

Lidija Erbic

From: Leanne Carter-James

Sent: Tuesday, 17 July 2007 10:56 AM

Subject: BROADCAST :OCEANFREIGHT : LOS ANGELES EXPORT : Potential for strike at the port of LA / Long Beach

Below is an article from the LA Times. The article strikes a positive tone and we have reason to believe imminent resolution between parties will see strike threats withdrawn.

We are monitoring this situation with our colleagues on the ground in Long Beach and shall keep you posted on progress.

Should you wish to discuss a particular shipment please call our office direct.

Potential Work Stoppage at the Los Angeles and Long Beach Ports

Ronald D. White of LA Times, reported:
4:39 AM PDT, July 16, 2007

The prospect of a work stoppage at the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports faded at least temporarily late Sunday as union negotiators studied an eleventh-hour proposal from shipping lines and terminal operators.

The 930-member ILWU office clerical union (OCU - Local 63) of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union had vowed to strike just after midnight Monday morning if no agreement had been reached. But representatives of the world's largest shipping lines and terminal operators sweetened their offer on salary and pension benefits up from 13% over the last contract to more than 14%. The union then asked for time to study the proposal, and they were still analyzing it as of 4:25 a.m. Monday.

"The early-morning shift of workers at the port has already begun,"

said Stephen Berry, an attorney negotiating for the companies. "That's a good sign. The longer we talk, the better."

The union participants didn't discuss the new proposal but said they felt a little progress had been made. Whether it would be enough to avert a strike, however, remains unclear.

The local is small but has powerful allies at the port. The entire 15,000-member ILWU has said it will honor picket lines if a strike or lockout occurs.

There hasn't been a shutdown of the ports since a West Coast-wide labor dispute in the fall of 2002

Update - Post Script

The Union is evaluating the current offer and discussions will resume at 5:00 PM (PST).

Thanks and best regards
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