

July 21, 1954

NO. 92

THE BOARD OF UNDERWRITERS OF NEW YORK

REPORTS FROM CORRESPONDENTS

PORT CONDITIONS

The following is a summary of details or importance features pertaining to Port Conditions; including Theft and Pilferage Claims, extracted from communications recently received by The Board from its Correspondents.

CPYRGHT

TAMPICO, MEXICO - (Correspondent's report dated July 12, 1954.)

"During the second quarter of 1954 three Theft and Pilferage claims were referred to us. This amount represents a decrease of claims as compared with the previous quarter. Black Pepper and Flashlights were the principal commodities affected. It is our opinion that the majority of theft and pilferage occurred prior to discharge of the goods from the vessel. Delays in customs are not usually responsible for theft and pilferage. We consider that pilferage in our port is conducted on a casual basis. Consignees generally take prompt delivery of their goods, and no port congestion exists at the present time. The Custom House as well as various Port Authorities, are very vigilant and conscientious, and there is no laxity in port or terminal management because of this. Non-delivery claims occur very seldom."

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL - (Correspondents' report dated June 30, 1954.) CPYRGHT

"One Hundred Theft and Pilferage claims were referred to us during the second quarter of 1954 - (13 in April, 29 in May and 58 in June.) In proportion to the entire amount of claims presented this amount represents an increase of 4% against the first quarter of the year. The principal commodities affected were auto parts, radio and TV parts and chemical and pharmaceutical products. In the opinion of our surveyors the theft and pilferage occurs

mainly after discharge. Delays in Customs are responsible only in rare cases. The pilferage appears in most cases to be casual rather than being conducted by organized thieves. A few consignees are using piers as storage facilities, but generally consignees are withdrawing their merchandise immediately following release by Customs. There was no port congestion during this quarter. Non-delivery claims are increasing. (10 claims for short discharge were presented to us during the last three months. This represents 2.70% of the entire amount of claims presented. During the preceding quarter, 3.14% of all claims were due to short discharge, so that there is a decrease of 0.44% in short discharge claims in proportion to the entire amount of claims presented during the last quarter.)"

SANTOS, BRAZIL

- (Correspondents' report dated March 31, 1954.)

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"During the first quarter of 1954 ten Theft and Pilferage claims were presented to us. This amount represented a decrease of 9% as compared with the preceding quarter. In the opinion of our Surveyors most of the theft and pilferage occurs following discharge while the goods are stored awaiting delivery. Delays in customs are responsible to some extent, but generally consignees are taking prompt delivery. There was no port congestion in Santos during this quarter. Pilferage in our port is casual in most cases. The local Maritime Police are taking energetic action against thieves, which action we are hopeful will protect the handling of cargo at terminals. Non-delivery claims during this quarter increased. Five were presented to us in January, two in February and one in March."

TALCAHUANO, CHILE

- (Correspondent's report dated July 14, 1954.)

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"Eight Theft and pilferage claims were referred to us during the second quarter of 1954, which represented a decrease from the preceding quarter. The principal commodities affected were pharmaceuticals and auto parts. None of the pilferage in our opinion occurred prior to discharge of the goods from the overseas carrier. We consider that the majority

of pilferage is conducted by organized thieves. Delays in customs are partly responsible for the pilferage situation. However, consignees usually take prompt delivery of their goods. A shortage of cranes for unloading lighters sometimes causes delay. No steps have been taken of late by commercial organizations to protest laxity in port or terminal management. The reduction in the number of claims is due rather to the smaller movement of merchandise in this port than to any improvement in conditions."

BERGEN, NORWAY - (Correspondent's report dated June 28th, 1954.) CPYRIGHT

"There is no change in the situation since my report of March the 29th, which means that the theft and pilferage situation must be considered good in the district."

BARCELONA, SPAIN - (Correspondents' report dated July 7, 1954.) CPYRIGHT

"During the second quarter of 1954 twenty-two theft and pilferage claims were referred to us of which three as Correspondents of The Board. This amount represented little change since the preceding quarter. The principal commodities affected were wool, raw rubber, shellac, nylon and chemicals. It is our opinion that the theft and pilferage occurs both prior to and following discharge from the vessel. There is no pilferage in Customs Warehouse proper. Delays in customs clearance may be responsible for pilferage on goods stowed on quays or in quay-sheds. We are of the opinion that pilferage in our port is conducted on a casual basis. Pier and quay-sheds are often used for storage pending an import license, otherwise, consignees generally take prompt delivery of their goods. Commercial organizations have not taken any steps to protest laxity in port or terminal management lately, but trade organizations protested on several occasions in the past when necessary. A close watch is kept on all labourers in the docks and on any other people when entering or leaving the quay gates. There was but one case of non-delivery referred to us during this period. The risk of pilferage is considered to be improving due to fall in prices generally and the market saturation of goods in addition to measures taken to prevent pilferage."

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BEIRUT (BEYROUTH) LEBANON - (Correspondents' report CPYRGHT  
dated July 3rd, 1954.)

"Twenty-Seven Theft and Pilferage claims were referred to us during the second quarter of 1954. This amount represents a slight increase over the preceding quarter. The principal commodities affected are food products packed in cartons. Although it cannot be accurately ascertained, it is the opinion of our surveyors that about half of the losses occur prior to vessel's discharge. Delays in customs are responsible, especially, when the commodities involved are susceptible to pilferage hazards, such as damaged and/or torn packages received by port authorities and had already sustained partial pilferage prior or during discharge. Any pilferage that occurs in our area is conducted on a casual basis. In general, prompt deliveries are taken by the consignees. Congestion in the port area most frequently contributes to delays, improper checking and a chance for pilferage. The amount of non-delivery claims referred to us during this quarter represents an increase."

HONG KONG, CHINA

- (Correspondent's report CPYRGHT  
dated July 2, 1954.)

"Nineteen Theft and Pilferage claims were referred to us during the second quarter of 1954. This represented a slight increase over the preceding quarter. Life Savers (candy) and food products were the principal commodities affected. Most of the pilferage occurred prior to discharge of the goods from the vessel. Delays in customs were not responsible. We have no definite information to indicate that pilferage in our port is casual or is conducted by organized thieves. In most cases consignees take prompt delivery of their goods. No port congestion existed during this quarter. Non-delivery claims decreased during this period."

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Note: The original communications are on file at the Board's office for inspection by members at any time.

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<b>ROUTING AND CONTROL RECORD</b>		
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<u>30 July 1954</u> DATE		
<b>TO:</b> LIAISON DIVISION, OCD		
<b>ATTN:</b> 25X1A9a		
<b>BUILDING</b>		<b>ROOM NO.</b>
<b>TITLE</b>  PORT CONDITIONS (Reports from Correspondents) #92, 21 July 1954  25X1A2g		
<b>REMARKS</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>RETAIN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>ON LOAN</b>	
<b>DOCUMENT(S) FOR RETENSION BY ADDRESSEE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT(S) MUST BE RETURNED TO</b> CONTACT DIVISION/00	
	<b>BY (DEADLINE)</b> 25X1A9a	
<b>FROM:</b> CONTACT DIVISION/00		<b>BRANCH</b> GMP STAFF
<b>BUILDING</b> South	<b>ROOM NO.</b> 252	<b>EXTENSION</b> 2576