



News Release

Terminals Idled By Anti-War Protest

Port operations affected by longshore workers' one-day walkout

May 1, 2008

Shipping terminal operators at the Port of Long Beach halted or scaled back the loading and unloading of cargo Thursday, May 1, due to a job action by thousands of dock workers in what is reportedly a protest of the nation's military actions in Iraq.

The job action had been announced earlier this year and subsequently the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) leadership had been ordered by an arbitrator to tell its members to report for work today.

However, few longshore workers reported to terminals in Long Beach this morning, leaving terminal operators too shorthanded to conduct normal cargo operations. Typically 1,000 to 3,000 ILWU members work the privately operated port terminals each day.

There were no demonstrations at the Port of Long Beach, which ordinarily is the nation's second busiest seaport. A protest at all West Coast ports would affect more than half of the nation's waterborne trade.

Long Beach terminal operators said they expected ILWU members to return to work for the second shift beginning at 6 p.m.

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