Strike Committee OKs Grain Shipment to Pakistan Victims

SAN FRANCISCO—In response to an official request from the United States government the ILWU strike strategy committee agreed to recommend loading over 28,000 tons of grain to be shipped to Pakistani refugees threatened with death by starvation.

A wire from Helen Bentley, maritime commission chairman, explained that this grain in sacks waits in warehouses in Los Angeles, Seattle and Astoria.

This, she said in her appeal, could save hundreds of thousands from starvation.

Full text of telegram follows:

To: Harry Bridges, ILWU
From: Helen Delich Bentley, Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission

As you and your Executive Board are well aware, thousands of Pakistani refugees are threatened with death by starvation resulting from a series of unfortunate circumstances which have ravaged that nation these many months. The United States of America has some 28,804 tons of bulgur wheat and flour destined to relieve some of this starvation now sitting in warehouses in Los Angeles, Astoria and Seattle.

All of these grains are packed in burlap bags on each of which is the red, white and blue scene of clasped hands symbolizing that the contents come from the hearts of the American people to help others less fortunate around the world...in this instance the Pakistani refugees who have sought aid and protection in India.

This is an official request from the United States government to the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union for special humane consideration to immediately release and load the 8,822 tons of wheat and flour in Los Angeles, 1,361 tons in Astoria, and the 18,621 tons in Seattle, so these grain products can be used to save hundreds of thousands of persons from starving to death in the immediate days ahead as the P.L.-480 grain was destined to do. Our government has pledged a total thus far of $70 million for food and non-food aid to help India which has undertaken to feed these refugees from her limited food stocks.

Thanking you in advance for President Nixon, the people of Pakistan, and all of us in the US government who are working on this project, I remain sincerely

Helen Delich Bentley
Chairman,
Federal Maritime Commission

The ILWU International Executive Board will meet Thursday, July 22 at 10 a.m. at International Headquarters, 150 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco. Main item on the agenda is the swearing in of the new board and installation of officers.

The fellow in the middle is not part of the registered workforce.