Secretariat informed about the material and financial situation. Preparing the meeting of the Directive Committee we held consultations with different affiliated organizations. They contributed to specifying the present draft plan.
(6) The TUI proceeds from the fact that solidarity is the principal and priority right to exist for the international trade union movement. After the International Trades Congress we have further developed the solidarity with the public employees exploited by big business irrespective of their orientation and international affiliation.
Since the 7th International Trades Congress the Secretariat has organized 34 concrete solidarity initiatives for 27 trade union organizations of the public service in 18 countries, it initiated 6 protest actions with the governments concerned and 3 with the UN, and as far as the oppression of our member organization in Sri Lanka is concerned we have repeated and reaffirmed our official complaint with the Committee for Trade Union Rights and Liberties of the Administrative Council of the ILO.
Recently we had an exchange of view with two representatives of a certain trade union. They informed us about the difficult situation their organization is faced with. Strong reprisals were used. Biological and chemical means employed during tortures made any resistance impossible. After some days of repeated torture these people are no longer in a position to stand pat and resist their tormentors. So officials are "presented" on television in such a state of submission that they are ready to declare that their whole life as a progressive official had been a great error. We sharply condemn such shocking practices and strongly protest against such methods of torture.
We therefore declare that chemical and

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bacteriological means should be exclusively used for therapeutical and nursing purposes and not for the humiliation, submission and assassination of officials.
The military aggression launched by the US imperialists against the Caribbean insular state of Grenada which is one of the smallest countries in the world with its territory of 344 square kilometres and its 120,000 inhabitants has evoked abhorrence and indignation in the trade union movement throughout the world. The most powerful imperialist state cannot demonstrate its great power policy and its aspirations for hegemony more wretchedly. The cause of Grenada is the cause of all. Therefore a worldwide protest must stop the aggressor. Our TUI sides in firm solidarity with the people of Grenada. We give all our sympathy and support to its courageous struggle.
Dear Colleagues,
The problems of the struggle against the transnational corporations have been set forth in greater detail in the written report. The same is also true of the publication activities of the TUI.
Therefore we would like to refer once again to the ideas put forward there.
In conclusion we would like to point out that both progress and weak points manifest themselves in our activity for the implementation of the orientation given at the 7th International Trades Congress. We should discuss that and continue our efforts with a view to further improving the TUI's activities in the months to come. We do not know any claim to exclusiveness as represented by certain trade union leaders who lay claim to being the sole representatives of public employees because they represent a direction of the public-sector workers' union which is of significance in many developed capitalist countries.
The TUI has quite a different conception as far as its task as international professional organization of public employees is concerned. We are prepared for a dialogue and open discussion about both common interests and different opinions.
We are busy finding a common platform for professional and trade union actions at national, regional and international levels. Far from enforcing our conception at any cost we encourage the democratic discussion so as to defend the public services and the trade union rights and liberties of the working people as effectively as possible.
This is proved by our 7th International Trades Congress and by our practice in the framework of the International Labour Organization as well as by national, regional and international unitary actions and initiatives which we give fresh impetus or in which we directly participate. As pointed out in the decisions adopted at the 7th International Trades Congress, the TUI would like to promote trade union co-operation concerning the professional problems of common interest for the public employees in an atmosphere of mutual respect in complete independence and liberty with any attempt of hegemony being excluded.
Advancing in this direction we must, however, bear in mind that there are still obstacles impeding the co-operation among the trade unions. Of late, co-operation has been disturbed again by those forces who are interested in a revival of the cold war within the world trade union movement.
The future of the international co-operation of the public-sector workers' unions depends on their consciousness and their capability of bringing about joint initiatives and actions. We bank on that.
Our TUI which was founded 34 years ago, held its 3rd meeting of the Directive Committee 32 years ago in Bucharest, in 1951. Three topics were on the agenda:

which enables us to put pressure on the head office of the transnational bank.
The trade union forces existing in the countries infiltrated by the transnational bank are an essential part of these considerations. This is also true of the co-ordination of the forces distributed over various countries in one direction towards the centre of power of the transnational bank. We wish to organize a consistent struggle against transnational banks; real possibilities for this already exist as the degree of organization of bank employees shows. The point in question in the further development of our activities is to overcome the present situation and to carry the struggle into the fortress of imperialism, for transnational banks and insurance institutions are at the pinnacle of imperialism. We must overcome difficulties in this respect which must not be underestimated under no circumstances. Each transnational bank consists of hundreds of branches in different countries employing thousands of bank employees. This is the level at which the struggle develops, since this is where capital efficiency and profits are realized.

Second Aspect:
At the Congress we reported on experience gained in collaboration with trade unions of the pharmaco-chemical industry in combatting the harmful effects of this industry in health services. We should now strive for similar collaboration with trade unions of other sectors of industry, in particular those sectors in which the "multies" produce and sell modern technology which has been or will be introduced in different branches of the public services.
In this context we must carefully examine the points of contact between our public services and other sectors of industry so that joint action against harmful influences of transnational corporations in public services becomes evident and feasible.
Trade unions must respond to the effects of the TNCs on public services with a common strategy.
All action for the promotion of modern democratic public services responding to the needs of the people are in contradiction with the interests of the transnational corporations and governments acting in their name.
– The Branch Chairmen should with the help of experts examine the question of which transnational corporation has the greatest influence in the sphere of their branch and by which forms and methods their harmful effects are brought about. We are thinking particularly of the branches P&T and Municipal Services. The important thing is to initiate trade union action designed to supervise and control the effects of the TNCs on public services and to limit the power of the monopolies. The health workers' unions have already developed such a platform at the conference on pharmaco-chemical transnational corporations in Moscow. It is now necessary to stimulate and support continuous action on this basis in different countries and regions. The health service branch should continue its work in this direction unrelentingly and continuously.

TUI participation in UN agencies

The Congress deemed it necessary that the TUI should take its rightful place in the ILO, WHO and UNESCO according to its field of competence.
The Secretariat has already taken measures to strengthen the participation of the TUI in the UN bodies such as the WHO and UNESCO.
The Chairman of the Health Service Branch, Dr. Füzi, has declared himself prepared, on the basis of our proposal, to have an expert consultation with the

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is directed against the basic interests of the workers, particularly so in the developing countries;
– The TNCs disregard previously achieved rights of workers and their trade unions, exclude them from fundamental decision-making, and as a rule refuse to engage in negotiations, collective bargaining etc.,
– The TNCs are enemies of peace and disarmament, they instigate and profit from imperialist armament and provide the material basis and play the main role in international finance capital;
– The TNCs are enemies of democracy and social progress, they support reactionary regimes and use all means of applying economic and financial pressure to overthrow progressive governments. They are major enemies of national sovereignty, political and national independence, particularly of those countries which have freed themselves of the yoke of capitalism and are increasingly independent of imperialism.
Of course, assessments and particularly the conclusions differ in no small number of points according to the position and individual bank employees' union adopts. Our previous experience has also indicated that the following considerations and demands can serve as a basis for united action:
– Complete respect for and implementation of the right to form trade unions in branch offices and at corporation level for all employees of transnational banks and insurance institutions. Recognition of trade unions as representatives of employees. Complete information on the transactions of the transnational banks. Right of negotiation and to make contacts on all questions concerning employees, including the right of industrial action to maintain these rights.
– Participation and trade union control over all essential activities of the transnational bank at national and international levels and in the central bank, bank branches and subsidiaries and affiliated banks. This concerns questions of investment, fusion, transfer of branches to other countries, closing of branches, employment, wage and salary conditions etc.
– Equalizing of employment, wage and other conditions of employees of one transnational bank according to settlements suitable for a country, region or the whole transnational bank.
– Direct or indirect support of trade union demands and industrial action in individual bank branches by the employees of the same transnational bank in other countries as well as of solidarity activities of national and international bank employees' unions, intervention and central bank or government level etc.
– Special assistance for employees of the transnational banks in underdeveloped countries, in particular with respect to the establishment and extension of the influence of local trade union organizations, training of trade union officials, and other measures.
– Support for all measures for supervising and controlling the activities of the transnational banks and limiting their powers at national and international levels. Public exposure of infringements by transnational banks of norms of conduct laid down by the UN and ILO, and of national legislations.
– Protection of full sovereignty of all countries, rejection of special rights for transnational banks, recognition of the right of any country to nationalize transnational bank branches. Suitable action against all forces attempting to block these measures by repression, intervention etc., and trade union measures against the withdrawal of qualified personnel from nationalized bank branches. The decisive question in our view concerns achieving the power

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In front of the American Embassy in Prague/CSSR workers and students strongly protest against the criminal US intervention in Grenada. *Photo: ADN-Zentralbild*

– Intensification of the struggle for trade union unity,
– Development of the struggle for economic and social security of the public services' personnel,
– Improvement of the TUI's activities.
Then the meeting of the Directive Committee condemned the bacteriological warfare of the US armed forces in Korea, welcomed the appeal of the 2nd World Peace Congress in Warsaw and endorsed the Stockholm appeal "Stop the nuclear armament". It adopted a programme of the economic and social demands of the public service and passed a resolution for the improvement of the activity of the TUI. Moreover, the Directive Committee dealt with the results of the TUI's first mission to West Africa.

Furthermore, a solidarity campaign was organized in support of the French trade union officials Frischmann and Duhamel who had been dismissed from the public service because they had organized actions for the recognition of the German Democratic Republic.

We see our colleagues of the then Directive Committee coped with the tasks they were faced with. Since then a lot of new things have emerged, the world has changed, and the TUI is faced with the challenges of the 1980's. We are convinced that the new Directive Committee elected by the 7th International Trades Congress will likewise honourably fulfil the tasks we are faced with now.

employees' unions with the trade unions of other sectors of the economy.
First Aspect:
We have had first experience in the earea of the City Bank. The TUI carried out a mission in Latin America (brother Mario) and organized a meeting of representatives of Latin American bank employees' unions in Rio de Janeiro in August 1982. The WFTU Committee on Transnational Corporations made a financial contribution in support of both these intitiatives which produced important information. But this is not sufficient to develop a successful offensive of Latin America bank employees' unions against the City Bank. In order to be truly operative, a trade union official of the bank sector with international experience should be instructed to
– compile a dossier on the City Bank,
– go initially to countries with the most important City Bank branches and where the problems arise against which we wish to take a stand,
– get in contact with workers at the site of their work,
– collect maximum information predominantly on social and wage problems, social achievements, working conditions etc.,
– give maximum information to trade union organizations in bank branches,
– visit trade unions regularly in the bank branches,
– ensure continuous correspondence with the bank employees' unions involved, and
– attempt to make contact with regional organizations of the FIET, INFEDOP etc.

This, however, requires a co-ordination apparatus and a liaison committee, structual and other forms of maximum versatility. Considerations are also necessary on whether and what financial and other material sources can be found in Latin America. Fortunately, those present at the Rio de Janeiro consultations submitted some proposals.
Further meetings between the trade unions involved in the various bank branches of the City Bank must also be arranged.
Acts and incidents (dismissals or reprisals) occurred in one or the other bank branch. The committee must be able to be on the spot immediately and to inform other bank branches and to attempt to organize their solidarity.
This would, for example, include publishing information, monographs on collective agreements of City Bank Branches, all social achievements, or in short all information of interest to any trade union member in the area of the City Bank.
Furthermore, fast information on certain occurrences is necessary: strikes, dismissals, action etc. This also includes a comprehensive information on the collective agreement the FIET and the DBL concluded with the City Bank in Copenhagen on April 22, 1983.
Finally, it is necessary to compile a list of common demands of City Bank employees taking into account particularities of the different countries in order to initiate action and unify demands.
In summary: At the moment concrete measures are required–we have, however, no illusions. Initial experience has shown that agreement among bank employees' unions of different orientation is possible with respect to their action against the strategy and tactics of the transnational banks and insurance institutions, and that such agreement is very urgent. The discussions at our 7th Congress have shown us that the bank employees' unions take up the same or similar position with respect to the "multies" as we do. There is agreement on such questions as:
– The TNCs do not act in the interest of the workers but instead attempt to maximize profits which as a consequence

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Trial against 23 public officials of the Common Front in Portugal, opened on 23 November 1983. The Secretary of the TUI of Public Employees, Brother Mario Merino, attended it as observer.

Report of the Executive Bureau to the Directive Committee of the TUI of Public Employees

(Directive Committee Meeting in Bucharest/ Romania from November 3–5, 1983)
Delivered by
Brother Hans Lorenz,
General Secretary
of the TUI

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AL TARİH ARŞİVİ

Short summary of the 7th International Trade Congress

In making preparations for the 7th International Trade Congress we repeatedly underlined the fact that convening the congress is not merely a matter of statute but also an objective necessity. Mobilizing as much of the forces of public services unions as possible as an effective response to the challenges of the 80's facing the public services was and still is one of the most decisive questions. The 7th International Trades Congress (ITC) itself was then a convincing example of mobilizing united action.
Our member and friendly organizations are also unified in noting that the 7th ITC marks a new step in the work of our TUI and constitutes and independent contribution of our international trade union organization in the sense of the 10th World Trade Union Congress in Havana.
The Congress showed clearly that trade unions of different orientation and international affiliation exhibit an increasing awareness of the necessity of further developing trade union co-operation in the public services.
The 7th International Trades Congress indicates that
– an increasing number of trade unions in the public services sector worldwide agree with our approach to the problems of public services to be faced in the 80's based on the interest of the working class and the masses;
– the significance of united trade union action in the public services and the specific role of our international trade union organization in providing momentum for such action are on the increase;
– modes and methods of united trade union action as well as the extent of such action should be appraised and defined in concrete terms.

The success of our common endeavour can be attributed to the fact that
– in the present tense international situation and the growing crisis of the capitalist system and impact thereof on public services in many countries,
– our Trades Congress has brought together an increasing number of trade unions of different orientation from all continents. This was decisively the result of the continuous work of our TUI with respect to united action and the many years of unrelenting branch activity together with the improved ability of those concerned to identify themselves with the urgent problems involved and to tackle them.
The presence of 140 trade union organizations from 69 countries–47 per cent of which are not members of the TUI–may certainly be taken as an acknowledgement of our unified policy and the earnestness with which problems are tackled. The large participation also reflects the growing awareness that international solidarity is a dire necessity in the world of today.

Participants from non-member organizations were impressed by the work of the Congress, the comradely atmosphere and the frank discussion. They expressed their willingness to develop closer contacts with the TUI.
A notable feature of the Congress was the active participation of almost all participants, not only in plenary sessions but also in branch and regional meetings and commission sessions. This also includes the lively bilateral contacts and discussions. All in all the Congress was a great forum for trade union dialogue.
The Congress documents express the unanimous determination of public service workers and their trade unions to oppose the policies of the governments and the monopolies who as before attempt to solve the problems arising in the public

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shown clearly in discussions at the 7th International Trades Congress:
– All trade unions of these countries are confronted with the effects of the capitalist crisis. This applies above all to rising unemployment, lowering of the real standard of living and the privatization of public services. In effect, this disproves reformist conceptions, reformist views, however, are prevalent in large sections of public employees. Growing unemployment and the fear of becoming redundant can inhibit to a certain extent the militancy of public employees, and have even led to a decline of trade union membership.– Insights into the harmful effects of armament policies on public services and into the necessity of linking trade union struggle with the fight for peace are slowly growing.
– The attacks on trade union rights are accompanied by an ideological offensive against the trade union class movement. Enormous sums are spent by the monopolies and governments with which they are linked in order to misguide public employees.
There are, of course, considerable difference in the situation in the individual countries which demand a versatile approach from our side. As before, conditions for TUI work involving Western Europe are unfavourable. We have no member organizations except in France and Cyprus. Leaders of public employees' unions affiliated to the PSI, PTTI, FIET or INFEDOP adhere, although to varying degrees, to the no-contact resolution of the ICFTU and WCL. Public employees' unions with which we have friendly contacts are not members of the TUI because of internal political reasons.
Nevertheless forms of practical co-operation have developed, and these should be extended and exploited.
– Almost all our member organizations in the community of socialist countries and French members have bilateral relations with public employees' unions in Western Europe.
– Individual public employees' unions affiliated to the PSI, PTTI, FIET or INFEDOP participate in branch meetings and symposiums of our TUI.
– In the case of municipal workers even a European meeting of municipal workers was brought about.
We should therefore develop actions in the following directions:
– Support of the struggles to protect real wages or against growing unemployment and the privatization of public services;
– Joint activities in the ILO;
– Initiatives for an exchange of experience in trade union youth work and work with women;
– Preparations for a second European meeting of municipal workers; – Joint initiatives in the struggle for peace and disarmament, for example on the occasion of 1 September.

Struggle against transnational corporations requires utmost attention

The 7th Congress has underlined the fact that co-ordination of activities in the struggle against transnational corporations (TNC) is an area of high priority. We note with some satisfaction that this problem was dealt with more thoroughly at the 7th Congress in Prague than at the 6th Congress held in Warsaw.
It has become apparent that action must be centred on two axes:
(1) Actions against the TNCs directly present in an organizational region of the TUI, i.e. concrete activities directed against banks and insurance institutions.
(2) Trade union activities against the harmful effects of TNCs in public services. Since the TNCs in question are not in the organizational region of the TUI these activities can only be carried out by broad co-operation of public

information. They can thus contribute to the growth of influence of various branch trade unions in the developing countries. This information can also serve as teaching material for training trade union cadres.

Stronger promotion of regional co-operation

Regional activities, which were discussed repeatedly with much emphasis at the Congress, need improving and to this end greater efforts by the TUI with respect to the developing countries are necessary, particularly in the areas of information, training and solidarity.
There is general agreement on holding a seminar annually in Latin America, Africa and Asia alternately, the financial basis of which would come from our own resources and support from the ILO and UNESCO. We should therefore plan a seminar in Africa for 1983, Latin America in 1984, Asia in 1985 and Australia/Oceania in 1986. The purpose of these seminars would be to train trade union cadres, and they could be used to promote and develop regional co-operation. What we are actually aiming at is simply to be as close as possible to the interests and needs of working people and their trade unions in order to find suitable unity-oriented work forms to encourage regional co-operation.
Obviously, regional activities must for the main part come from the region concerned itself, for example, improved co-operation between member and friendly organisations of this region taking into account the real needs and capacities as well as the concrete development of solidarity action.
This means the regional work of the TUI should stimulate the activities of the member and friendly organizations in the region concerned, and where regional organizations exist their plans should take into account our ideas.
The Secretariat of the TUI therefore submits the proposal not to hold a Directive Committee Meeting in 1985, but instead to have meetings of Directive Committee members with representatives of member and friendly organizations in the regions of America, Asia and Africa. The Secretariat of the WFTU will soon carry out such regional meetings with the members of the General Council of the WFTU and the members of the Administrative Committees of the TUIs. These WFTU meetings will give us the opportunity of gathering experience which we can use for our TUI regional meetings in 1985.

Western Europe

Some remarks on our work concerning Western Europe. In the present situation our task consits in supporting more actively the stuggle of public employees' unions in Western Europe against the monopolies and the governments who act in their name. At the same time we should link these activities more closely with the trade union fight against the exorbitant increase in arms expenditure, for peace and disarmament and the consolidation of the process of détente. In this sense we should now use our authority heightened as it is by the 7th International Trades Congress.
We must effectively oppose the endeavours of the opponents of unity in public employees' unions in Western Europe who try to reverse the evident progress made in the 70's in the co-operation between trade unions of different orientation and international affiliation (for example, the first meeting of European municipal workers). A sober analysis of the current situation in Western Europe should be the starting point of our work. The following was

services in the 80's at the expense of the workers.
These documents and resolutions of the 10th World Trade Union Congress in Havana furnish us with objectives for anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist action, which imply that we conduct such action side by side with the exploited workers and the peoples of the world. They are the foundations on which both the Directive Committee and the Branches of the TUI must base decisions concerning all problems encountered in the public services. Activity is thus oriented towards improving public services and the situation of the workers organized in our branches, and supporting these workers according to their particular requirements and interests in united action in the urgent struggle against the transnational corporations, against the impact of the capitalist crisis, for a new international economic order and for peace and disarmament.

The international trade union dialogue continues

The months following the 7th International Trades Congress have shown that the extent and contents of international trade union co-operation continues to grow. In a number of countries congresses of member and friendly organizations have brought together delegations from many trade unions of differing orientation (France, Syria, Portugal, Bolivia, Argentina). Our member organizations carried out numerous bilateral exchanges of delegations with trade unions which are not members of the TUI. This also contributed to the international trade union dialogue as well as to the spirit of unity of action.
The struggle of public service workers have intensified in the past months, as exemplified by strikes of public service employees in Britain, Portugal, Peru, Canada, and in numerous other countries. The form and duration of the numerous and varied struggles confirm the depth of workers' discontent and their resolve to oppose attacks on their wages and purchasing power. They use their democratic rights and freedoms to ensure that the public services operate in accordance with the requirements of the people and national interests. Public service workers face the difficult problem of coming to grips with the measures taken by the governments of capitalist countries, such as accelerated privatization, cuts in public services to the benefit of big business. Administration structures are furthermore adapted to the "requirements" of crisis-ridden capitalism, which in turn adversely affects administration methods, personnel statutes, careers and working conditions. Faced with intensified contradictions, growing trade union action and resultant demands for political changes the transnational corporations attempt to retain their privileges and gain new national and international footholds.
The consequences of this policy are disastrous for the workers and their working and living conditions. This policy is directed against the purchasing power of wages, social services and the operation of social welfare institutions. On the one hand it contributes to tax burdens at a time when government budgets suffer chronic deficits, having been plundered by big business, whereas on the other hand enormous profits are drawn from the superarmament practised by the governments of capitalist countries.
The last months have shown that the crisis of the capitalist system and its consequences are particularly deleterious for workers in developing countries. The situation in these countries induces the public services trade unions to

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increasingly link the defence of their economic and social interests with action against the pressure of the transnational corporations and for a new international economic order guaranteeing national independence and sovereignty. These difficult and varied struggles are evidence of the deep changes taking place in some developing countries for the benefit of the workers and peoples involved.
The relation between the social role of the public services and the necessity of participating in decisions made at all levels is increasingly becoming clearer, since this is a prerequisite if the interests of public service workers and the population at large are to be respected. This is particularly the case in those developing countries where transnational corporations attempt to prevent the development of an independent economy which has led to much protest and opposition.
Generally speaking, the important role played by public services in the economic and social life of the community means that attacks made on them become the centre of interest of the national trade unions. The public services are increasingly the objective and starting point of comprehensive national struggles. An example of this is the strike of health workers in Great Britain.

The crisis shaking the capitalist world to some extent also affects the economies of countries in the socialist community. Socialist planned economy, however, guarantees progressive development. In socialist countries the public services fulfil the needs of the people. Here their trade unions have a double funtion: they contribute to the development of the national economy and help to protect the rights and interests of the workers by continuously improving working conditions and workers' livelihoods. They continuously look for and find ways and means of solving problems arising in the development of the new socialist society.
Allow me to add to these considerations on the latest developments of various struggles some thoughts on how we should continue in the treatment of various problems concerning the general orientation of our 7th Congress, for instance, questions concerning the new international economic order. It is also necessary to extend the criticism of the corresponding theories of the International Monetary Fund, the transnational corporations and the governments connected with them.
(1) Monetary and financial problems have become in capitalism a focal point of almost all its contradictions at international and national levels. In particular the International Monetary Fund is increasingly at the centre of attention of all concerned.
The North-South-Commission under the chairmanship of Willy Brandt has even prepared a special report on the problem, the so-called "Second Report". The ICFTU was also concered with this question in a study of the world economic situation in 1982. This material was presented as a programme for "equable international development", in which it was asserted that the present crisis affects workers "worldwide" and will "strengthen their awareness of the independence of the world economy and the need for a global programme for the fight against hunger and unemployment, for establishing the foundations of peaceful progress."
According to their opinion the main point lies in the reform of the international monetary system. The creditability of the World Bank, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the Bank for International Settlements and other institutions should be raised. Likewise the role of the International Monetary Fund should in their opinion be increased as

and insurance institutions, support of struggles against harmful effects, completion of a platform of demands. Our Directive Committee Meeting has the task of deciding how branch work should be carried out. In the main we are concerned with improved continuity and effectiveness of branch work.
Improvements must be achieved in all branches.
Above all Branch Chairmen must assume the full responsibility given them by the Statute. At present this responsibility is assumed in varying degrees, some Branch Chairmen are despite branch meetings held during the 7th Congress still of the opinion that, as in earlier years, their role is confined to chairmanship at commission sessions and branch meetings. It is, however, high time that Branch Chairmen develop their own ideas in order to ensure that branches can work more effectively in accordance with the role and tasks laid down by the statute and commissions can work regularly and continuously. In order to ensure true branch activity Chairmen should open up resources existing in their national trade unions and home towns in the form of advisory personnel from universities and colleges, scientifically trained assistants, experts from branch institutions and experienced trade union officials. These may then be used to form a standing working body for analysis and solving occupational problems arising in the branch and which would thus be capable of performing valuable branch work.
Two or three studies of concrete occupational problems, specific branch demands and activities are necessary in each branch. To this end the Chairmen should carry out written consultations with member and friendly organizations and utilize other forms of collecting information. In compiling such studies and in practical work the Branch Chairmen should from this day on utilize universities, scientific institutions and facilities not only in their own countries but in others as well. After a thorough examination of a problem the Branch Chairmen should work out proposals for concrete themes on which individual member organizations should contact scientific establishments in their individual countries, in order that branch commissions can avail themselves of true scientific assistance. Each branch should examine different forms of branch meetings to find out which would be most suitable with broad participation of trade unions which are not members of the TUI. It should be noted that branch activity does not consist of once-only international gatherings and nothing else. Only continuous and regular work can lead to success.
Each branch should therefore consider whether such singular international meetings are really of any use for the branch and whether other more effective forms for developing continuous branch activity should be looked for. Such considerations should also be extended to the possibility of finding new sources of finance. A closer orientation of the branches to the trade unions of developing countries is particularly necessary. According to present information these trade unions account for 52 per cent of the new list of members. The corresponding percentages in Banks and Insurance Instituions and State Service are 72 per cent and 62 per cent respectively. The Branch Chairmen should take more account of the proposals and opinions expressed by Latin American, Asian and African delegates to the 7th ITC in their considerations. Essentially, these proposals and opinions reflect the fact that developing countries need special support and assistance.
By compiling information on concrete occupational problems the Branch Chairmen could help satisfy this need of

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and further education for all state service employees, and creation and consolidation of the necessary prerequisites.

Postal and Telecommunication Services

– Updating the trade union platform in the field of vocational and further training in the light of the introduction of new technology (continuation of the work of the Budapest Symposium);
– activities to improve the situation of young personnel in postal and telecommunications services, and establishing a platform for action with respect to the right to work, access to responsibility, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination;
– struggling against the great influence of transnational corporations on telecommunications, in particular ITT ect., taking into account the serious consequences for public communications and personnel;
– preparation for the first session of the newly-formed Joint Committee on P&T to be held in Geneva in December 1984.

Health Service

– Struggle of the trade unions for the defence and improvement of working and living conditions, trade union rights and liberties of all health service workers (preparation of a corresponding symposium in Budapest);
– struggle of the working people for the right to free and equal health services for the whole population (recognition of this human right), struggle against the effects of the capitalist crisis on health services, budget cuts with respect to the health services and the privatization of public health service facilities;
– formation of a Standing Working Group to co-ordinate the actions against the impacts of the transnational corporations of the pharmaceutical and chemical industries on the health service (continuation of the initiatives of the Moscow Conference).

Municipal Service

United struggle of trade unions with all progressive forces for democratic municipal policies directed against the effects of the capitalist crisis and against budget cuts to the detriment of the working and employment conditions of municipal employees;
decisive struggle against privatization and predominance of transnational corporations;
– initiatives for the recognition and establishment of equal economic, social and occupational health conditions for municipal service workers, eradication of discrimination against non-established and foreign workers;
– improvement of working conditions, in particular of legal protection of working women and mothers and improving qualifications of young workers and women;
– closer solidarity with trade union struggles taking place under particularly difficult conditions;
– united struggle with all progressive forces for consistent environment conservation and the provision of financial means for this purpose by whoever pollutes the environment.

Banks and Insurance Institutions

– Continuation of the activities against the City Bank, application of experience gained to a further transnational bank;
– study of the harmful effects of transnational bank activities in developing countries;
– examination of the situation of working women in banks and insurance institutions, draft of a corresponding programme of demands;
– continuation of initiatives concerning the effects of modern technology in banks

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Admonitory guard of the Joint Front of Public Services (including trade unions such as STAL, the Doctors' Union, the Nurses' Union, and the Teachers' Union) in front of the Prime Minister's house in Lisbon/Portugal, in November 1983 demanding the right to collective bargaining. The government's response to this action were legal proceedings instituted against the trade unionists.

part of an official multilateral system. It should in future play an important role in the co-ordination and orientation of the policies of the other banks.
The great weakness of the aforementioned material is in our opinion the failure to see the problems of monetary and financial politics as they really are.
The International Monetary Fund and the other neocolonial financial institutions play an ever increasing role as centres of state monopoly regulation and co-ordination of international credit potentials. The demands and conditions levied by the International Monetary Fund on countries receiving loans are part of imperialist finance strategy.
In the context of so-called stabilization programmes the International Monetary Fund expects measures to be taken which in the long run imply a restriction of public services, the degrading of working conditions and terms of employment of workers in this sector, an increase of the private sector and the growing influence of international monopoly capital. These measures unambiguously stress economic elements bearing the Western capitalist stamp. At the beginning of 1982 the International Monetary Fund refused further payment of loans promised to 15 countries, including Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Zambia and Tanzania, on the ground that the measures stipulated had not been fulfilled.
The growing role of the International Monetary Fund is also shown by the fact that private banks more frequently only offer loans to countries if the latter accept and fulfil the conditions laid down by the International Monetary Fund. The International Monetary Fund also sets the stage in the current so-called renegotiation of settlements. In the case of Mexico, the monopoly banks would only consent to a new credit agreement if that country would negotiate a stabilization programme with the International Monetary Fund. All these measures are intended to serve imperialist interests, particularly with regard to developing countries, on a broader and more balanced foundation by bringing about an even closer involvement of state finances with private capital.
It is necessary that the TUI as a class-oriented international trade union organization elaborates the problems in comprehensive form with the help of experts from the Banks and Insurance Branch on the basis of our standpoint as stated at the 7th International Trades Congress. We should develop a programme of demands publicly exposing the doings of the International Monetary Fund particularly in the developing countries, and which supports all measures directed towards supervising and controlling activities of the International Monetary Fund and restricting its power as a neocolonialist instrument. This applies particularly to the credit prolicies of the International Monetary Fund.
(2) We should devote more study to the theories and practices of certain imperialist governments with respect to problems of government budgets. This is of importance in our struggles to protect the real income of public service employees.
In order to compensate for the ever-increasing budget deficit the ruling circles in capitalist countries endeavour to reduce public spending and privatize public services. Budget deficits will, however, still persist because of the enormous armament expenditure contained in the budgets of many countries which cannot be financed by normal means, i.e. by taxes. The US draft budget for 1984, for example, provides 278 billion dollars for armaments, social expenditure is to be cut by 40 billion and the deficit is 189 billion. These enormous deficits raise national debts, which in turn raise the interest to be paid, which then



In protest against continuous mass unemployment 80,000 workers and employees of the North Italian town of Milan went on a 24-hour strike. The strikers marched to Cathedral Square for a rally. *Photo: ADN-Zentralbild*

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disarmament, because solutions to these problems embody the future of these countries.
This is the greatest challenge facing the public services, or in concrete terms, we must participate in powerful mass movements to ensure that both the third development decade of the UN and the second disarmament decade are crowned with success. In this respect the 10th World Trade Union Congress and the 7th International Trades Congress have proposed realistic lines of orientation. Struggle for peace means for public service trade unions in the developing countries not only opposing a world conflagration, but also the protection of their own immediate union and occupational interests. At all meetings with public service unions from developing countries we must always exercise patience in explaining and demonstrating that development is impossible without peace, just as peace is unthinkable without development. On the basis of the Congress orientation we actively participated in the World Meeting for Peace and Disarmament, against Nuclear War in Prague in June 1983 and in the International Trade Union Conference against Chemical and Bacteriological Weapons in Ho-Chi-Minh-City, Vietnam, in May 1983. In evaluation of these conferences numerous meetings were held in many countries with the support of our affiliated and friendly organizations on 1 September, International Day of Trade Union Actions for Peace. During today's discussions, the members of the Directive Committee should explain their experience in this field. The TUI Standing Working Group on Disarmament will work out further concrete contributions of public employees' unions to social and economic aspects of disarmament at its 2nd Session in Berlin in November 1983. In doing so we shall closely collaborate with the Dublin Committee (Trade Union Committee for Socio-Economic Aspects of Disarmament).

For decisive improvement of work in branches

The Congress indicated in the area of Branches that large changes are taking place in individual branches of the public services, and that new conditions have arisen for broad occupational initiatives and unifying specific interests on a common basis of demands.
Based on the documents of the 7th Congress and in particular the Charter, the following lines of orientation may be implied:

State Services

– evaluation and discussion of the results of the Third Joint Committee of the ILO with regard to problems of employment, training, careers and trade union work as well as the effects of modern technology and structural changes in public services; further work on these Joint Committee problems, particular attention to unresolved questions, stimulation of corresponding activities;
– intensified struggle
● for respecting and extending democratic and trade union rights and freedoms and the right of trade unions to participate at all levels of the state service;
● for eradicating discrimination of different categories (non-established personnel, part-time employees, women, youth, older employees) and all forms of discrimination for ethnic, race or religious reasons;
– continuation of the struggle for unified service rights for all state service employees (respect for and extension of democratic reforms);
– establishment of the right of education

can only be funded by higher deficits. Already last year the US had to raise 100 billion dollars to pay interest on the national debt. Thus sources of inflation are created which are in continuous operation. The enormous demand for public loans repeatedly causes interest rates to increase.
Under these conditions there are no prospects for a rapid lowering of interest rates. On the contrary, a new increase is to be expected.
Our TUI should uncover the practices of imperialist governments and elaborate demands and standpoints indicating democratic alternatives to government budget policies. These would include disarmament measures as well as measures for combatting tax evasion by monopolies, etc. We should include the analysis of our Japanese member organization KOKKO-ROREN in our considerations, since this analysis contains a collection of concrete facts pertaining to this problem.
At the same time our TUI should assist in also disclosing the causes and effects of high interest rate policy. Imperialist interest rate policy is a growing hinderance in achieving a new international economic order and in fighting underdevelopment.
(3) Unemployment is also on the increase in the public services. Initially it appears as hidden unemployment, vacant jobs, for example, remain so. Later extensive redundancies follow, particularly in the postal and telecommunications, health, municipal services and bank and finance sectors.
Whereas in the 50's and 60's the public services were able to absorb part of the manpower leaving industry and agriculture, today this is an exception to the rule. This thus aggravates the problems of mass unemployment.
In preparing for the international trade union conference our TUI should work out concrete proposals regarding the problems of employment. Without detracting from the basic –the creation of jobs in industry and agriculture–we should submit proposals for creating jobs in public services which contribute to the improvement of living conditions of the population. Here we find close connections to the problems of government budgets, International Monetary Fund policy and interest rate policy of monopoly banks described above.

Defence of the social and economic interests deeply linked with the struggle for peace and disarmament

The defence of the social and economic interests and rights of the workers, the fight for employment, higher wages and social services, for improved living standards, national independence and a new international economic order are fundamentally related to the struggle for freedom and disarmament and against the arms race.
The extension of the arms race pressured by the US administration and ruling circles of NATO, their decision to station further nuclear weapons in Europe, to build neutron bombs and open new nuclear weapons bases on a worldwide scale are a great threat to all nations and all workers.
Regardless of the socio-economic system they live under, the public-service workers have to bear the disastrous consequences of this unproductive expenditure. Disarmament is in the interest of social progress, it would facilitate the solution of numerous problems and would free a gigantic scientific and technological potential bound by the military sector which could then be put to civil uses.
The problems of peace and disarmament were treated by all discussion speakers

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Demonstrations of the Joint Front of Public Services comprising trade unions such as STAL, the Doctors' Union, the Nurses' Union, and the Teachers' Union on November 24, 1983. They demanded the right to collective bargaining and the termination of the repressive measures. (Against 23 public employees proceedings were initiated in which Brother Mario Merino, Secretary of the TUI, participated as an observer.)

during our 7th Congress as the main question facing the workers and nations. It was a matter of course that this question was raised so resolutely, since the participants in our Congress were representatives of the workers, their interests, sorrows and needs.

The discussion during the Congress expressed the real and broad determination of forces from numerous countries, and in particular the youth, to oppose the nuclear arms race and war and to support efforts for peace. The manifestation of these forces, their rapid development and their strength are facts of considerable consequence.

Our 7th International Trades Congress has renewed support for all efforts to bring about concrete disarmament measures. At today's Directive Committee Meeting we should reaffirm this orientation and our active support for all proposals such as the latest proposals of the socialist community, those of the 7th Summit Conference of Non-aligned Nations in Delhi, those of the World Meeting for Peace and Life, against Nuclear War, and any other political or trade union activity or initiative aimed at concrete disarmament measures, and call upon all trade unions and workers in public services, regardless of their philosophical, religious or political convictions to unite in action for, in particular:

– a declaration by the governments concerned to renounce a nuclear first strike;

– an immediate ban on the production of nuclear weapons and freezing of all plans to introduce and station new nuclear missiles or other weapons of mass destruction;

– a pact on the renunciation of using military force and on maintaining peaceful relations.

The close connection between these problems is shown daily by united action of public service trade unions and by other peace forces in their diverse action against the arms race and for the creation of new jobs and improvement of public services. These activities must, however, be continued even more intensively. The interrelation between occupational problems and the questions of peace, disarmament and the fight against underdevelopment as well as modes of trade union action must be determined in concrete terms in each individual branch. This should be preceded by a thorough study of the problems involved, coupled with well-founded proposals on, for example, how to use disarmament to create new jobs to improve public services.

Overloading Europe with new nuclear missiles creates the dangerous situation in which Europe could become the stage and starting point of a terrible world tragedy. The strategy of destruction reached a point of culmination in 1983 because of the forced arms build-up of US imperialism and the military alliance it leads. It is therefore in the spirit of the 7th Congress if we implement the Congress declaration for peace and disarmament in concrete terms relating to the vocational problems of public service workers in all action, initiative, missions and bilateral contacts undertaken. Of particular importance are the countries in which nuclear medium-range missiles are to be sited in 1983. We should discuss what concrete measures should be included in this respect in our work plan.

At the 10th World Trade Union Congress in Havana it was clearly and unambiguously shown that development, independence, disarmament and peace are inseparably connected.

The crisis and resultant unemployment, hunger and disease, the catastrophical situation of public services are particularly characteristic of developing countries and raise in particularly acute form the basic questions of peace and

We call upon the public employees of the world to step up their solidarity actions for the immediate release of the imprisioned Turkish trade unionists.



Brother Mario Merino, representative of our Trade Unions International, together with Brother Abdullah Bastürk, President of the DISK (Progressive Trade Union Centre of Turkey) and of the GENEL-IS (Municipal Employees Union), against whom the dictatorship has opened court and applied for him to be sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment.

4th Pay Commission in India's Public Service

(Extract from a Material Sent to the Editors)

"The Convention, however, feels satisfied that the Staff Side unanimously and without reservation opposed the reference of these issues to the Pay Commission for the reasons that firstly it is time consuming and secondly its composition is not appropriate and there is no system of confronted evidence. The 3rd Pay Commission themselves have opened that the Pay Commissions cannot satisfactorily settle the wages of the Central Government employees."
(Para 7 of the Convention Resolution).

Ignoring the unanimous opposition expressed by the Staff Side at the Convention held on February 20, 1983, the Union Finance Minister had announced the Government's decision to appoint a 4th Pay Commission. He has thus thrown a challenge to the Staff Side. He wishfully thinks that the "lollipop" of a Pay Commission will divide us thereby enabling the Government to evade not only the settlement of issues of wage parity etc. for another decade—2 to 3 years for the Commission to submit its report and thereafter for 5 years the issues will not be arbitrable, but also negotiated settlement on other issues. The JCM (Joint Commission Machinery) in practice will be closed.

There is no doubt that the appointment of a Pay Commission will kindle some hope, particularly in the smaller and weaker unions. Unions outside the JCM, recognized and unrecognized, will welcome it as it would provide them a forum for asserting their existence.

The Staff Side opposition to the appointment of a 4th Pay Commission is not just because it is time-consuming. The Cabinet Secretary had already indicated that the Commission will be asked to submit its report within six months. The Government may even agree to fix a date for its implementation depending upon our resistance. The real provocation is the motive behind its appointment, i.e. avoiding the settlement of demands and making a mockery of the assurance given gy the Cabinet Secretary and consequently the JCM.

The opposition is not because it is called Pay Commission and not Pay Body as suggested by the Staff Side. We may not even seriously oppose the method of fixing scales of pay for the various grades instead of through bilateral negotiations. Our opposition is to the Government's attempts to avoid the settlement of the foundations of the wage structure—the removal of disparity in wages.

It cannot be that the Government is unaware of the fact that the Staff Side had not favoured the appointment of another Pay Commission. Whatever confusion was created in the course of the discussions in the National Council was cleared by the Cabinet Secretary who said: "While discussing in the Standing Committee, processing/concluding major financial demands by March 31, 1983, it was not the intention to bring within its scope general revision of pay scales of the Central Government employees..." "The proposal of the Staff Side for setting up a 'Pay Body' was quite different from the items pending before the National Council."

Nothing stopped the Government from telling the Staff Side in January 1982 itself when the agreement on the DA issue was reached its intention to refer the issue of wage parity to the Pay Commission, or even subsequently at the National Council meeting held in May 1982 to discuss the Staff Side proposal to refer it to a Pay Body. But this was not done. However weak the Staff Side may be, and whatever internal differences there might be on the approach, it is unfair and unbecoming of the Government which swears by democratic principles to take the organizations of its employees for granted.

Wage Parity

The most important issue on which the Staff Side is agitated is the very low wages which the Central Government employees are getting. The Finance Minister has partially conceded this. In justification of the appointment of a 4th Pay Commission he has observed: "Changes have also taken place in the relativities in the emoluments of the employees of departments inter se. and also vis-à-vis other employees. For instance, several State Governments have, through Pay Committees or Pay Commissions, substantially revised the pay scales and other benefits of their employees..."

Disparity with State employees is one aspect and not the only aspect as these employees, though in the governmental sector, are not under one employer. The resources of the employees vary. Therefore, the Staff Side is insisting on parity with employees in the public sector as the employer is common.

The demand before the National Council which was assured to be settled before March 31, 1983, is:

"With a view that parity is reduced if not completely eliminated and at the same time they pay structure is also not disturbed till the revision of the same takes place, the Staff Side demand:

(a) Every Class IV employee should be given 'additional pay' of Rs. 150/—per month to compensate the shortfall.
(b) Every Class III employee should be given Rs. 150/—per month to compensate the shortfall.

Although the Government has not rejected the claim to avoid its reference to arbitration, yet the Railway Minister has said so. In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on 3rd March he told the House that

"the demand of railway workers for parity in wages and allowances with employees of other public-sector undertakings was not tenable since the terms and conditions of service and privileges of railway workers were totally different."

This statement coming close on the heels of the Finance Minister's announcement only confirms the employees' apprehension that the 4th Pay Commission is being appointed to side-track the issues, delay settlement and throw overboard

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the Government's obligation to refer them to arbitration—a forum of settlement which is available to the employees and their organizations today. It is not that the Pay Commission will not be asked to look into this aspect. But it would be like the terms of reference of the 2nd and 3rd Pay Commissions in regard to need-based minimum wage instead of settling it before proceeding with the fixation of pay scales.

At a time when the Finance Minister through the Bureau of Public Enterprises has in its guidelines conceded that the lowest paid workers should get Rs. 580/—(Pay plus DA) it should have not difficulty in offering the same to the Central Government employees who are today getting Rs. 442.70 and 586.30 respectively at 460 COL. We are conscious that the public-sector employees are opposing the guidelines but in our case it can become the starting point for discussions.

Moreover, the disparity is to be removed not only at the starting point but also in respect of rate of increment as well as the maximum of the promoted grades in the services to compensate the employees for the pauperisation imposed upon them by denial of full neutralisation all these years since 1947 when the 1st Pay Commission's recommendations were implemented.

The Government should accept these guidelines as the basis of discussion and settle it or refer it to arbitration of there is no agreement.

Negotiated Settlement

The appointment of the 4th Pay Commission will not only stall the discussions/settlement on the major issues but it would also provide a handle to the Ministry of Finance to close down all forums of negotiations and scuttle the JCM. The overlords of the Finance Ministry have already made a mockery of the JCM and converted it into a social club.

As it is, while discussing the demand of extension of the arbitration award in respect of Draftsmen in the CPWO to the other departments, the Joint Secretary Finance questioned the relevance of the discussion of these issues after the Government's decision to appoint the 4th Pay Commission which is expected to look into these matters. The Staff Side while taking exception to such an approach took a firm position that in case the Government had decided to make the JCM infructuous, let it be so declared. It will then enable the Staff Side to take its own stand.

The JCM constitution provides reference of issues to Committees for expert opinion. It was never the intention that by mere reference of issues to a Committee, which the Government might call Commission, the Council itself will go into liquidation. Therefore, the attempt now under way to make the JCM a talking shop or to close down the arbitration machinery is neither fair nor permissible.

Pending Issues

The Government should therefore continue to honour its commitment given by the Chairman at the last meeting about the functioning of the JCM. If it feels that on any specific issue further discussions would be futile, it should persuade the Staff Side rather than taking a unilateral decision.

In 1981, the then Cabinet Secretary held informal discussions to end the stalemate in the National Council. In the name of financial constraints, the Official Side wanted deferment of major issues for 2 to 3 years till March 1983. The Official Side stated that "the moratorium is to be applied to the existing major demands. The Finance Secretary agreed to pin-point such demands."

This has not been done till now and therefore, if the Joint Secretary Finance's objection is to be conceded, then the JCM will have to be closed down, if not formally at least in practice.

Cart before the Horse

It has been rightly pointed out that "there is or should be more to a pay commission than mere wage fixation. The structure of the administrative establishment and its functionality need to be reviewed."

"The existing file system was devised essentially before the telephone was invented and in an age of small government..."

"There is also need for a cadre reform. The generalities versus specialists controversy is of long standing and is yet to be resolved satisfactorily... Administrative procedures to call for revision so that decisions are taken as appropriate at various levels..." "If a pay commission, howsoever named, cannot undertake this task, let it be entrusted to another body which should report before a new pay commission further freezes the existing structure."

These aspects have been raised in the form of restructuring in the Railways and two promotions in the P&T. Both the Staff Side and administration have gone into details on these issues. None will agree that all these exercises were futile and should be referred to a Pay Commission just because we could not compel the Ministry of Finance to accept what the Department concerned considers correct.

The Right to Strike is a Human Right

By Sepp Stappung,
National Secretary, Switzerland

The European Social Charter puzzles the Federal Council. It wants to have it ratified by Parliament under certain reservations. The bourgeois majority of this country makes particularly heavy weather with Article 6 of the Charter which guarantees the right to strike. Small wonder, for the Federal Constitution does not explicitly guarantee the right to strike and the civil service law even prohibits the federal staff from striking.

Although the Federal Council claims in its message to Parliament concerning the ratification of the Social Charter that the ban on strikes for public officers does not violate Article 6 of the Charter, Switzerland can announce the ratification in Strasbourg only with reserve. Referring to this fact the message says arrogantly: "As we stick to our current attitude towards the question of the strike for public officers we will have to put up with the reproach on the part of

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independet experts that we do not fulfil Article 6, paragraph 4 because of this ban."

Switzerland lags behind Europe

In other words: The Federal Council does not care at all about the opinion of leading European experts in labour legislation, for according to Article 25 of the Social Charter the "experts" are a body consisting of seven authorities who are elected by the Committee of Ministers and who have to excel in "supreme integrity", and "recognized expert knowledge in international social issues". This arrogance towards the rights of the workers is a tradition in Switzerland. When problems concerning public employees are discussed in the National Council the arguments put forward today do not differ from those advanced in the 1920's when the civil service law was under consideration. Then, still under the impression of the general strike of 1918 the bourgeois majority enforced the ban on strikes for public officers. Among many other social-democratic parliamentarians then also Konrad Ilg boiled with indignation who later on became one of the fathers of the peace agreement in the metal industry and mechanical engineering: "I feel ashamed when I am abroad and have to say that we come from Switzerland which is held in high esteem in foreign countries, but where the strike is prohibited and the freedom of association is curtailed. Indeed, I feel ashamed."

The right to strike is an inalienable human right. The fathers of the European Social Charter knew that. Our Federal Council and our bourgeois parliamentary majority disregard it. Now as before they intend to deny the public employees the right to strike thus degrading them to second-class employees. Unlike all the other wage earners they shall not be allowed to offer resistance if all negotiations have failed.

The Strategy of bourgeois parliamentary majority

The Federative Association of the Staff of Public Administrations and Enterprises has advocated the repeal of this exceptive law which is unworthy of Switzerland for years, for instance, in 1974 it submitted a comprehensive file accompanied by a lot of relevant documents to the Federal Council. Already at that time the Federative Association referred to the fact that the ban on strikes will not be able to prevent the public employees from fighting back. It declared among other things: "If working conditions should again become as unbearable as they were in 1918 also the public employees may resort to action without consulting the statute book beforehand."What is really behind that ban on strikes is not the middle-classes' trust in the possibility of preventing such struggle indeed, but the attempt to vilify the strike as a means of settling labour disputes. The middle-calsses like to use the public employees as guniea-pigs. What can be imposed on the public officers can also be imposed on the wage earners in the private sector. If the bourgeois majority in Parliament enforces the legal embodiment of a staff freeze, the refusal of reducing working hours and the obstruction of full equalization pay then they do not primarily bear in mind the public treasury but the increase of profit in the private sector.

There is only one answer to this strategy pursued by the middle-classes: solidarity of all wage earners irrespective of whether their employer is an entrepreneur or the Federal Council, for we have all together to pay the bill for bourgeois economy measures in the same way. That is why the abolition of the ban on strikes for public officers and the unqualified ratification of the European Social Charter is in the interest of all workers.

(From "Der öffentliche Dienst", VPOD, No 37/83).

Interview

On the occasion of a visit of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) to the GDR, the General Scretary of the Union, brother Rodney Bickerstaffe, granted the following interview to our editorial staff:

Could you introduce your Union to our readers?

The National Union of Public Employees is the fifth largest union in Great Britain. It has some 700,000 members who are in the municipal sphere about 400,000. The National Health Service or hospital service have about 275,000 members and the others are made up of water sewage workers and workers in the universities. It is over all a blue-collar-union and manual workers' union although our belief in industrial unionism—one union for one industry and one service means that we do in fact take in any sort of worker—technical, clerical, secretarial, administrative, any part of the service we believe could be and should be in one organization. Over the years we have grown rapidly. We are a radical union, a leftist-centre union and whilst in Britain that may have different commentations from here, none the less we are seen as very much on the radical wing and obviously our experiences in public service work pushes in that direction.

Public expenditure is oviously a major feature of what we hope to be the new Britain, and it obviously means that we are always in conflict with the government of today as to how much money should be pumped into the economy on the public expenditure side and how much should go through private capital excises.

We are in competition with a number of other trade unions. I don't mean on a day-to-day basis, but in fact they too recruit in the same area: the Transport and General Workers' Union, the General Municipal and Boiler Makers' Union and other unions.

Obviously, our great hope is that even though we have not got a single union, that we can somehow forge links between these various unions in order to do the work that our members so very much need.

The employers, unfortunately, are more than happy to see us split up into verious unions. It is the oldest capitalist and high Tory view of the working people that if you can divide then you can conquer them. So to some extent it is our own fault. But given time and goodwill, perhaps we will reduce the number of unions. Currently in Britain we got a 105 affiliated to the TUC, the Trade Union Congress. When we get down to 20, 18 or 16 perhaps we will be able to say we are organizing ourselves a lot better.

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The Union obviously recruits particularly in this area, because they are low-paid workers and we believe that there is a real crusade on to get a reasonable living wage for everybody. Our current activity, apart from cuts in public expenditure, is trying to ensure that our people get a reasonable living wage and we have argued for the introduction of a law, a statutory national minimum wage below which no worker should fall.

That is taking a long time. We just got it through the Labour Party Conference and obiously it will cause problems in the future if it is implemented. But we feel that it is a challenge worth fighting for.

What main problems are at the moment on the agenda of the representation of interests?

The main problems facing our Union at the moment are the reduction in public expenditure that this government has set upon. We already had financial cuts in the financing of our local government and municipal government and the National Health Service. And we are now having further cuts in terms of manpower. Already our Secretary of State has ordered that 5 to 8 thousand people in the health service should be made redundant, this despite the fact that many of them are qualified. All of them are experienced and dedicated. And obviously it means that the long waiting list that we have for hospital treatment to ascertain is not going to get any shorter over the months and years.

So, that is one major problem. Secondly it is privatization which is an attempt by this government and its big business supporters to try to turn back the clock and do away with much of our public service work, both in local government and the health service and indeed in the civil service and other areas and agencies of government, to introduce the profit motive and private contractors into public service and public-sector working, and we got very real battles on this.

We do not believe that the profit motive of private owners and private contractors should in fact be the way forward for our personal social services and our National Health Service. It has always been our view in NUPE that whatever public need was met by private greed, the corruption was not far behind, and so after cuts in public expenditure privatization is perhaps the second major sphere.
The third one is one I have already touched on and that is to try to get a reasonable living wage for our workers in the public services. Many of them take home scarcely enough to exist on and certainly not enough to have a happy life on. That is tied up in many ways with the unemployed. The fact is that in Britain we got some 4 million unemployed people, and it is used by our government in the worst possible way to undermine collective bargaining and the collective bargaining machinery and indeed the unions themelves in order to drive down wages, in order to make bigger profit margins for private entrepreneurs.

It is the oldest tactic in the economic handbook and nobody is fooled by it, but at the moment just because there is such a mass unemployment, we are finding it exceedingly difficult to fight this government. Our strength I suppose lies in



On October 22, 1983 the biggest demonstration ever of working people took place in the British capital in which also public-sector workers participated in large numbers. They protested against NATO's decison to deploy new nuclear missiles, against the US armaments dictate and against the deployment of Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles.
Photo: ADN-Zentralbild

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continuing to develop our theory, and our propaganda, and our education of our own working people and eventually hopefully to politicize them in order to bring in a from of government that is more acceptable to the unions, to the people as a whole.

Would it be possible to tell us something about your Unions's campaign for peace?

Yes, we have for a long time, of course, had a view about nuclear warfare. Obiously, everybody is for peace. Everybody is saying that they are against sin. But there is more than simply words, and we thought that one of the deeds that we could do as a union was to develop a fairly substantial but popular pack of information—our peace-campaign-pack which we negotiated with the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. And that has been very, very successful. It explains our Unions's policy and the trade union Labour Party's policies. It is exactly told in an understandable way for all our members and indeed for other unions as well. Of course, I think the NUPE is the first organization to put so much money and effort into this particular sort of educational material.

It particularly looks at our own government's spending on the nuclear armament and armaments in general and points out to our people and to anybody else who is prepared to read the material that it is unlikely that we will ever have a really good National Health Service, a really efficient public service in terms of welfare for all people, for children, that we will never really have a most successful education system, not just for young people, but for all people throughout their lives.

We are spending thousands of millions of pounds on the arms race, and we point out that the costs of Polaris, the costs of Cruise, the cost of Trident in financial and economic terms as well, of course, as the straight fact that with them we are likely to end up with a nuclear holocaust which makes the rest of it look very small indeed.

So we hope that there has been a development and obviously, our trips abroad are themselves examples of our desire to carry our feeling of peace to other countries wherever they may be, East or West, socialist or non-socialist countries. Yes, our trips abroad are an example of how we feel that we can spread the word of peace and our own Union's view whether we got to the East or West.

Our message is always the same. It does not differ from country to country and from society to society. Through our own journal, through our propaganda as I say we hope that in some way we get beyond our own membership to other unions and hope to even other countries to reassure them of our intention in the peace field.

But, of course, at the end of the day one union or even a number of unions in Britain cannot decide on what America is not going to do or what the Soviet Union is going to do or is not going to do, or even what the GDR is going to do or is not going to do. But what we can say is that we are committed ourselves to unilateral nuclear disarmament as far as Britain is concerned. And it will be our endeavour to ensure that the government is returned in Britain and will take up that particular option, and whatever any other country does we feel that we ought to be making a first step by devoiding ourselves of nuclear armaments on our islands. And hopefully that will be an expression and an example to some countries on either side as it were to do something similar. We do not know whether that necessarily will be the case. But we do not believe that by having nuclear armaments on British soil that we are helping. And we can only hope, as I say, that our example will at some point in the future lead to others doing something similar. Many, of course, declare that that is absurd and that all we are doing is opening ourselves up to annihilation without the possibility of retribution, if you want. That is not our view. But we must say in the future if we do achieve it in Britain and another country follows suit that is sensible.

We want our money to be spent–the 10 thousand million pounds that will be spent on Trident and that is probably going on the small, say conservative side–more money to be spent on our hospitals. We want to spend it on our old-age pensioners, on our children, our nurseries, on better road systems, on transport on all the things that make a civilized society.

The Confederation of Public Employees of Brazil (CSPB) is composed of 30 associations, federations and unions at state and national levels. It thus represents some 1.1 million public employees. It is an active member of the Latin-American Confederation of State Employees (CLATE). Internationally it is not affiliated to any of the international centres of public-sector workers but it maintains relations with all three centres.
Due to its far-reaching importance and the strict anti-imperialist position, we would not like to withhold from our readers the resolution adopted at the 14th National Congress held in Porto Alegre, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, in September 1983.

RESOLUTION of the CSPB-Confederation of Public Employees of Brazil

(Confederação dos Servidores Públicos do Brasil)

The representatives of the public services–municipal, state and federal services of the whole country–who met at the 14th National Congress of Public Employees of Brazil held in Porto Alegre, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul
DECIDE
to address this
DECLARATION OF PORTO ALEGRE
to all categories of workers and employers, to the authorities of the executive, legislative and legal authorities as well as to all the other participants of the Brazilian society which reflects the thinking, the aspirations and the anxieties of all those who work in the service of the state for the well-being of all Brazilians.
(1) The public employees are convinced that the cause of the economic problems of the country does not lie in the infertility

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of its soil and the poor natural resources nor in the intention of its people but results from a colonial, rapacious process coupled with alienation in which, unfortunately, many of those are involved who exercise the economic and political power without any support by the people.

The main cause of the raging current crisis lies in the feudal distribution of landed property which turns our brothers from the north-east into pariahs and which leaves large areas of the middle-north to the transnational corporations. They lie in the rapacious plundering of areas with monazite and quartz deposits, in the extraction of gold by tons and in the criminal extraction of all our precious metals, in the destruction of our forest reserves on the Amazon and on the upper courses of our biggest rivers, in the systematic destruction of the ecological balance in those areas most favoured by nature throughout the country. They lie in the imposition of cultural and consumption models which are alien to our natural culture and finally in the shameless bondage of some rulers and officers to certain groups and enterprises guided from outside.
(2) The public employees know that the progress and order in which the civic way of thinking of the Brazilian people is sited must not result in the fact that national security is placed above the real human values which embody the best features of our people, and they must not lead either to authoritarian measures such as the last "state of emergency" in Brazil, nor to the dubious export at any price, nor to the submission to the demands of the international financial tycoons and still less to the growing pauperization of the middle classes and marginalization of large demografic groups towards absolute misery with more than 250 newly born out of 1,000 falling victims to such a cruel and programmed genocide. The remaining and humble survivors of this undeclared war waged by the unproductive or exploitative great landowners and arrogant and outdated colonialism hand in hand with the authoritarian political power which still exists in our weak and deceptive democracy, are exposed to malnutrition and endemic diseases.
(3) The public employees understand that the sacrifices imposed upon them above all in the last four years result from the preponderance of antinational concepts which foster a policy of the nation's general subordination to foreign interests. This finds its expression in the annoying and insulting equalization of our officers of the first degree with the representatives of the 4th and 5th degree from the multinational trusts which stifle us and make the Brazilian state superfluous and useless. That is why little importance is attached to the working people who are in the service of this very state. In addition to that the public employees oppose the fact that wage confiscations and the discrimination to which they were exposed did not prevent the increase of direct and expensive contracts with enterprises for the procurement of manpower, the irregular appointment of some 600,000 people, pompous buildings and a whole series of measures which aggravated the public deficit and which resulted in the importation of inflation and gains of the international banks which reaffirms the unfeelingness and incompetence. The public employees reject them also because of the unjust treatment to which they were exposed with regard to other classes. In this connection those responsible for the economic policy try to blame the public employees for their own mistakes and encroachments.
(4) The public employees, however, cannot go on paying the bill for the mistakes and absurdity of those who mismanage the country. Their commitment to their families, to society and their own survival does not allow them to witness this spectacle of abasement and humiliation, to raimain passive and become resigned for fear, unscrupulousness or alienation. The CSPB is their leadership. Unity is their banner! Organization is their means of struggle.
(5) In the face of the whole Brazilian society they pledge to struggle

a) for their immediate and basic demands:

I. Wage adjustment from November 1, 1983, by which the impacts of inflation and price increases for staple goods will be abolished and the wage level of December 1982 will be restored;

II. Wage payment by which the salaries kept back by the municipal, state and federal governments are disbursed which are already 13,000 per cent (thirteen thousand per cent) above the level of March 1979;

III. Fixation of a minimum wage or of salary brackets for the public employees at federal, state and municipal levels;

IV. Confirmation of the new civil service law by the National Congress;

V. Right to trade union membership with repeal of the arbitrary laws which prevent its concretization.

(2) For the following measures of national interest which in themselves are common to the class of the working people and the employers as well as all patriots and responsible citizens:

I. Termination of the antinational agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the representatives of the international banks which violate the national sovereignty and aggravate the social and institutional crisis;

II. Concrete and pruposeful measures against unemployment, against the unproductive extensive landed property, against real estate speculations patronized by the Banco Nacional de Habitação (National Housing Bank) and against the impunity of those responsible for an endless series of scandals which shake the nation;

III. The handing over of the administration of the restructured institutions to the class of the working people and employers for the application of their measures which aim at providing guarantees as far as the period of service, care and public welfare service are concerned;

IV. An immediate tax reform promoting the redistribution of the national income with regard to the provision of services for the municipalities within the framework of the municipal service and permitting the intensive implementation of effective programmes against endemic diseases, infant mortality and the total misery with real participation of the sections of the population concerned.

V. An institutional reform coupled with the convening of the Constituent National Assembly, repeal of the arbitrary and emergency laws, the promotion of direct elections and independence of the parties.

Porto Alegre, October 20, 1983

sgn. Archimedes Pedreira Franco
President

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Rationalization Protection Agreement: More Security for Bank and Insurance Clerks in the FRG

By Lorenz Schwegler

Since May 1, 1983 the jobs, incomes and professional qualification of the some 520,000 bank and insurance clerks in the FRG have become quite a bit more secure. On that very day the rationalization protection agreements concluded by the Trade, Bank and Insurance Employees' Union (HBV) with the respective Employers' Associations came into force. The conclusion of these agreements was the result of negotiations which had lasted in the banking business for two years and in the insurance business nearly double that time.

Both agreements provide that employees whose jobs are lost owing to rationalization measures or which are reclassified in a lower category are entitled to the continuation of employment in a reasonable and if possible equal workplace as far as it should be available. In case the employee should need a period of professional adjustment or retraining in order to meet the demands of that new job he is likewise entitled to making use of the respective measures.
The claims to the continuation of employment and retraining arising from these agreements can be lodged earlier than provided for by the general legislation, i.e. at the very moment when it is quite obvious that according to staff planning the continuation of employment in that workplace or in the respective category will not be possible any longer. From this very moment the employee can demand to be offered another–if possible equal–job, and if necessary such an offer can be enforced by entering an action including all possibilities of temporary legal protection.

Claims to Securing Qualification

Claims to continuation of employment and retraining comprise not only the maintenance of the employment contract in case the job should be abolished, but also the securing of professional qualification if the workplace concerned should be reclassified in a lower category. In this sense the bank agreement contains the following formulation: "Before reclassification in a lower category due to rationalization measures it must be examined to what extent it can be diminished or prevented." The insurance agreement contains a similar regulation.
Only when the claims to the procurement of an equal job cannot be satisfied owing to the lack of possibilities the protection provisions designed to prevent the reclassification in a lower category come into force as defined by the agreement. In essence they provide a guarantee with regard to the deutsch-mark emoluments received so far, and in addition to that for older employees there is a clause ensuring standard union wages.
The rather inconspicuous regulations of both agreements according to which employees affected by rationalization measures are entitled to a period of vocational adjustment or retraining in case the activity in the job they have had so far should change certainly are of considerable and practical significance. Up to now training measures designed for the adjustment to changed professional demands have only taken place if the employers deemend them purposeful. The new existing claim of the employee can and should be used actively as a basis for securing jobs in changed conditions and as a precautionary measure against possible notices of termination of employment at a later moment.

Use of all possibilities for the continuation of employment

If the continuation of employment within the enterprise is not possible because there is a lack of other jobs, according to the insurance agreement the employer is obliged to find a post for him in another enterprise of the trust, or at least to try to do so.
There is also an incentive for relevant efforts, for the regulations provide that the claim to indemnity becomes void if through the intermediary of the employer the employee gets an equal and reasonable job in another enterprise of the trust with the period of employment being fully put to the employee's account and without prejudice to the rights enjoyed so far based thereupon.
A similar regulation is contained in the rationalization protection agreement concluded with the credit cooperatives. According to the regulations concerned the effort to find a job has to refer to a nearby institution of the credit cooperative banking association. The employee is, however, entitled, to reject a job offered to him without prejudice to his claim for compensation if he has compelling arguments.

Early pensioning to avoid notices

In the last rounds of the negotiations in both banks and insurance institutions the dispute centred on the demand of the Trade, Bank and Insurance Employees' Union that notives for the termination of employment should be inadmissible if they can be avoided by voluntary early retirement on socially acceptable terms either of the employee concerned or another one. In the insurance agreement this principle was largely taken into account.
As far as this issue is concerned the bank agreement lags far behind the insurance agreement. A note on the record is, however, significant in so far as in case the relevant legislation should change negotiations have to be resumed without delay with a view to rearranging the present regulations.

Violation of agreements–no peccadillo

Special importance for the employee's position with regard to the protection against unlawful dismissal and proceeding therefrom for all investigations,deliberations and efforts with a view to avoiding any notices of termination of employment must be attached to the relevant provision included in the insurance agreement: "Any notice given in defiance of a provision of this agreement is socially unjustified except the notice is not based thereupon." This regulation refers not only to the observance of the employees' claims to the continuation of employment and retraining, but also to the full observance of the duties of the employer to investigate all possibilities of maintaining employment by specific measures in the field of labour management, by finding another job for the employee concerned in the trust and by early retirement including the rules of procedure and standards in force. In his defence the employer is obliged to furnish proof–which in practice turns out to be a very difficult job to do–that the dismissal in

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question would have been inevitalbe even if all provisions of the agreement had been observed. This requires an extremely concrete application of the agreement's provisions.
The bank agreement provides that in future it is the employer who has to prove that it was not possible to continue the employment and that subject to all provisions of the agreement. This too is a considerable strengthening of the employees' position and considerably emphasizes the strict and unlimited application of all regulations of the rationalization protection agreement. It will, of course, be necessary here–even to a greater extent than in the insurance agreement–that the works council or the personnel council respectively insist on the employers' obligations at the individual stages of the planning and materialization of the respective reationalization measures and make their fulfilment or non-fulfilment subject of provable proceedings.

Basis for personnel planning essentially improved

Apart from the improved legal status for the individual employee affected by rationalization measures an essential effect of the agreement consists in the substantial improvement of the underlying basis for the personnel planning in the enterprises and the deliberations to be held to this effect between employer and representatives of the enterprise. This is above all true of the insurance agreement. There unequivocal investigation programmes and standards are already fixed for the phase of "collective" personnel planning:
– strict observance of social points of view,
– priority of the preservation of jobs,
– avoidance of notices of termination of employment by employment freeze,
– limitation of overtime,
– short-time work,
– transfer (if necessary retraining),
– early retirement.
In addition to that the employees' claims to the continuation of employment, transfer or retraining as well as the legal obligations to check the possibilities of early retirement results in the first instance in a concrete upgrading of the right of codetermination and based on that leads to the strengthening of the works council's position in collective personnel planning.
A principally similar although a less precise legal status as far as its concrete formulation is concerned emanates from the bank agreement.
The works and personnel councils in banks and insurance institutions are called upon to use these chances in the forthcoming implementation of the agreement. Taking into account the significance of rationalization processes in the daily work of the representation of interests in the institutions concerned it is no exaggeration to say that these agreements will almost have the same importance as the works constitutional law and the law on the protection against unlawful dismissal in their capacity as working basis for the employees' representations.

(Source: Angestellten-Magazin 6/83)

Consolidation in the US Banking System

By Dr Eveline Kolloch

There will be a new record figure of banks going bankrupt in the United States this year. This was predicted by the Federal Insurance Corporation (FDIC) responsible for some 14,000 American banks and savings banks. Currently there are some 270 "wobbly" bank establishments on its "problem list". By the end of 1981 there were 210.

In view of the continuing economic crisis and the financial difficulties many establishments are faced with, particularly in the building trade, motor industry, steel industry and aviation more and more small and medium-sized banks and savings banks are threatened with liquidation or the taking over by financially strong competitors. In the middle of 1982 a total of 22 commercial banks were affected. The most spectacular case was beyond doubt the breakdown of the Penn Square Bank in Oklahoma in which the Central Illiois Bank as the sixth biggest bank of the USA was involved with several million dollars.

The Penn Square affair then prompted the President of the Federal Reserve System, i.e. the Central Bank, Paul Volcker to make appeasing statements when addressing Congress. He pointed out that it was just a special case resulting from mismanagement, but the bank sector as such was principally stable.

Bleak Prognoses

But there are solid facts disproving that. In mid-May 1983 Drysdale Government Sec., a New-York enterprise handling securities had triggered off a spectacular financial scandal due to bad speculations amounting to billions of dollars. After the financial firm Comark now also Lombard Wall, an influential commercial house handling securities, filed a petition in bankruptcy. As a consequence, several banks had to put down the credits given to these establishments to profit and loss. Mutual saving banks and loan associations as well as the mortgage loan and investment companies, however, face the most severe difficulties. Since the beginning of this year more and more bankruptcies and fusions in this sphere hit the headlines in the financial press. So far 8 savings banks have been forced to close down. In the State of New York where–based on the balance sheet total–more than half of all US savings banks have their seats about one third of them will be faced with financial bankruptcy, financial experts suppose. Thus also in this branch thousands of jobs will be lost. In addition to that the supervising and insurance authorities of the savings banks reckon with 8 to 10 billion dollars of reorganization costs. By the fusion of the insolvent New-York Bank for Savings and the Buffalo Savings Bank (4th and 7th place among the 100 biggest savings banks) one of the gravest bankruptcies in the history of the US credit system could be prevented. The new financial establishment will become the biggest savings bank in the country with its 9 billion dollars balance sheet total.

Numerous savings banks and mortgage loan and investment companies fail primarily owing to the policy of high interest

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rates which has been pursued by the government for a long time. The high interest rates had enormously sharpened the competition for the deposits and savings balances among the savings banks and mortgage loan and investment companies on the one hand and the commercial banks as well as various investment companies on the other hand.

In addition to that it is just the savings banks which are placed at a disadvantage with regard to the extension of their business lines as compared with the big monopoly banks due to a whole series of regulations of the Federal Reserve Act. So the Glass-Steagall-Act of 1933 which is still valid today provides the principal separation of the depositing business and banking business from the transaction in securities, i.e. the issue and placement of any kind of shares and stocks. The latter is above all in the hands of the investment banks, the brokers and the commercial finance companies. Thus the US banks and savings banks differ from the universal banks prevailing in the West-European countries and Japan handling all profitable banking business and financial affairs. That is why the activities of most savings banks in the USA are limited to short-term deposits and savings balances as well as to mortgage loans on private housing construction and consumer credits.

Further legal regulations provide ceiling rates of interest for medium-term and long-term savings deposits amounting to 5–6 per cent quite apart from the fact that the so-called demand deposits, i.e. day-to-day demands have not borne interests at all in the United States. Thus the high interest rates (in the last two years fluctuating between 15 and 20 per cent) on the American money and capital market resulted in an ever increasing flow of money from the savings banks accounts to deposits yielding high interests. This is the main reason why so many savings banks have run into liquidity difficulties, for they are no longer in a position to sufficiently refinance their long-term assets, especially the mortgage loans.

Up-Wind for Concentration

Certainly, the regulations for the banking activities mentioned above also apply to the 15,000 commercial banks, at least formally. Yet the big bank trusts have always succeeded in penetrating both nationally and internationally all spheres of credit and financial transactions. This mainly happens by the foundation of holding companies, the building up of trust departments (administration of property and securities), the activity of affiliated companies abroad and last not least by cornering other financial institutions. So the biggest monopoly bank in the USA, the Bank of America, acquired by purchase by the end of 1981 the stock jobbing company Schwab. The City Bank closely co-operated with insurance institutions and securities brokers. Only recently it acquired by purchase the Fidelity Savings Bank of San Francisco with a balance sheet total of 2.9 billion dollars which had become insolvent in August last year and 80 branches in California meeting with the resistance offered by many savings banks. It was also the monopoly banks which about two years ago organized together with broker's firms and investment companies the so-called money-market funds, a trading in short-term securities yielding high interests. In 1981/82 their interest rate was more than 15 per cent. Just these funds, the number of which has reached in the meantime 248, attracting private savings deposits of 226 billion dollars deliver the death-blow to a series of savings banks.

As a matter of fact the so-called Monetary Control Act, a new Federal Reserve Act enacted in 1980 provides the gradual repeal of the limitation of the rates of interest by 1985 and an extension of the scope of activity of the savings banks. Nevertheless, they will hardly have any chance to cope with the concentrated financial strength and the monopoly position of the big commercial banks and investment bankers.

In the competition for investment customers and savings numerous branches of foreign banks have had a finger in the pie for a long time. Alone in New York there are at present 300 branches of foreign banks.

A "new danger", however, emanates above all from the penetration of financially sound financial enterprises from the non-banking sector into the savings-bank and bank services. So, for instance, insurance and department store trusts, but also brokers, provide services to an ever greater extent. These range from cheque transactions and the acceptance of deposits via the settlement of payments and clearings to the purchase of stocks and shares. Only recently, the giant department store Sears Roebuck has got in on the New York broker Witter. The biggest US insurance trust Prudential Life has taken over the securities house Brache in order to expand its financial operations.

One of the most important financial conglomorates, however, came into being by the fusion of the American Express and the second biggest broker Shearson Loeb Roads Inc. Above all American Express well known by its credit transactions with 13.3 million customers now co-operates with 500,000 investors who kept savings accounts with Shearson. The financial transactions of the trust include besides insurances and investments in securities the already mentioned money market funds. In addition to that the credit card king is active in the publishing trade, on commercial private television and in the real estate business.

The capitalist economic press designates the emergence and the expansion of the new financial giants as a "revolution which will essentially change the financial scene in the United States in the years to come".

This kind of "revolution" reflects, however, the deep crisis the US-American banking and credit system is passing through. Such a "consolidation" as we can currently observe among the banks and savings banks has not existed since the collapse of the market in 1929. The continuing economic crisis will further accelerate the wave of enormous concentration and centralization processes in the field of bank assets and moneyed capital.

TÜSTA ARCHIVAL TARİHİ ARŞİVİ

The Struggle for Peace and against Transnational Corporations

From the discussion contribution of brother Tarakeswar Chakrabarti, General Secretary of the All India Bank Employees' Association, made at the 35th Meeting of the Directive Committee of the TUI of Public Employees held in Bucharest/PR Romania from November 3–5, 1983 (Also see BULLETIN No. 11/83)

Our main task today is to solve the question of peace and disarmament. The threat of a thermonuclear war is very, very real. The working class cannot be but in the forefront of the struggle for preserving peace.

The American administration are armed to the teeth. No doubt, Europe is the focal point of the threat of such a nuclear war. But no part of the world is free from danger. We in India are also living under the shadows of such a war.

The military junta of Pakistan wishes the latest sophisticated weapons. In the Indian Ocean, Diego Garcia, which is not very far from our country's mainland has been converted into a military base bristling with nuclear weapons.

Our government headed by Prime Minister Indira Ghandi have taken a firm stand for global peace, disarmament and for the ban on the use of nuclear weapons.

The Indian working class too moved unitedly against the warmongers on September 23, 1982. There was a mammoth march of 1 million workers in Delhi in which about 15,000 bank employees apart from insurance, post and telecommunications and other public service workers took part. This year on September 1, in accordance with the decision of the Prague Congress for Peace and Solidarity at



In Delhi/India workers and employees protest at a mass rally against the barbarian US invasion in Grenada. *Photo: ADN-Zentralbild*

the call of our organization processions and rallies took place in all towns and cities. We as a member of the TUI of Public Employees are carrying on a ceaseless campaign through numerous meetings to arouse and mobilize the employees in this universal struggle for peace.

It must, however, be said here that the intensity of the peace movement is not so deep in countries like ours as in Europe which has witnessed the horrors of two world wars, as in Latin America where national sovereignty is endangered as was pointed out in the documents about the City Bank's role in Latin American countries.

A very important debate in our country centres on our attitude towards the introduction of the latest technological devices, e.g. electronic machines and computers in the banking system, managements both foreign and Indian, unfettered use of all mechanical devices for bank work. We would not agree to that as it would result in aggravating the critical unemployment situation.
Our Association was obliged to fight against it, and after a countrywide action by bank workers last month an agreement was signed between our Association and the bank management restricting the use of electronic machines and computers in some specific spheres of bank jobs and areas coupled with guarantees that the recruitment rate in this industry would remain unaffected. This is the first ever industry-level agreement of this type in India.

To many of you here our attitude and approach may appear peculiar but hard realities of life have dictated us to do so. At the moment we are engaged in wage negotiations in banks.

In the developing and underdeveloped countries the transnational corporations, those monsters, are playing hard. In India, for example, health services are in the public sector, but almost all drugs and medicines are supplied by transnationals who not only charge exorbitant prices but dump rejected and unusual drugs prohibited elsewhere in countries like ours.
After thorough investigations one should prepare documents about the rapacious role of the transnationals in the fields of banking, in the medical and pharmaceutical sectors as well as in other spheres of activity covered by our TUI. These should be publicized by all the affiliates in the respective countries to arouse mass consciousness and create an effective movement against them.

In the field of publications, the TUI has to diversify its role. Our Association comes out with twelve regional publications in India with a circulation of about 75,000. It will be our endeavour to give publicity to TUI articles and documents amongst our membership as we have been doing so far.

As far as TUI's activities are concerned greater emphasis will have to be laid on the regional basis. The workers' problems vary widely from continent to continent, from region to region and from country to country.

Yet in some countries the regional problems are more or less the same, as for example, in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal etc. working people face the same problems of unemployment, wage erosion, job insecurity, plurality of trade unions, the denial of trade union rights etc.

The ideals of the TUI can be effectively put forth on such a regional basis. Our Association is prepared to host such a regional meeting in India in 1985.

Some Experience in the Development of the Initiatives of PTT Workers in the GDR

In the middle of 1983 a consultative meeting of the Chairmen of the PTT-Unions of socialist countries took place in Berlin, capital of the GDR. (We reported about that in the INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 6/83). In the following we publish extracts from the discussion contribution made by brother Karl Kalauch, Chairman of the Transport and Communications Workers' Union of the GDR.

In our socialist communications facilities there are at present 136,000 workers, 70 per cent of whom are women.
According to the organizational principle of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions—one enterprise—one trade union—there are in all enterprises and post offices trade union basic units run by elected enterprise trade union committees.

At supra-enterprise level we have in 25 conurbations district committees and in every region there is a regional committee of our industrial trade union as trade union partner of the regional office of the postal and telecommunication services and as leading trade union organ of the region. This district committee is, however, not only responsible for the trade union organizations of the communication services but also for the transport services except the railways. The Central Council unites all branches of the transport and communication services.

With its 770,000 members our industrial trade union is the fourth largest within the framework of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions 621,000 of whom are working in the various enterprises the rest-150,000 are trade union veterans.

The 10th Party Congress of the SED (Socialist Unity Party of Germany) which took place in 1981 adopted a programme for the economic strategy of the 1980's providing the intensively expanded reproduction of the national economy as a whole including the postal and communication services. The further implementation of this programme will help to create the material prerequisites for the successful realization of our economic and social policies which simultaneously constitutes a contribution towards safeguarding peace.

This year we want to increase the produced national income to 104.2 per cent and the industrial commodity production to 103.8 per cent which is an indispensable prerequisite for the further strengthening of the material-technological basis of our national economy and its capacity. These are the targets we have set ourselves.

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Our road to reach this objective is the following:
– to achieve the increase in labour productivity mainly with the help of science and technology and their better economical utilization,
– to ensure the economic growth with the same or partially even less energy, fuel and raw material consumption,
– to make much better use of the funds of fixed assets and
– to further reduce the productive consumption.
These targets which are binding on the whole national economy also fully apply to the postal and communication services.

The main problem with which the workers of our sector of the economy are faced is to ensure the increased demands and performances of the national economy in high quality, with reduced material funds and lower prime cost as far as transport and communication are concerned thus making our concrete contribution to increasing the national income of our country.

These ambitious targets can only be reached by socialist rationalization of the operational process in the postal and press services, in the telephone and teleprint services and radio communications with stable and high quality of the services provided for the economy and the population.

That is why in essence we concentrate our forces and means for the further intensification and rationalization of all working processes on two main directions:

(1) We want to increase the quality and stability of the services by the further intensification and the better utilization of the results of science and technology.

For instance

- by the development, production and use of robots and operating technology,
- by continuing rationalization in the delivery service by producing our own delivery boxes (30,000 annually),
- by applying microelectronics and electronic data processing,
- by further rationalizing the telecommunications service and the manual exchange

and

(2) We must succeed in better utilizing the available funds of fixed assets. This aspect is of particular weight as the gross value of our fixed assets now totals more than 12 thousand million marks. On an average each postal clerk is responsible for almost 100,000 marks worth of fixed assets.

Proceeding from these two main directions of intensification in the postal and telecommunications services the main lines of rationalization in the individual sectors are determined for the years to come. Special attention will be paid to the **postal service and press.**

As is generally known, this is a very labour-intensive sector, and what is even more aggravating this is a sphere of work in which the very same activities must be done again and again with a massive volume of work.

Therefore we concentrate our efforts on the **complex mechanization of processes dealing with the handling of letters, parcels etc.** with a view to reducing the periods of transport. Here the use of robots and operation devices for rationalizing the working processes in the postal customs areas, the use of semi-automatic parcel sorting machines and container emptying devices as well as technical devices for transport and storage operations.
Furthermore, in the postal and press services the application of modern computing machinery and data processing for services in payment transactions and in the receiving offices are the order of the day.

In this respect I must state that we are at the beginning of a new stage of the introduction of microelectronics in our counter service.

In the next months the trial run of the first counter terminal devices will start in the GDR's capital, Berlin.

From the middle of 1984 we want to start to provide all major Berlin post offices with this modern technology. This will help to improve the working conditions of many employees working in the counter service. The work of the receiving clerks will thus become more attractive.

In the telephone and teleprint services socialist rationalization is increasingly concentrated on:
- the reconstruction of the existing telecommunications network of the GDR's Postal Administration and its gradual expansion,
- the accelerated development and practical introduction of the light-beam transmission systems,
- the use of microchips in the telephone service,
- the continuation of the rationalization measures in the automatic long-distance telephone service.

In solving these very ambitious tasks and targets we can rely on the readiness of our postal and telecommunications clerks to accomplish great performances and to co-operate in a creative manner. Their multifarious initiatives in socialist emulation bear witness of the deep understanding for the necessity to strengthen our national economy decisively and to do their utmost for the consolidation of socialism.

They become increasingly aware of the fact that the development of socialist society is based on performance and that first and foremost it is our own creative work that enhances development.
That is why today we as trade unionists believe more than ever before that the effective and successful carrying on of socialist emulation is the decisive field of struggle where we have to stand the test.

We take great efforts to closely link the struggle of the work teams for high productivity and efficiency with the further improvement of the working and living conditions and to shape them in such a way that the working people really enjoy them.
Today the obligations taken by the work teams with a view to fulfilling and exceeding the plan targets form the core of socialist emulation and constitute the heart of the aspirations of the work teams to obtain the honorary title "Work team of socialist labour". This is the highest distinction a work team in an enterprise can be awarded.

The variety of personal and collective interests and needs concerning the entire scope of leisure time of our colleagues, i.e. interests in the field of ideological and vocational training, the satisfaction of the growing needs for a high-standard spiritual and cultural life and sports activities are laid down in a cultural and educational plan.

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In this post distributing office in Berlin/GDR, the biggest of the GDR Postal Administration 225,000 letters and postcards are sorted by machines every day. Four microelectronically controlled sorting machines do this job. With their employment the working conditions of the postal clerks have also improved, who will not have to fear unemployment.

Photo: ADN-Zentralbild

This plan is besides the emulation programme discussed and adopted in the trade union groups.

On rendering account of the results of the emulation programme the cultural and educational plan is also taken into account when the performances of a work team are assessed as a whole. The activities and results achieved in this field are taken into consideration when a work team is to be awarded the honorary title "Work team of socialist labour" irrespective of whether it is for the first time or a renewed distinction.

In our managerial work we place special emphasis on regular comparative performance appraisals and the exchange of views and experience at a central level in order to rapidly overcome unjustified differences in standards with a view to making the best performances the standard of all work teams.

We as trade unionists hold the view that good results in the supra-enterprise comparative performance appraisals and exchange of experience essentially depend on to what extent they are an integral part of the managerial work of the management representing the government in the enterprises and offices and the support the latter is given by the political-ideological work of the party and trade union organization in convincing the colleagues. The post offices and telephone exchanges have bonus funds at their disposal which they can use for the moral and material appreciation of outstanding performances reached by the workers and employees in socialist emulation. In 1983 they totalled some 880 marks per person employed. This was an increase of 50 marks as compared with 1980. The use of this bonus fund is agreed between the enterprise trade union committees and the office managers in the annual enterprise collective agreements.

In practice the following principle held good:

- 20 per cent of the available means are used in the course of the year or as immediate appreciation of high performances in socialist emulation and
- 80 per cent are used as appreciation of performances achieved in the course of the year and are paid to the employees in the form of end-of-the-year bonuses.

Thus the end-of-the-year bonus is the main form of the material appreciation of the performances in socialist emulation for the fulfilment and well-aimed exceeding of the targets fixed in the national economic plan.

As yardstick for the assessment of the performances quality and performance standard which form the basis for the granting of the end-of-the-year bonus are agreed between the enterprise trade union committees, the management and the workers at the beginning of the year in accordance with the targets laid down in the emulation plans.

A special form of moral stimulation of high results in socialist emulation is the half-yearly handing over of honorary banners to the best enterprises of the national economy jointly founded by the National Executive of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions and the Council of Ministers of the GDR.

In the postal and telecommunications services
- the best post office and telephone exchange
- the best telecommunications construction office and
- the best radio telephone exchange

are honoured with such a banner on the proposal of the Central Council of our Industrial Trade Union and the responsible Ministry.
The basis for the distinction with this high symbol of socialist emulation are the performance and quality criteria as well as the comparative performance appraisal among the offices of the respective branches agreed upon by the Central Council and Ministry of Postal and Telecommunications Services.
This high distinction is always linked with a material appreciation paid from the central bonus fund.
As already mentioned we strive for good working and living conditions of our staff.
In practice a long-term common programme of the Ministry and the Central Council for the improvement of the working and living conditions of the postal, telecommunications and radio communications services workers has stood the test. These programmes are valid for a five-year-plan period, and we have had good experience with them for ten years now.
In the 2nd quarter of 1983 the Minister gave account to the Secretariat of our Trade Union of the fulfilment of the tasks agreed upon for the previous year and specified the further objectives for the time ahead.
We can assess that these programmes helped quite a lot to improve the working conditions, health protection and the workers supply system in the enterprises and offices concerned and to make the concrete work in the workplace easier and safer.
So the share of workers who have to do physically hard work could be reduced from 7.5 per cent in 1980 to 5 per cent at the end of this year.
The use of modern parcel sorting machines, letter distribution machines and new forms of delivery technology have essentially contributed to that.
We as trade unionists are, however, not satisfied that particularly in the cargo-handling and reloading services the legally fixed continous load of 10 kg maximum for women is very often exceeded. I would not like to conceal from the reader that at present we are not yet in a position to ensure the 5-day working week for many colleagues working in the delivery service (in some districts—mainly in the rural areas up to 70 per cent) due to manpower shortage.
These are problems where we as trade unionists have to urge the managers even more persistently to observe the legal regulations. On the other hand we are pleased that further progress could be reached in the working supply system. At present 69 per cent of all postal and telecommunications workers get a hot meal. For the shift workers the respective figure is 73 per cent.
As we have a high share of women in our branch we are very glad that 80 per cent of all children up to 3 years are looked after in crèches. 98 per cent of all children attend a kindergarten before reaching school age.
In order to ensure these social aims a certain amount is allocated for each worker from the cultural and social fund. Since 1980 this amount has increased by 50 marks for each postal and telecommunications worker and totals 570 marks this year.

TÜSTAV SOCIÁLNÍCH DĚJIN

Letter to the Editor

Out of a total working force of 30 million, only one third is working in the private sector in India. Another 10 per cent is employed in the industries of the public sector (run by the government). The rest, that is about 57 per cent is employed in the state sector–in the administration or in the services run by the government such as railways, transport, PTT, health service, the educational system etc. Out of these some 3 million are employed by the central government.

The ecnonomic conditions of the public-sector employees, i.e. over 50 per cent of the workforce have deteriorated despite some progress made due to the effect of the growing economic crisis in the capitalist and developing countries.

Owing to the heavy increase in taxation and the denial of wage increases to enable the employees to meet the general price increases the government employees are not able to make both ends meet.

A democratic government as we have in India cannot afford to go with full speed to adopt capitalist methods to face the crisis–such as unlimited taxation, the introduction of highly mechanized equipment etc. because of the effects of people's anger on elections. Even in advanced countries where unemployment dole is given, youth have not been contained. This has provoked racial riots demanding the kicking out of non-nationals and black citizens.

Otherwise the new technology can only be introduced in respect of future expansions as no government can throw away the existing equipment especially when the cost is exorbitant. Therefore, this method cannot secure the government from the crisis. Efforts made by multinational corporations in collaboration with local capitalists and hirelings from the administration and politicians to privatize services have also not much succeeded because the government cannot afford to pass on profitable services to the private sector which not helps to offset losses and expenses in other services.
These contradictions which are more or less universal in the capitalist world have made the negotiating forums ineffective. Even in countries like Japan, Australia and Great Britain the conditions for confrontation have developed due to the influence of the reformist leadership which is able to exploit the fears and apprehensions of the workers. The weakness of the movement due to the division on political and other considerations is another factor.

In India the government has averted confrontation in 1982 by undertaking to settle claims of wage parity with the public sector by the end of March 1983. This year the government tries to avoid it by appointing a Pay Commission–the usual method of settling wage claims after an enquiry. This has infuriated the employees and unified the leadership. Even leaders of the organizations which are politically affiliated with the ruling party have refused to fall into the trap and are insisting on guaranteeing an interim relief to bridge the gap before agreeing to an enquiry by a commission.

The opposition to the appointment of the Commission is based on the traditionally long period it takes them to complete their deliberations. The government's assurances to give an early report have not satisfied the unions because it does not guarantee improvements to the officials who will retire during this period.

The government is also making efforts to render the existing negotiation machinery–the Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM)–ineffective by suggesting that pending cases be referred to the Pay Commission. The JCM is on the model of the Whitley Counciller's in Britain and provides for the settlement of cases through arbitration in case agreement is not reached. The unions have not accepted the government's proposals.

Serious and high-level negotiations are on the agenda. The unity between the organizations of different sections of employees as well as affiliates of various political groups is the main factor which may secure a sizable improvement and a successful struggle if it becomes unavoidable.

O. P. Gupta

General Secretary of the National
Federation of PTT Employees

The recommendable book

Arms Drive and Social Dismantling

From the imperialist countries we daily receive fresh reports about new record figures of unemployment and accelerated social dismantling. The axe is rigorously applied to the roots of the very existence of more and more employees of the public service sector. In view of the multitude of the phenomena, the complexity and pace of current crisis processes it is necessary to update the analysis of these developments.
In his brochure "Cuts Policy" Siegfried Ullrich analyses the background and reasons of the radical social dismantling in the imperialist countries. Proceeding from the definition of the function of social policies in current state monopoly capitalism he concisely and precisely works out essential changes of the conditions of existence of imperialism in the 1970's. The author proves graphically that imperialist arms build up and accelerated social dismantling form an inseparable unity.
Who are the spiritual fathers of the policy of social dismantling? Who profits from this policy? The brochure in question gives an answer to these and other questions. Apart from that it contains a wealth of topical facts. On the basis of appropriate quotations and referring to a lot of sources the author contrasts the ideas of the initiators with the understanding of those affected by the cuts policy. Quite valuable are the examples given to show the psychological consequences job insecurity and permanent unemployment involve.
In the imperialist countries the resistance to cuts and curtailments in the social budget begins to form. The brochure issued in German refers to the necessity that the struggle against social dismantling must at the same time include the struggle against the imperialist arms drive.

Siegfried Ullrich: Cuts Policy, Dietz Publishing House, Berlin/GDR, 0,80 Mark.

DEVRİMCİ SOSYALİST TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

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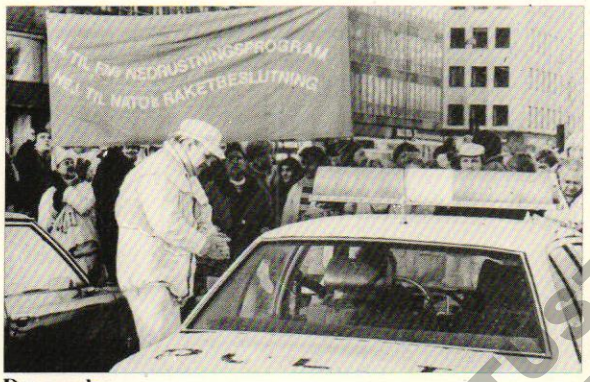
Together we can and must do it



Soviet Union



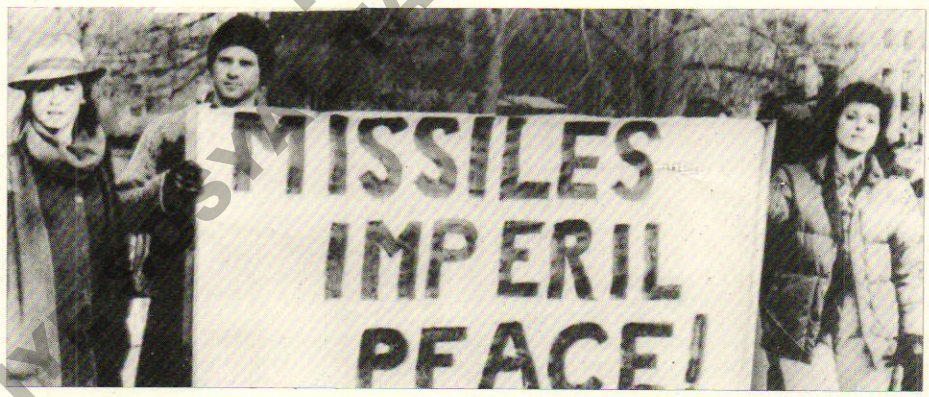
Greece



Denmark



FRG



USA



Italy



Sweden

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Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees

TÜSTAV
TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

INFORMATIONS ... INFORMACIONES ... INFOR
MATION ... NACHRICHTEN ... ИНФОРМАЦИИ
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES SYNDICATS DES TRAVAILLEURS DE LA METALLURGIE (F.S.M.) MOSCOU, K-9, B.P. 158 - U.R.S.S.

nº 3 — 1984

ACTIVITES DE L'UIS-METAUX

LES SYNDICATS FACE AUX SOCIETES TRANSNATIONALES

En février 1984, à l'initiative de la Commission pour les sociétés transnationales (STN) de la FSM s'est tenue à Moscou une rencontre de travail des syndicats de diverses affiliations internationales consacrée à l'action contre la politique néfaste des STN. Les syndicalistes de Grande-Bretagne, des USA, du Japon, du Canada, de Finlande, de la plupart des centrales syndicales internationales, de même que des organismes spécialisés des Nations-Unies, ont parlé de la stratégie et de la tactique syndicales dans le contexte d'une expansion sans précédent des sociétés multinationales à l'échelle planétaire, en général, et dans les pays en développement, en particulier.

Le Secrétaire général de l'UIS-Métaux, Alain Stern, président de la Commission, a évoqué, dans son intervention, les tâches du mouvement syndical international dans la lutte contre l'offensive massive des transnationales.

Les participants ont noté, au cours de deux journées de travail intense, que les initiatives communes à l'égard des STN étaient utiles, pour que, notamment:

— l'ensemble des travailleurs d'une transnationale, quel que soit le lieu d'implantation de ses entreprises et filiales, aient la possibilité de présenter aux employeurs leurs revendications de façon coordonnée;

— il devienne possible d'éliminer les contradictions pouvant surgir entre les travailleurs de diverses filiales au cours de la crise;

— les revendications des travailleurs aient plus de poids, qu'elles soient soumises à la discussion d'instances internationales aussi sérieuses que les Nations-Unies, le BIT, etc.

Après avoir procédé à l'échange d'expériences d'actions concrètes vis-à-vis de multinationales prises en particulier, notamment des géants de la métallurgie — «General Motors» (Amérique latine), «Renault» (Europe et Afrique), «Philips» (Europe et Amérique latine), les participants à la réunion ont tracé un plan d'action contre, d'après les paroles du rapport d'Alain Stern, «*la forme la plus perfide de l'exploitation capitaliste des travailleurs*».

* * *

RENCONTRE DES TRAVAILLEURS DE «GENERAL MOTORS» DE L'AMERIQUE LATINE

Les 23—24 février derniers à Bogota (Colombie) s'est tenue la deuxième rencontre de représentants des travailleurs et des syndicats de «General Motors» de Colombie, du Mexique et du Brésil. Y ont été également présents les représentants du Comité de coordination des syndicats des travailleurs de la métallurgie de l'Amérique latine (COCTAMEAL), du Centre d'études sociales (CEIS) chargé des problèmes du mouvement ouvrier, ainsi qu'une délégation de l'UIS-Métaux, conduite par son secrétaire Aristobulo Marciales.

L'échange d'informations et d'opinions auquel a donné lieu la discussion, a permis de mettre en relief la similitude de méthodes et de moyens appliqués par les transnationales dans différents pays en quête d'une issue à la crise économique: licenciements massifs, gel des salaires — sur la toile de fond de la hausse du coût de vie, — offensive contre les conquêtes sociales des travailleurs.

Les syndicats de GENERAL MOTORS, Amérique latine, ont établi une plate-forme de revendications communes. Ils ont adopté une demande de réunion de tous les syndicats de GENERAL MOTORS du monde.

Compte tenu des discussions engagées aux Etats-Unis et au Canada pour le renouvellement de la convention collective (la précédente prend fin en septembre prochain), les participants à la réunion ont adopté une Déclaration de soutien des revendications des travailleurs américains; ces derniers, comme en témoigne un document émanant de la direction de cette multinationale, sont menacés dans les 36 prochains mois de voir supprimer 80.000 emplois.

Afin de procéder à des échanges d'informations plus opérationnels et d'améliorer la coordination des actions, les délégués ont décidé de constituer une Commission de coordination pour l'Amérique, laquelle travaillera en contact étroit avec COCTAMEAL.

* * *

LES SOCIETES TRANSNATIONALES ET LE GACHIS

La volonté de poursuivre la course aux armements

Nous avons appris que début mars 1984 «Lockheed», productrice des équipements en matière aérospatiale, a

TÜRKİYE BİLİM, TEKNİK VE SANAT TARİHİ VAKFI

signé á Washington un contrat de recherches et de production des missiles «Trident» pour le montant de 367 millions de dollars.

Pour sa part, «General Electric» a obtenu de la marine et de l'Armée de l'Air US un contrat de 146 millions de dollars de production des systèmes d'équipements pour les bombardiers B-IB et les sous-marins «Trident».

A son tour « Westinghouse» a signé un contrat de 113,5 millions de dollars pour la recherche et la production des équipements destinés aux systèmes de lancement des «Trident».

Alors que des millions de travailleurs de la métallurgie des USA sont au chômage, des milliards de dollars sont destinés à la course aux armements.

Une société transnationale itinérante

Les sociétés transnationales-avides de profits-recherchent des possibilités d'investissements, aux profits maximums pour elles-mêmes, au détriment des intérêts des travailleurs.

Citons, en guise d'exemple, la société américaine «Mattel» dont le siège social est en Californie. En 1968 «Mattel» a construit une fabrique de poupées au Mexique employant 3.000 ouvriers. Peu après, les travailleurs mexicains ont organisé deux actions réussies, en obtenant de substantielles majorations de salaires.

C'est alors que, dans les années 70, cette société ouvre son entreprise en Corée du Sud où le salaire est nettement inférieur, les ouvriers ne sont pas syndiqués, et en 1974 elle ferme l'entreprise mexicaine.

Cette nouvelle implantation de l'entreprise a fait l'affaire des patrons jusqu'à 1977. Or, le personnel se mit à contester les salaires; au milieu des années 1970 se déroulent plusieurs actions pour défendre les droits des travailleurs. En réponse, «Mattel» ferme en 1978 son entreprise sud-coréenne pour aller s'implanter aux Philippines où l'entreprise travaille „pour l'exportation.

AUTRICHE

La toute-puissance des monopoles

Les capitaux étrangers envahissent de plus en plus l'économie autrichienne. Selon les statistiques officielles, 200000 Autrichiens travaillent actuellement dans les entreprises des sociétés étrangères, faisant la pluie et le beau temps dans l'économie du pays, soit 33% environ de tous les travailleurs industriels d'Autriche. Sont en premier lieu concernées des entreprises électrotechniques, électroniques et de construction mécanique. La part des sociétés transnationales dans ces secteurs de la métallurgie dépasse la moitié de la production.

L'économie nationale en souffre; les faillites et les banqueroutes des sociétés autrichiennes se multiplient. Rien qu'au cours des neuf derniers mois de 1983, 2700 entreprises autrichiennes ont fermé leurs portes, soit 26% de plus que pendant la même période de l'année précédente. Les travailleurs d'Autriche en sont les premières victimes; ces temps derniers 13.000 ouvriers ont perdu leurs postes de travail.

●

LES SYNDICATS EN LUTTE POUR LA PAIX ET LE DESARMEMENT

PAYS-BAS

La Fédération des syndicats des Pays-Bas, la plus grande centrale syndicale de Hollande, a décidé de tenir le 10 mai prochain une grève générale de protestation contre les plans des USA et de l'OTAN d'installer sur le territoire national les Cruise américains.

La Fédération a activement rejoint un puissant mouvement contre la guerre, contre l'apparition sur le sol hollandais de nouveaux missiles intermédiaires US. Plusieurs organisations publiques et partis politiques du pays ont décidé de tenir «une semaine d'action» qui se déroulera du 7 au 12 mai 1984.

REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE ALLEMANDE

Faire cesser le déploiement des «Pershing-2» en RFA, retirer les fusées installées, réduire le financement des préparatifs militaires par l'Etat — telles furent les revendications de la conférence syndicale tenue à Hanovre. La résolution issue de la conférence insiste sur la nécessité de consolider les rangs des combattants contre le noirs desseins des USA et de l'OTAN, pour la sécurité et la paix.

«*Les militants syndicalistes se prononcent pour la paix*» — ce mot d'ordre a retenti à Munich lors du rassemblement auquel ont pris part les syndicalistes de la ville, ouvriers, employés, étudiants. Unanimes, ils ont demandé de déclarer Munich ville libre d'armes nucléaires.

●

LA VIE DES SYNDICATS NATIONAUX

BULGARIE

Le Syndicat des mineurs, des sidérurgistes, des énergéticiens et des géologues, célèbre son 75e anniversaire

En mars 1984 le Syndicat ouvrier des mineurs de Bulgarie fête son 75e anniversaire. Cette date marque le début d'un mouvement organisé des mineurs dont un des fondateurs était Georges DIMITROV.

Actuellement, le Syndicat des mineurs, des sidérurgistes, des énergéticiens et des géologues de Bulgarie réunit 200.000 travailleurs, il oeuvre avec constance pour faire progresser les industries du secteur, solutionner avec succès tous les problèmes sociaux.

En célébrant le 75e anniversaire de l'organisation, élément actif du mouvement syndical international des travailleurs de la métallurgie, l'UIS-Métaux a adressé aux amis bulgares un message de salutation soulignant le rôle d'avant-garde du Syndicat en lutte pour l'unité du mouvement syndical international, pour l'amélioration des conditions de travail et de vie des travailleurs du monde.

* * *

ANGOLA

Ier Congrès du Syndicat des travailleurs de l'industrie lourde

Fin janvier 1984 à Lunda (province de Luanda du Nord, à 1200 km à l'est de Luanda, au point frontalier avec le Zaïre et la Zambie) s'est tenu le Ier Congrès du Syndicat des travailluers de l'industrie lourde d'Angola. Le congrès a réuni 120 représentants des métallurgistes représentant environ 20% des syndiqués — des mineurs, des ouvriers de la chimie et de l'électrotechnique. Le rapport a été présenté par le camarade Diaz, secrétaire général du Comité de coordination du Syndicat. A ces assises syndicales l'UIS a été représentée par son secrétaire général, Alain Stern. Ce dernier a adressé une allocution aux délégués.

Au centre des débats des congressistes: l'amélioration des conditions de travail, les salaires, les garanties sociales et la santé publique.

Le congrès a adopté plusieurs résolutions dont l'appel aux métallurgistes du monde; il a élu les organes dirigeants et le Secrétariat du Syndicat. Le camarade Diaz a été réélu Secrétaire général du Syndicat.

A présent, le pays traverse une période difficile — il subit l'agression des bandes sud-africaines, de l'UNITA et des mercenaires, ce qui ne fait qu'aggraver la situation économique du pays. Et pourtant, les délégués du Ier

TÜRK-AVUSTURMA TARİHİ VAKFI

Congrès du Syndicat des travailleurs de l'industrie lourde ont exprimé leur ferme volonté de surmonter les difficultés, d'appliquer dans la vie, avec esprit de suite, les décisions du congrès, et cela dans l'intérêt des travailleurs et du développement de leur pays.

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RELATIONS BILATERALES

UNE DELEGATION DU SYNDICAT DES TRAVAILLEURS DE LA SIDERURGIE DE L'U.R.S.S. SE REND EN POLOGNE

A l'invitation de la Fédération des syndicats des sidérurgistes, du 27 février au 3 mars 1984 a séjourné en Pologne une délégation du C.C. du syndicat des ouvriers de la sidérurgie de l'U.R.S.S., conduite par son président le camarade I.I.Kostukov.

Au cours de son séjour en Pologne la délégation soviétique a été reçue au Comité exécutif de la Fédération des syndicats des sidérurgistes, elle a procédé à un échange d'informations au sujet des actions entreprises par les syndicats de deux pays, appliquant les décisions de leurs congrès en vue de mobiliser les travailleurs de leurs branches à l'exécution des tâches d'édification de la société socialiste développée. Les délégations ont discuté des moyens d'approfondir la coopération des syndicat des sidérurgistes, ainsi que des problèmes actuels de la situation internationale et du mouvement syndical dans le monde.

Les militants syndicaux ont tenu à informer la délégation soviétique des problèmes qu'ils ont à resoudre ainsi que des perspectives d'avenir du mouvement syndical des sidérurgistes, en se fondant sur la situation actuelle politique et économique de la RP de Pologne.

Les deux parties se sont félicitées de constater que le séjour de la délégation de la Fédération des syndicats de la RP de Pologne en Union Soviétique en 1983, tout comme l'échange de délégations ouvrières entre les collectifs des travailleurs du combinat sidérurgique «Azovstal» S. Ordjonikidzé à Jdanov et de l'entreprise sidérurgique «Nova Huta» (à Cracovie), de l'usine sidérurgique «Faucille et Marteau» à Moscou et l'usine d'alliages de qualité «Warszawa» ont contribué pour beaucoup à consolider la collaboration entre les syndicats des sidérurgistes de deux pays, à renforcer leur responsabilité dans l'édification de la société socialiste développée.

Au cours de l'entretien les deux organisations se sont montrées convaincues que la lutte contre le péril de la guerre nucléaire, pour une paix solide, la limitation des armements, le désarmement et la détente constitue la tâche prioritaire de défense des intérêts des travailleurs.

Les deux parties se sont montrées profondément préoccupées de l'aggravation des tensions internationales suite à la politique de la course aux armements et de la confrontation de l'administration US et de leurs alliés, tendant à mettre en cause l'équilibre en place afin d'obtenir une suprématie militaire, en prétendant ouvertement à la domination mondiale.

La coopération, la solidarité internationale des sidérurgistes au sein de l'Union Internationale des syndicats des travailleurs de la métallurgie ont également donné lieu à un échange d'opinions.

Au cours de son séjour en RP de Pologne-conformément au programme proposé — la délégation s'est rendue dans plusieurs entreprises sidérurgiques où elle s'est entretenue avec des responsables et militants syndicaux.

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ACTIONS REVENDICATIVES

RFA

Grèves d'avertissement des métallurgistes

Plusieurs grèves d'avertissement des métallurgistes ouest-allemands ont eu lieu le 12 mars dernier dans les entreprises du secteur, en crise profonde.

C'est la ville de Gelzenkirchen, qui est devenue le centre d'actions des travailleurs de la RFA pour leurs droits, pour de meilleures conditions de vie, contre le chômage sévissant et l'arbitraire des patrons. Dans cet important centre industriel de la Ruhr, à l'appel de l'IG Metall de soutenir les revendications syndicales lors des négociations tarifaires, les ouvriers de 13 entreprises métallurgiques ont débrayé. Le responsable de la direction locale de l'IG Metall a déclaré que «*la revendication de la semaine de 35 heures est en même temps celle de réincorporer 2,5 millions de chômeurs. . . D'inadmissibles lenteurs manifestées par les patrons aux entretiens tarifaires de 1984 mettent en cause l'autonomie financière du Syndicat et, par conséquent, le Syndicat lui-même*».

FRANCE

Protestations énergiques contre le projet de «restructuration technique»

Des milliers de sidérurgistes français ont tenu, courant mars dernier, une grève de protestation de 24 heures, en s'opposant aux projets patronaux de procéder aux licenciements massifs dans le secteur. Aux termes des projets de la «restructuration technique» des entreprises et de la réduction de la production d'acier imposée par les organismes dirigeants du «Marché commun», 30.000 travailleurs devraient prochainement recevoir leur lettre de licenciement.

La Fédération des travailleurs de la métallurgie de France, CGT, a résolument protesté contre ces projets. Elle a appelé à tenir à partir du 12 mars une «semaine de protestation et d'actions» nationale pour défendre le droit au travail.

PORTUGAL

Police contre les ouvriers

Plusieurs milliers de personnes, essentiellement de la société sidérurgique «Sorefame», ont manifesté dans les rues de Lisbonne sous le mot d'ordre «*Donnez du pain à nos enfants!*» Ils ont exigé de recevoir leurs salaires. Les autorités ont lancé contre les travailleurs des détachements de police.

Suite aux violences des «gardiens de l'ordre» des dizaines de personnes ont eté blessées dont 6 griévement.

Cette manifestation est l'expression des tensions sociales dans le pays. Les Portugais sont indignés de voir la direction de plusieurs entreprises-sous prétexte de difficultés financières-retarder le versement des salaires. Selon la Confédération générale des travailleurs portugais — Intersindical national — à présent, 140.000 ouvriers ne reçoivent pas leurs salaires, souvent depuis 6 mois.

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SOLIDARITE INTERNATIONALE

CHILI

Appui à la Journée nationale de protestation

«*Le mouvement de protestation contre la junte fasciste s'élargit au Chili*» — dit le communiqué de presse rendu public le 14 mars 1984. «*Les métallurgistes et la classe ouvrière dans son ensemble en cours de créer leurs organisations, jouent un rôle essentiel dans l'intensification des luttes contre la dictature. En témoignent les actions*

FONDO SOCYTAL TARIN RAGUNA VASY

conjointes de divers syndicats. Le Conseil dirigeant national des travailleurs (CDNT) réunit la quasitotalité des ouvriers et des employés adhérant aux syndicats» — poursuit le communiqué de presse.

L'UIS-Métaux a publié ce document afin d'appuyer une nouvelle initiative du CDNT ayant appelé à tenir une Journée de protestation nationale le 27 mars 1984. Le Secrétariat de l'UIS Métaux a souligné que la situation des travailleurs du Chili était constamment au centre de l'attention de l'Union Internationale. Le représentant de l'UIS a pris part aux travaux de la II^{e} Conférence de la Confédération des syndicats et des fédérations des travailleurs de la métallurgie et des industries connexes du Chili (CONSTRAMET). L'Union a oeuvré pour venir en aide aux métallurgistes chiliens.

Le communiqué de presse de l'UIS-Métaux appelle toutes les organisations affiliées, tous les métallurgistes du monde à soutenir l'initiative des travailleurs chiliens tendant à combattre la junte anti-populaire.

USA

Actions énergiques pour sauver l'entreprise

En 1980 «International Harvester» a procédé à la fermeture de l'aciérie de Wisconsin de Chicago du Sud. Depuis, se poursuit la lutte des sidérurgistes licenciés pour sauver l'entreprise. Voilà plus de trois ans qu'ils n'ont aucun salaire.

Les demandes adressées à l'administration US en vue de «rouvrir l'entreprise» sont restées sans réponse positive.

Le mouvement ouvrier américain, l'ensemble des travailleurs du pays agissent pour faire aboutir les revendications légitimes des ouvriers de l'aciérie de Wisconsin.

L'UIS-Métaux a adressé un message de solidarité au comité pour la survie de l'entreprise où elle exprime son appui entier à leurs actions justes, en soulignant que «*tout cela concerne 3500 sidérurgistes et leurs familles et constitue un défi à la dignité humaine*».

TURQUIE

Les répressions sévissent

Le 6 novembre dernier se sont déroulées en Turquie les élections du gouvernement civil. Qu'ont-elles donc apportées aux métallurgistes et à l'ensemble des travailleurs du pays?

M.Özal est devenu premier ministre de Turquie. Il est l'un des fondateurs de l'Association des employés et des employeurs, membre de l'Association des industriels métallurgiques, tristement connu comme promoteur de la politique de rigueur, des fameuses «24 décisions de janvier». Les premières initiatives du gouvernement qu'il dirige n'ont apporté au pays que le durcissement de la répression, l'exploitation toujours plus grande des travailleurs et la dépendance accrue de leur pays.

On le sait, en 1980 furent interdites les activités de la Confédération syndicale progressiste DISK et de ses syndicats sectoriels, notamment ceux qui avaient adhéré à l'UIS-Métaux: Maden-IS, Limter-IS et Aster-IS. De nombreux adhérents syndicaux sont allés en prison dont 34 militants de Maden-IS, tandis que les mandats d'arrêts ont été signés contre 740 membres de cette organisation. Le procureur militaire a demandé le châtiment suprême pour 72 responsables et militants de DISK.

«Le retour à la démocratie» du 6 novembre 1984, qu'a-t-il donc apporté de neuf? De nouveaux procès ont été lancés en Turquie contre les syndicats adhérant au DISK; le nombre des militants condamnés ou se trouvant dans les geôles et attendant leur verdict atteint 1150 personnes; 85 encourent le risque de la peine capitale. Selon les données du ministère de la justice de Turquie se trouvent actuellement dans les prisons du pays plus de 46.000 personnes, 30.000 autres sont en détention préventive

L'UIS-Métaux est résolue à poursuivre la lutte pour la mise en liberté de ses adhérents, militants de Maden-IS, Limter-IS et Aster-IS, ainsi que de tous les combattants pour la démocratie dans ce pays. A cet effet, elle appelle toutes les organisations affiliées et amies à miltiplier les manifestations de solidarité avec les frères de classe turcs en exigeant pour eux des libertés syndicales et démocratiques authentiques.

UNE DATE A RETENIR:

15 et 16 JUIN — JOURNEES INTERNATIONALES D'ACTION ET DE SOLIDARITE AVEC LES TRAVAILLEURS ET LE PEUPLE TURCS

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

Зак. к 2804