

Vietnamese representative tells CPUSA convention about Agent Orange problems



By Amiad Horowitz

A representative of the Communist Party of Vietnam addressed a gathering of hundreds of U.S. communists and their supporters at an event here last weekend, telling the gathering that his people continue to suffer the effects of Agent Orange. It was a chemical that the U.S. sprayed on people, animals, agricultural products, and forests in a failed attempt to defeat the Vietnamese in their war for liberation in the last century.

The gathering of hundreds of U.S. communists and their supporters constituted the 32nd Convention of the CPUSA which took place last weekend in the 105th year of the existence of that party.

The CPUSA was part of a broad coalition of labor and allied groups that opposed the U.S. role in the war against Vietnam. The peace movement in those days hoped that in the future, representatives of Vietnam would be coming to the U.S. to discuss the illegal war waged against them.

So, for many of the older people at the convention, the presence of a Vietnamese guest was particularly significant as they recalled their own roles in the peace movement while younger participants had a chance to learn about some aspects of the war no longer discussed by the corporate media.

Luong Hong Phuc, currently serving at the Vietnamese Embassy in Washington, read a message of support from the Central Committee of the

Communist Party of Vietnam to the convention. The message expressed appreciation for the role U.S. communists played in the movement against the U.S. war on Vietnam.

This history was also echoed at the Convention by long-time CPUSA leader and former vice-presidential candidate Jarvis Tyner, who recounted the time he and other CPUSA leaders visited Hanoi during the United States' war there. He told the convention about how he was guided to the safety

T H I S W E E K :

- **Vietnamese representative reports about Agent Orange problems**
- **Student groups calling for ceasefire and Palestine solidarity face repression**
- **Iranian CL: 'Won't take very long to oust theocratic government'**
- **Far-right support explodes in E. U. elections as social democrats sink**
- **Comunista chilena en Chicago predice que prevalecerá el socialismo**

READ MORE NEWS AND OPINION DAILY AT WWW.PEOPLESWORLD.ORG

of a bomb shelter by his Vietnamese hosts when US bombs started to fall on Hanoi and how appreciative the Vietnamese were, at that time, for the CPUSA's visit and support.

Luong Hong Phuc talked about the "important and growing role that CPUSA is playing in U.S. politics

He says his people continue to suffer the effects with no help on the matter from U.S.

today as a progressive force, fighting for democracy and a better future.” He expressed his party’s confidence in the success of the CPUSA Convention and the hope that the two parties will continue to work together.

An important aspect of the shared work will be centered around the fight for justice for victims of Agent Orange and other chemical weapons. During the war in Vietnam, the U.S. military used a number of chemical weapons that continue to affect the Vietnamese people to this day. Some estimates put the number of victims as high as nearly 5 million.

A recent delegation from the CPUSA to Hanoi visited the care centers run by the Vietnamese Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA) and saw first-hand how the chemical weapons used by the US military continue to harm new generations. The United States government refuses to offer any support to these victims and the US courts protect the chemical companies, especially Dow Chemical, that produced these illegal weapons.

Many Americans, starting with U.S. soldiers and their families, were sickened by the use of the deadly chemicals. And the harm did not stop with that.

Dow Chemical Company was complicit in schemes to get rid of the residue from its production of the chemicals by selling it to keep down dust on unpaved roads in towns in the U.S. The town of Times Beach, Missouri, for example, ended up having to be erased from existence in order to cover up and prevent the spread of contagion from the spraying of the residue on all the streets of the town.

The Daily World, the predecessor of this newspaper, covered that crime and described for readers how children on their bikes were observed doing “wheelies” on streets and roads coated with the poison. Even cars owned by residents had to be buried along with their homes because of the long half-life of the deadly chemicals.

The crowd at the CPUSA convention rose up in thunderous applause when the Vietnamese representative concluded his remarks.

Student groups calling for ceasefire and Palestine solidarity face repression by universities

By Eric Brooks

Tucson’s Salt of the Earth Labor College is celebrating its 30th anniversary amid growing working class militancy both nationally and locally. The school held its first class in September 1993 in a house left by Felix Padilla and Arvilla Jackson who wanted their home turned into a workers’ school.

The first meetings were held in one small room, but within a few years walls were removed, creating space with seating for about sixty people. The main advocates for the school were Lorenzo Torrez who was Arizona CPUSA Organizer, and his wife and comrade Anita. –

For 30 years Salt of the Earth Labor College has offered lectures, seminars, films, and cultural events. At the height of the pandemic classes switched to zoom, and are now hybrids. The school is also a venue for community and neighborhood events.

School programs usually try to connect to ongoing working-class struggles. For example, a talk by longtime Chicago activist Bea Lumpkin on the importance of the Coalition of Labor Union Women led to formation of a local chapter.

The seeds for several local union drives were planted at school discussions. This Fall’s schedule

will kick off on September 9 with a forum on the upcoming campaign for an amendment to the Arizona constitution to guarantee abortion and reproductive rights through a voter’s initiative.

Supporters will need to collect about 500,000 signatures to get it on the 2024 ballot and then campaign for votes. Polls indicate that Arizona voter support women’s rights and will vote to amend.

Supporters hope that putting the issue front and center will also help flip the legislature where ultra-right Republicans hold one seat majorities in both houses. It can also help defeat Trump.

In October Salt of the Earth Labor College President and Arizona Jobs with Justice leader, Steven Valencia will discuss the upsurge in organizing and rising militancy of organized workers. That will be followed by a class on why peace activists need to support workers’ struggles in defense industries.

Salt of the Earth Labor College is urging all its Arizona supporters on Saturday, September 2 at 6:00 pm to celebrate the anniversary. The party, at the school, will begin at 6 p.m. with food and drinks followed by a discussion of accomplishments over three decades. Local musicians Rebeca Cartes and James Jordan will perform.

Call for a ceasefire and you may be labeled anti-Semitic.

Iranian communist leader: ‘Won’t take very long to oust theocratic government’



By Press Associates

An official of the Iranian Tudeh Party, predicted here this weekend that “it won’t take very long” to oust the theocratic government that has run the Islamic Republic since its 1979 revolution. The Tudeh Party is the party of Iranian communists.

And Mostafa said that when Iranians do so, the CPUSA will have had a hand in that achievement. He uses that name because his party is banned by the theocrats in Iran and is operating in exile. Members, then, need to protect their identity.

Mostafa was one of a line-up of speakers from overseas communist parties who addressed the CPUSA’s 32nd National Convention, meeting in Chicago. They included leaders from Canada, Chile, Cuba, Israel, Vietnam, and others.

Mostafa told the hundreds of convention delegates and their supporters that there have already been two mass uprisings and a mobilization of “the freedom movement, the labor movement, women and the student movement in the last 4 or 5 decades.”

Though Mostafa did not say so, the women’s movement in particular has been energized by Iranian Revolutionary Guard arrests, and at least one killing, of young women for alleged minor infractions of Iran’s mandated dress code.

Mostafa admitted the opposition has yet to win, because “we need a unified opposition” to Iran’s government, run by theocratic imams in the service of powerful national capitalist interests.

He made it clear that in no way is the left opposition trying to side with the U.S. and its allies who “have never had the interests of our people in mind” with their attacks on Iran. “This movement is strong enough to oppose outside interference in Iran,” which, he said is engineered by U.S. lawmakers in service of big multi-national corporations.

Once the opposition unites and ends the theocracy, the Iranian people will have an independent and democratic government,” Mostafa predicted. “We are going to get that and it won’t take very long.”

The 1979 Iranian revolution overthrew the Pahlavi monarchy. British Petroleum and British imperial interests first installed the Shah’s predecessors in the 1930s. When the Shah had to flee in the early 1950s, because the Iranian people were conducting a socialist revolution, the CIA engineered the coup which reinstated him and deposed democratically-elected socialist Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddegh.

He planned to nationalize Iran’s oil fields. The imperialist coup, run by CIA operative Kermit Roosevelt, ended that.

This legitimate revolution, Mostafa said, was co-opted by “clergy and reactionary leaders,” who “started attacking the left, particularly Tudeh.”

The party has had to operate underground ever since. He particularly praised the CPUSA’s opposition to wars “and particularly to the genocide in Palestine” and its “struggles for unions” in the U.S.

**He tells CPUSA
32nd National
Convention that
his Tudeh Party is
part of an array
of forces
determined to
restore the
revolution in that
country to its
original purpose.**

Far-right support explodes in European Union elections as social democrats sink

By Morning Star

Far-right parties achieved major gains in the European Parliament elections held June 6 to 9. Results announced on Sunday showed a clear shift to the far right, and in France, prompted French President Emmanuel Macron to call a snap parliamentary election.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni more than doubled the seats held by her party, which is the descendant of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini's ruling party.

And despite being hounded by a scandal involving its candidates, the neo-Nazi Alternative for Germany (AfD) rallied enough seats to sweep past the slumping Social Democrats of Chancellor Olaf Scholz. AfD is now Germany's second-biggest party in the European parliament.

Overall, the Christian Democrats remain the largest group in the 720-seat parliament and de facto brokers of the ever-expanding powers of the legislature.

The provisional results showed the Christian Democrats have 189 seats (up 13) the Social Democrats 135 (down four), and the pro-business Renew group 83 (down 19). The Greens slumped to 53, down 18.

In Germany, the EU's most populous nation, projections indicated voters had not been dissuaded by the AfD's scandals, as it rose to 16%, up from 11% in 2019.

Scholz's governing Social Democratic party was humiliated by the AfD surging past it into 2nd place. German Greens were predicted to fall from 20% to 12%. Some experts suggest the fall from grace is partly due to the German Greens' support for the Israeli war against the Palestinians in Gaza.

Comunista chileno en reunión en Chicago predice que prevalecerá el socialismo

By Mark Gruenberg

Al declarar que "el capitalismo y el imperialismo están atravesando una de sus peores crisis", un alto comunista chileno dijo a los participantes este fin de semana en la 32ª Convención Nacional del CPUSA aquí que el socialismo eventualmente prevalecerá sobre la crisis y el capitalismo. Viniendo de una persona cuya patria superó el fascismo y la dictadura, el mensaje fue alentador para los activistas políticos aquí.

Hablando a través de un traductor, Paul Hammer, miembro de la Secretaría de la Comisión de Relaciones Exteriores del Partido Comunista de Chile, entregó esa predicción optimista a la Convención del CPUSA, haciendo que los participantes se pusieran de pie en un aplauso sostenido.

Hammer fue uno de los muchos visitantes de partidos comunistas en el extranjero que hablaron en persona, como lo hizo él, o por video. Otros oradores procedían de partidos comunistas y socialistas de Cuba, Vietnam, Canadá, Sudáfrica, Israel e Irán.

Hammer, que estuvo encarcelado durante 2 años bajo regímenes anteriores de derecha chilenos y luego pasó más tiempo en el exilio, trajo saludos del Partido Comunista de Chile.

Esa lucha por el progreso continúa, aseguró Hammer a todos, en la tierra del gran poeta chileno Pablo Neruda, premio Nobel de literatura en 1971, y del fallecido presidente socialista chileno Salvador Allende Gossens, dijo Hammer.

Allende fue elegido en 1970 con el apoyo del Partido Comunista y el Partido Socialista. El ejército chileno, ayudado e instigado por la CIA y la administración Nixon, lo derrocó en

un sangriento golpe de estado.

Allende y miles de personas más murieron y decenas de miles más de chilenos "desaparecieron" bajo la dictadura derechista de "libre mercado" que duró 17 años del general Augusto Pinochet.

Hammer ofreció su predicción optimista a pesar de que un acontecimiento reciente muestra que el partido todavía enfrenta la opresión de la derecha en su tierra natal. El 3 de junio, Daniel Jadue, alcalde comunista de Recoleta durante 12 años, fue arrestado bajo lo que parecen ser cargos falsos de ser un "peligro para la seguridad de la sociedad".

La jueza Paulina Moya ordenó la detención de Jadue por 120 días durante la investigación por cargos de "soborno, mala administración, fraude fiscal y quiebra". Los cargos están relacionados, dijo el juez, con la "farmacia popular" que Jadue estableció tres años después de su elección. Desde entonces, estas farmacias se han extendido por todo Chile. Esa y otras reformas sociales han convertido a Jadue en una figura nacional.

"Me están juzgando por nuestro gobierno transformador. No tengo un peso en el bolsillo, pero están repartiéndolo la máxima restricción", dijo Jadue en redes sociales.

Eso no detendrá al Partido Comunista de Chile, que existe desde hace 112 años, y tampoco debería darle pausa al CPUSA, dijo Hammer a los delegados de la convención y a los invitados.

"La creciente desigualdad en la comunidad internacional y la amenaza de una guerra nuclear exigen aún más de nuestra lucha para eliminar el capitalismo y el imperialismo del mundo".

NATIONAL CONTACT

Editorial: (773) 446-9920 Business: (212) 924-2523
Email: contact@peoplesworld.org