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AREA BOARD REPORT RE: SITUATION AT TAHSIS.

In March of 1960, the I.L.W.U. received a request from the longshoremen at Tahsis, B.C., to join the I.L.W.U. and for the said Union to represent them in their contract relationship with their employer. What sounds like a simple request has lead to a ridiculous situation where the I.L.W.U. can be suspended from the Canadian Labour Congress for "raiding" its own jurisdiction on a charge laid by the local leadership of Local 1-85 of the I.W.A.

Prior to 1951, when Tahsis was a part-time operation loading lumber onto deepsea ships, longshoremen were sent in from Victoria, Chemainus and New Westminster. What started as a few days work per month, began to expand, and the stevedoring company at that time, requested the use of permanent "key" personnel to be based at Tahsis. During this period, it was agreed between the I.L.W.U. and the I.W.A., because of the insecurity of the part-time nature of longshoring that, the longshoremen could be worked in the mill at the I.W.A. contract rates to bring up the longshore hours to 40 hours per week. It was also agreed that extra men needed to load ships would come from the mill and that the longshore rates and contract provisions would prevail. In 1951, a joint agreement was signed by the representatives of the I.W.A., the I.L.W.U. and the Tahsis Lumber Company, setting out the conditions of longshore work in the Port of Tahsis.

At joint membership meeting in the Port of Tahsis, John Berry, the International Representative of the I.L.W.U. and G. Ingram of Local 1-85 of the I.W.A. laid down the conditions for co-operation between the two Unions. It was agreed at this meeting, and further, by letters, that when longshoring became a full-time operation, the jurisdiction of the I.L.W.U. would be preserved. The I.L.W.U. and the I.W.A. co-operated over the years to establish the longshore rates of pay in the port.

There have been several requests and meetings with the I.W.A. over the years to examine our relationships in this port.

After the requests made this year from the longshoremen in Tahsis, the officers of your Union again met with the I.W.A. at the Local and District levels to examine this problem and an invitation by I.L.W.U. to go to Tahsis with the I.W.A. to meet with the longshoremen to work out the previous agreements made by the two Unions. This they refused to do and, under the authority of the Regional and Area office of your Union, the I.L.W.U. officials were sent in to meet with the men.

