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A Different Perspective on the Iran Nuclear Issue, from the Iranian Tudeh (Communist) Party

On the Deal to Limit U.S. Sanctions against Iran

Source: *Nameh Mardom*, no. 934, Nov. 18, 2013, via *Marxism-Leninism Today*, edited for clarity by the *Oklahoma Workers' Monthly*

While in recent weeks international media outlets have been extensively covering the multilateral negotiations of the theocratic regime of Iran with European countries and the United States, Reuters News Agency published a special report on the amassing of an extensive fortune by the Supreme Leader of the world's so-called "exemplary system" in recent years. The report is published at the very same time when, even based on the official statistics of the Iranian regime, tens of millions of Iranians are facing deprivation, poverty, and back-breaking economic duress under very difficult socio-economic conditions.

According to the aforementioned report, the "Office for Executing Imam's Decree", which is run under the direct control of Ali Khamenei and has been exempt from any public or legal audit of the parliament as decided by his installed parliament, has been transformed into a huge economic behemoth with more than \$95 billion in assets and capital which projects a decisive weight and influence on all sectors of Iran's economy.

This parasitic institution which should be considered a part of the monopoly capitalist mafia ruling the country is run by the godfather of the grand mafia of Iran's capitalism, i.e. the regime's Supreme Leader, his cohorts, and a major portion of their investments, is tied to the financial cartels and monopolies as well as the multinational corporations of global capitalism. Publication of this report at a time when Khamenei is speaking of "heroic flexibility" with imperialism demystifies the aims and objective contexts of the current policies taken by the regime.

One cannot but find mind-boggling the scale of the changes in regime's foreign policy vis-à-vis the United States and the West in the 100 days since the administration of Hassan Rouhani, the new president, took office. The heads of a regime that, up until the early spring, were claiming to be the leaders of the fight of "oppressed

people" against the "Great Satan" now can't wait to sign an agreement with U.S. to remove the sanctions, and would not stop short of any compromise. Political circles advocating strategic relations with the U.S. among the policymaking sphere in the Leader's office are devising, with unprecedented self-confidence, the map of the political developments in Iran towards playing a new role in the political developments of the Middle East. At the same time, heads of Western countries are seeking total submission from representatives of the theocratic regime to their key demands through careful calculations and planning.

Interestingly, these demands go beyond the nuclear issue, access to the Iranian nuclear facilities, confidence building, and "the percentage of uranium enrichment" in Iran. According to the news agencies quoting informed sources in Iran, the future of developments in Afghanistan following the exit of U.S. active forces from that



New Iranian President Hassan Rouhani

country, as well as the shift in the position of the Islamic Republic government in the course of the developments in Syria and the important "Geneva II" conference, are also among the issues on the table for discussion.

There are reports indicating that in the past weeks while all eyes were focused on the progress of discussions with the "P5 + 1" in Geneva that veteran Algerian diplomat Lakhdar ...

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Oklahoma Communist History The First Decade of Activism

By Comrade Orson

Oklahoma's communists got their start around the same time as, and with, the Communist Party of America in 1919. The early party organized as any new party would, seeking to hold open meetings, rallies, and marches. Ruling Class reaction was quick and fierce. Private capitalist power financed infiltration, sabotage, and violent attacks. The capitalist government launched attacked through both litigation and violence. So much for free speech and political participate! The Communist Party chose to go underground rather than be destroyed, and began to organize step-by-step toward the day when mass membership could breach the Two Party System's anti-democratic stranglehold on government power. American democracy is still crushed under that double-yoke today.

Amidst this constant persecution, Communist Party organizers struggle to get their word out by working with their natural allies in organized labor. Even during the Roaring Twenties, there was plenty of misery in factories, railroads, and tenant farms. With their theoretical understanding of class conflict, communists knew what it took to strike and win labor disputes. Accordingly, they rose in the ranks of organized labor. In 1929 the Bourgeoisie, via the actions of J.P. Morgan, called an end to the "Roaring" Twenties' war victory holiday; that is, they laid the Great Depression on the backs of the American working class. Its brutal and impoverishing effects woke the citizenry to political reality. The Communist Party of America was growing as never before, as were America's other socialist parties. As the 1930s rolled into Oklahoma, early organizer Fred Maxham was joined by musician-organizers like Agnes Cunningham, Gordon Friesen, and Woody Guthrie, writers like Jim Thompson, actors, and politicians such as Robert Woods.

Communists were and have always been at the forefront of the struggle for racial equality. In 1931 Oklahoma's Communist Party jumped to the legal defense of a black Oklahoman named Jess Hollins when he was accused of raping a white woman. Hollins was eventually convicted by an ...

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... Brahimi — apparently as the United Nations and Arab League special envoy, but actually as an envoy of the United States — has held talks in Tehran with the regime leaders on Syria. According to an *Al-Monitor* reporter, Brahimi — during his trip to Iran on October 26 and his meetings with Rouhani, the president, Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, and Mohammad Javad Zarif, the foreign minister — has tried to convince the regime to put pressure on Bashar al-Assad, president of Syria, to agree to the U.S.-proposed plan concerning the composition of the transitional government to be discussed during the Geneva II conference. It is said that Brahimi has been delivering an official message from the U.S. government to President Rouhani.

Progressive forces in Lebanon and Syria have also raised concerns in the past weeks about indications of a shift in the strategic policy of Iran towards the complicated situation in Syria. Putting this piece of news next to the reports of the three meetings held between high officials of Iran, the U.S., and Afghanistan, as well as top representatives of the Taliban, during the past three years — past June being the last of them, at which time Iran's role in the future developments of its eastern neighbor were discussed —, the broad dimensions of the regime's negotiations with the imperialist countries become clearer.

The major question here is whether these diplomatic maneuvers are over granting a predetermined role for the Islamic Republic regime — a regime ruling a country of 75 million people, with vast and rich human and natural resources in a strategic geopolitical region at the juncture of Asia, Europe, and Africa — in forming the "New Middle East Plan" in coordination with U.S.

What ramifications would the implementation of such plans — which are mostly drawn up in absolute secrecy, without the knowledge and approval of the people — have on the political independence of the country? Why are the mouthpieces of neoliberalism in Iran — the likes of Mr. Sadegh Zibakalam and Mr. Moussa Ghaninejad — silent about this process, which could lead to the violation of national sovereignty?

It is clear that the regime's negotiators, who undoubtedly have an accurate assessment of the dire and critical economic, social, and political situation in the country, will attempt to clutch at a straw in these talks in order to save the regime from drowning in this grave peril. Based on published reports, national interests and the economic independence — and subsequently the political interests — of the country have not at all been the deciding factor in the position taken by the Iranian delegation in the negotiations. The Tudeh Party of Iran has always believed that in the view of the theocratic regime of Iran, and all its major factions, there is only one holy rule, and that is the rule of survival of the regime at any cost.

It has been a little less than six months since certain analysts were finding a military invasion of Iran by the U.S. or Israel to be likely. Today, there are talks about Iran becoming a major decisive player in the developments of

the Middle East in the near future, if everything goes forward without any unforeseen difficulties. This strategic change of circumstances is so serious that has led to Israel and Saudi Arabia to worry that they would be left behind as the losers. It is said that the cunning issues shamelessly raised by France to delay the signing of the agreement between the foreign ministers of Iran, the U.S. and the E.U. counties in the last stage of the talks has been on behalf of Saudi Arabia and Israel.

We believe that democratic and progressive forces have to pay

attention to all dimensions of the moves by Mr. Rouhani's administration and the regime's representatives, and must resolutely but cautiously take a stance on the implications of those moves for the immediate interests of working people and the main orientation of Iran's economy. In this regard, the strategic talks between the Islamic Republic government and the IMF have special significance.

According to IMF sources, a special delegation of this global institution of capitalism paid a visit to Iran between October 30 and November 8 to study economic developments in the country. Officials of the IMF have declared that the said delegation met and held discussions with high officials in the government and Central Bank, as well as a wide spectrum of representatives from financial institutions and trade circles.

According to an IMF official, these discussions, along with addressing the need to curb the high rate of inflation and bring economic growth back to the country, also indicate the readiness of the Iranian government to tackle the major challenges of the economic structure and policies of the country based on the expectations and guidelines of this institution of global capitalism. According to an IMF statement, Iranian officials agreed on November 11 that the coming visit of the special delegation of the IMF to Iran should be an opportunity for analyzing policies and setting priorities for economic reforms by the new administration.

The progressive political forces in Iran cannot be indifferent to the process of the current important negotiations, nor can they — like certain dubious and whimsical circles which also carry a "left" label — become cheerleaders and admirers for the regime and the outcomes of its engineered presidential elections. As far as Tudeh Party of Iran and the working people of the country are concerned, we welcome any positive and real changes in the direction of the foreign policy of the Iranian regime which could reduce tension in the region, especially that related to Iran. We have repeatedly and emphatically criticized the irresponsible and insensible policies of the regime heads and the previous administration of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and have been of the opinion that these policies have not only endangered the security of Iran, but also resulted in immense economic sanctions.

The Tudeh Party of Iran has openly declared its support for any policy that has as its objective a real détente in the region, and the lifting of economic sanctions, the heavy burden of which falls first and foremost on the shoulder of Iran's working people. For years our party has called for an end to the rhetoric of propaganda, and instead for holding talks and finding solutions to all disputed issues on the basis of the United Nations Charter and international law.

At the same time, however, we demand that any talk, action, or normalization of the relations between Iran and the U.S. must be transparent, must safeguard the vital interests of the Iranian people, and must under no circumstances be achieved at the expense of the independence and national sovereignty of Iran. The Tudeh Party of Iran shall oppose any policy that would make Iran a submissive lackey but active participant in the policy-making apparatus in the region of the imperialist powers. With its anti-national and anti-people functioning, and by pursuing an incompetent, distorted, and provocative diplomacy, the theocratic regime has put Iran in a weak political and economic position. The U.S. and its allies should not be allowed to take advantage of this opportunity to advance the imperialist venture of the "New Middle East Plan".

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... all-white jury, though he is today widely considered to have been innocent. His legal care passed from communists to the better-financed NAACP, but the quick and confrontation stand of the Communist Party for Hollins was not forgotten, and neither was the respectful and civil treatment that black Oklahomans received from Communist Party members. Agnes Cunningham wrote of one Party meeting that two thirds in attendance were African Americans.

Next Month: Oklahoma's Communists and the New Deal