Peace on Earth

Solidarity Forever
International Executive Board meeting report

The ILWU International Executive Board met Dec. 4 and 5 at the union’s headquarters in San Francisco. The Board and its trustees reviewed the International Financial report presented by International Secretary-Treasurer Joe Barra and found the union’s budget sound and in order.

The board passed a motion by Northern California area representative and Local 6 West Bay Business Agent Fred Pecker to endorse the Open World Conference of Workers in Defense of Trade Union Independence and Democratic Rights, a follow-up and expansion of the Western Hemisphere Workers Conference held in San Francisco in November 1997. The conference will be held Jan. 14-17 in San Francisco.

The board also passed two Statements of Policy, one on the subscription cost of The Dispatcher and the other endorsing the closing of the School of the Americas (see below).

The board adjourned after deciding to hold its August 1999 meeting throughout Central and South America, and pay for the subscription cost out of the approximate cost of $7.00 per year per subscriber. The cost for some subscribers who live overseas is substantially more due to additional mailing charges.

We recognize that a number of retirees subscribe to The Dispatcher and pay for the subscription cost out of limited income. It is important to keep the subscription price within a range that these pensioners can afford as their subscription to The Dispatcher is the only means by which they stay connected to the ILWU.

Postal regulations permit us to charge one subscription price for members of the ILWU (including retirees) and another subscription price for non-members provided the non-member price is not more than twice the member price. We, therefore, recommend that the subscription price of The Dispatcher be set at $5.00 per year for members and retirees, and $10.00 per year for non-members effective January 1, 1999. This change will increase the ILWU’s income by $25,000 to $30,000 per year.

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON THE DISPATCHER SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

The current annual subscription price for The Dispatcher is $2.50, a price that was set several decades ago. This does not even begin to cover the actual costs of publishing The Dispatcher, which is in excess of the income by $25,000 to $30,000 per year. The board therefore recommends that the subscription price of The Dispatcher be set at $5.00 per year for members and retirees effective January 1, 1999. This change will increase the ILWU’s income by $25,000 to $30,000 per year.

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA), located at Ft. Benning, Georgia, has trained nearly 500 union leaders from more than 80 countries to attend in an effort to build union-to-union ties for concrete international worker campaigns. The conference will be held Jan. 14-17 in San Francisco.

The board also passed two Statements of Policy, one on the subscription cost of The Dispatcher and the other endorsing the closing of the School of the Americas (see below).

The board adjourned after deciding to hold its August 1999 meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia as it does once every three years as required by the International Constitution.

Latin America, and

WHEREAS, the history of the SOA runs contrary to our principles of respect for human rights; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, that we call upon the U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch to eliminate funding and close the School of the Americas at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

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Looking ahead to the 1999 sessions, the Board and its trustees are looking forward to working with the new leadership of the ILWU and the ILWU Titled Officers.

ILWU Titled Officers

BRIAN McWILLIAMS
President

JAMES SPINOSA LEONARD HOSHIJO
Vice President

JOE IBARRA
Secretary-Treasurer

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Season's Greetings from the International

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Vice President, Mainland
Vice President, Hawaii
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Custodian

Have a Happy and Safe New Year!