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Agreement Reached in West Coast Ports Dispute

SAN FRANCISCO - Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) Peter Hurtgen announced an agreement on an historic six-year contract between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (IL WU) and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA). Today's announcement follows six weeks of intense negotiating in San Francisco, headquarters of both parties.

Hurtgen praised the leadership of the PMA and ILWU, "As the deadline approached, both James Spinosa ILWU president and Joseph Miniace, PMA president and CEO, demonstrated statesmanlike leadership which made this agreement possible."

Hurtgen explained that this agreement, which is subject to ratification by the IL WU membership, provides substantial improvement in wages and benefits for the union's members. It also provides necessary technology and dispute resolution improvements needed to ensure that America's West Coast Ports continue to modernize and increase in both efficiency and productivity.

Hurtgen added, "I do not want to be more specific about the content of the agreement until the union membership has had an opportunity to see the full agreement."

Hurtgen also thanked Richard Trumka, Secretary- Treasurer of the AFL-CIO for his guidance and counsel during the bargaining, "Mr. Trumka is a professional in the field of labor and industrial relations. His expertise and knowledge of multiemployer retirement plans was very helpful."

"I also want to thank and acknowledge the work of my staff and the career professionals at the FMCS, most **especially** Deputy Director Richard Barnes and Joel Schaffer of the Oakland district office. Their skills and specific knowledge of this industry greatly assisted in reaching this agreement."

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News Release

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Office of Public Affairs November 23, 2002 Washington, D.C. Contact: Kathleen Harrington USDL [02-999]

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Statement of U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao on West Coast Ports Settlement

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao made the following statement on the settlement reached today in the West Coast Ports dispute:

"We are delighted the parties reached this historic agreement during the cooling off period established by President Bush. I commend the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Peter Hurtgen, and both parties for achieving this resolution which is vital to our national economy."

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