



**COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRELAND
PÁIRTÍ CUMANNACH NA HÉIREANN**



Africa's anti-imperialist wave

At the time of writing, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is contemplating an invasion of Niger. This comes after that country experienced a military takeover by anti-Western officers. Both France and the United States have military bases in Niger. The US operates the world's largest drone base in the city of Nagadez.

Up to one-third of French lightbulbs are powered by uranium from Niger, when only 16% of Nigeriens have access to electricity. 14 West African nations use the CFA Franc currency, imposed by the French, with their currencies linked currently to the Euro. **This is imperialism.**

However, there are signs of resistance. As Vijay Prashad writes: *"The coup in Niger follows similar coups in Mali (August 2020 and May 2021) and Burkina Faso (January 2022 and September 2022), and Guinea (September 2021). Each of these coups was led by military officers angered by the presence of French and US troops and by the permanent economic crisis inflicted on their countries."*

Burkina Faso's new president, Ibrahim Traoré, has vowed to defend Niger if it is attacked by the ECOWAS states. He was joined by the Malian President. Channelling Burkina Faso's former President, Thomas Sankara, who was murdered by the French, he said that *"The heads of African states should*

**INTERNATIONAL
NEWSLETTER**



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not behave like puppets in the hands of the imperialists. We must ensure that our countries are self-sufficient, including as regards food supplies, and can meet all the needs of our people."

Niger has been hit with sanctions and aid being cut off from the West, has responded by ceasing exports of uranium to France. The fact that imperialism and its puppets are so intent on inflicting further hardship on a country which is the 3rd poorest in the world shows the hypocrisy of the Western response to the

war in Ukraine. **Imperialism only has interests.**

While it is too early to say what is the ideology of these military regimes, it is clear that the old colonial powers are finding it hard to exert their dominance over the Sahel region. The same conditions of imperialist arrogance, extreme poverty, racism, theft of resources and starvation that motivated Thomas Sankara to become one of the heroes of the region still continue. As Sankara once said:

"Imperialism is a system of exploitation that occurs not only in the brutal form of those who come with guns to conquer territory. Imperialism often occurs in more subtle forms, a loan, food aid, blackmail. We are fighting this system that allows a handful of men on Earth to rule all of humanity."

Why is the US blockading Cuba?

The blockade was a response to Cuba's 1959 Revolution. During this time the properties of US citizens and corporations who were based in Cuba were expropriated and there was widespread re-nationalisation and land reform. The blockade was a reaction to these acts and aimed to eventually topple the revolutionary government.

Following statements by Cuba and the US on 17 December 2014, that the two countries would work to normalise relations, many people have incorrectly assumed that this means the blockade is over. However, despite embassies opening in Washington and Havana in summer 2015, the blockade is still very much in place.

- Cuba Solidarity Forum

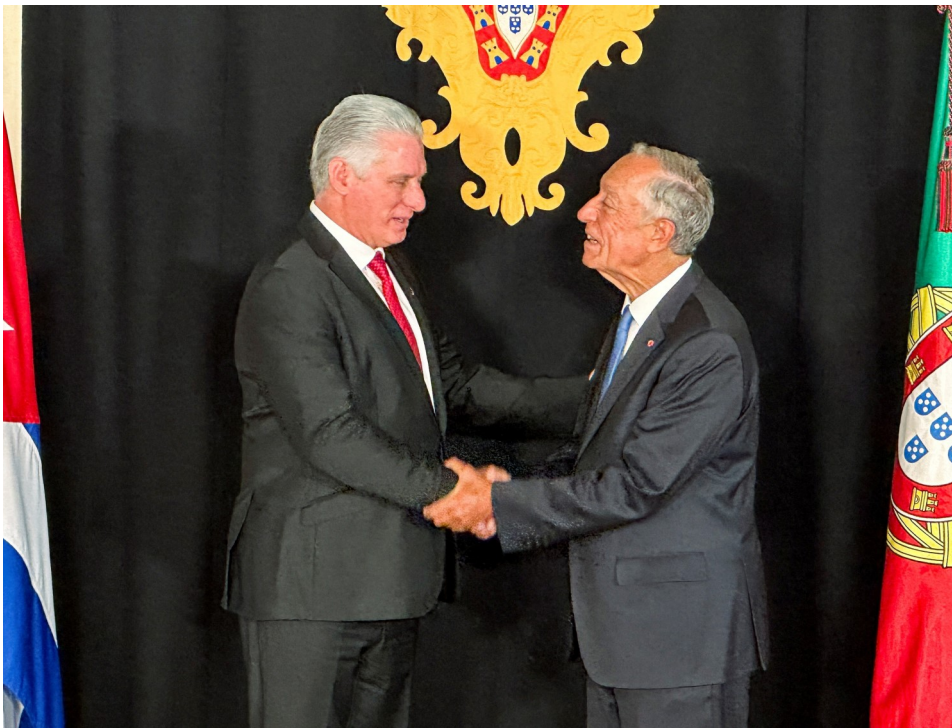
The EU and Cuba

The High Representative of the European Union, Josef Borrell, visited Cuba on the 25-27 May to represent the EU at the third Joint Council of the EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA), which was set up in 2018. This process was put in place with the full agreement of EU Member States and is based on what the EU calls "*critical but constructive dialogue.*"

In his report back to the European Parliament upon his return, Borrell reiterated the EU's rejection of the US embargo of Cuba, and stated that EU member states will continue to reject it at the UN. He lamented Trump's reversal of the rapprochement initiated by Obama following the latter's official visit to Havana in 2016. Borrell criticised the State sponsor of terrorism designation by the US, emphasising that it did nothing for the political evolution of Cuba or the wellbeing of Cubans, and also how it has presented serious difficulties for European businesses present in Cuba.

Borrell emphasised the EU's support for the reform process in Cuba. The EU's economic support - 91 million euros from 2021-2024 - is focused on the reforms around the recently liberalised private sector in Cuba, ecological transformation, and support for youth and women's leadership. Borrell was defending the funds from attack by some of the more zealous anti-communists in the European Parliament.

There is a far-right element of mostly Spanish MEPs that



President Miguel Diaz-Canel, greets Josep Borrell on an official visit by the High Representative of the European Union to Cuba in May 2023

want to abandon the PDCA and impose sanctions on Cuba for alleged human rights abuses against political prisoners. They repeatedly refuse to criticise the US blockade in EU parliament resolutions, and promote exaggerated narratives about political repression and use of force by the Cuban authorities.

The reality is that Cuba is an exemplary country, even with the foot of the world's foremost imperialist power on its neck for over 60 years, Cuba has managed, with the minimal resources available to it, to excel in the fields of medicine, healthcare, education, and sustainable agriculture. According to the UN, Cuba is a world leader in terms of social cohesion, inclusion and representation, education, culture and the arts, and stability and non-violence.

Trump's baseless designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism must be reversed, and there is some momentum building inside the US behind this campaign. Cuba sponsors and exports doctors, not terrorism. It is shameful that President Biden has done nothing to reverse this injustice that has such a profound impact on the everyday lives of Cubans.

Borrell is no great friend of Cuba, but even a hawkish figure like himself has been pushed to

acknowledge the political and economic reform process initiated by Raul Castro's transition government. The March 2023 legislative elections had a 76% turnout, with less than 10% spoiled or blank votes - a higher level of political engagement than Ireland and many other EU countries can achieve. In September 2022, after a popular consultation process, Cubans voted to approve what legal scholars consider the most inclusive, progressive, and revolutionary family code in the world. It has been celebrated in particular for its expansion of women's and LGBTQ+ rights.

The biggest challenges facing the people of Cuba today are the brutal blockade, foreign interference and destabilisation - the current fuel crisis in particular is devastating. If the EU is really concerned about human rights in Cuba, it would be doing everything in its power to circumvent the criminal sanctions, to have the state sponsor of terrorism designation removed, and to end the US blockade.



CPI Delegates visit China

24th June–4th July 2023

The International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) recently issued an invitation to the Communist Party of Ireland to attend the '3rd Communist Party Leaders' Delegation of North American, Oceanian and Nordic Countries' across three venues in Guangdong Province, Guizhou Province and Beijing City.

CPI General Secretary Jimmy Corcoran and National Political Committee Member Cde Gearóid Ó Machail were appointed to represent the CPI, who were joined by delegates from the CPs of Britain, Finland, Sweden, Norway, USA, Canada, Denmark, and Australia, as well as representatives from other Parties and the Friends of Socialist China group.

The delegation was welcomed upon arrival at Guangzhou Airport by IDCPC officials and embarked on a busy schedule of activities, beginning with a visit on day one to Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum where they were received a guided tour by Curator Chen Hongliang. The Chronicles Museum was notable for the detailed exhibition on the economic and social development of Guangdong Province, the pilot region for the 'Reform and Opening Up' policy adopted by the CPC in December 1978. During the tour of the museum and in the subsequent presentation and Q&A at Guangdong Academy of Social Science (GASS), delegates learned about the details of "socialism with Chinese characteristics" and "the socialist market economy", concepts formulated in large part by Deng Xiaoping, who is often credited as the "General Architect" of economic and social reform in China.

President Wang Tinghui of the GASS provided a comprehensive presentation on the "economic and technological miracle" experienced by Guangdong Province since

the initiation of the reforms. The deployment of outside foreign capital and investment to build up the productive capacity of the

local economy under the supervision of the CPC and was explained in terms of the need to bring Chinese living standards into line with neighbouring countries in SE Asia. The explosion of financial wealth generated by the "socialist market economy" is being socially invested to the benefit of the entire population of the 'South Gate of China' and is also being invested in neighbouring regions to improve general living standards across south-east China.

Delegates then visited a leading medical diagnostic firm, King Med Diagnostics. Founded in 2003 in Guangzhou, KingMed Diagnostics is a third-party medical laboratory group, engaging in four major businesses including medical testing, clinical trials, food and hygiene testing, and scientific research service in 31 cities, providing medical test outsourcing services for over 16,000 medical institutions in 27 provinces. The CPC has direct representation on the company's Board of Directors and delegates met with CPC officials located within the company who informed us that there are over 1,300 CPC comrades organised within the 14,000 workforce.

A further visit was arranged to the Chinese state-owned Guangzhou Automobile Group (GAC Motors). The impressive company was ranked 189th among the world's top 500 enterprises in 2019. Adhering to the



enterprise concept of "Humanity, Credibility, Creativity", GAC had manufactured 18.3 million cars and 16.8 million motorcycles by 2020. In 2022, GAC's production and sales both exceeded 2.4 million vehicles.

Day two of the visit commenced with a guided visit to the Thirteen Hongs Museum, filled with stunning artefacts reflecting the rich trading and cultural history of Guangdong Province since the earliest days of the maritime silk road and before. We were received by museum curator Wang Zhen before being treated

to a guided tour of the museum's facilities and fascinating collections.

International Communist Party delegates then proceeded to a meeting with Cde Wang Ruijun, Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Guangdong Committee, accompanied by Party Officials from the Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office, the Communist Youth League Guangdong Community and Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences. A fraternal discussion followed between Cde Wang and leader of the International



***"The socialist system will eventually replace the capitalist system; this is an objective law independent of man's will. However much the reactionaries try to hold back the wheel of history, eventually revolution will take place and will inevitably triumph."* - Mao Zedong**

Communist Delegation Robert Griffiths, Communist Party of Britain.

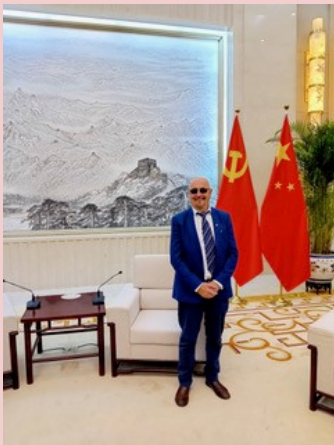
Delegates were collected at Guiyang airport and transferred to the CPC Guizhou Provincial Party School where they were to be based for the following three days. The School is a specialist and well equipped training academy for emerging talent and cadres within the CPC. During the first day of their stay in Guizhou, the international delegation of communists experienced a spectacular and rich cultural performance at Guiyang Theatre and were invited onto the stage to meet with a performing cast from many of Guizhou Province's ethnic minority communities.

On the second day, comrades were greeted by Wu Gangping, Executive Vice President of the Guizhou Provincial Party School and Di Huishen, Counsellor of the Bureau for North American, Oceanic and Nordic Affairs,

IDCPC. Both comrades provided comprehensive reports on the aims and work of the Party School, which is the largest of its kind in China.

Presentations followed on economic development and national and social governance and security. Primary level social governance was a key theme of the lecture by Professor Qiu Zhonghui, Director of Teaching and Researching Department of Public Management and comrades learned of the Chinese approach to grassroots social governance as a science based on dialectical and historical materialism. The lectures were a prelude to a visit to the model community of Jinyuan - a primary level Party-building demonstration area - where delegates witnessed the efforts of the CPC to enact social governance theory and Party-building in a real life community environment.





This was followed by a further visit to the impressive National Big Data Exhibition Centre. As the country's first national big-data comprehensive pilot zone, Guizhou Province has been promoting the big-data industry as a backbone of its high-quality social and economic development. According to the local government's plans, the total output value of the province's big-data and electronic information industry will exceed 350 billion yuan (about \$52.5 billion) by 2025, with the digital economy accounting for around half of its GDP.

The next day saw the delegates shuttled by high speed bullet train to the city of Zunyi, famous for being the location of the Zunyi Conference in 1935, where Mao Zedong was first elected to the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party during the Long March. Delegates visited the impressive Zunyi Conference Memorial Museum located in Honghuagang District before returning to the Party School.

The final day in Guizhou provided an opportunity for a cultural visit to Qingyan Ancient Town, a famous historical and cultural town in the southern suburb of Guiyang. Qingyan Town was originally built in 1378 and is an attractive destination for numerous domestic and foreign tourists. Religious

culture here is also quite rich, including Buddhism, Taoism, Catholicism and Christianity.

The first engagement in Beijing was a visit to the impressive central offices of the International Department of the CPC where delegates had discussions on 'Socialism with Chinese Characteristics' and the global geopolitical situation with Director General Zhou Rongguo, Comrade Wang Yingchun, and young members of the Bureau for North American, Oceanian and Nordic Affairs. The international delegates were then guests of honour at a dual ceremony presided over by Minister Liu Jianchao, Vice Minister Guo Yezhou, Vice Minister Li Mingxiang and Assistant Minister Zhu Rui of IDCPC.

The IDCPC presented commemorative medals to senior CPC comrades with over 50 years membership, followed by an oath-swearing ceremony by a number of new CPC comrades before all members present renewed their oaths to The Party and all attendees sang *The Internationale*. Delegates then met with Vice Minister Guo Yezhou before a conference and Q&A with the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China. The busy afternoon concluded with a meeting and Q&A with the All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU).

A definite highlight of the ten day trip came the following day, on the 102nd birthday of

the CPC, as comrades embarked on a visit to the highly impressive Museum of the CPC before visiting and climbing a section of the Great Wall of China. Ahead of the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China, and after nearly 1,000 days of construction, the Museum of the CPC, a site devoted to permanent and comprehensive exhibitions of the Party's history, was inaugurated on June 18 2021, with its first visitors, including Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee. A total of 276 exhibits tell the story of the CPC's 100-year struggle for the well-being of the Chinese people and national rejuvenation.

The penultimate day of the trip began with a briefing to the visiting delegation by Professor Guo Qiang, Deputy Director for Teaching and Research of Scientific Socialism at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, on Chinese Modernisation and the Establishment of Xiong'an New Area, a new city development aimed at improving life quality, easing traffic congestion, relieving housing pressures and reducing environmental pollution in the capital city of Beijing.

So ended the 3rd Communist Party Leaders'



Delegation of North American, Oceanian and Nordic Countries, organised by the International Department of the Communist Party of China. The IDCPC urged delegates to report back to their national Parties on the facts pertaining to the 'Modernisation of China', the evolution of 'Socialism with Chinese Characteristics' and China's role in promoting international peace, the pursuit of common prosperity, global civilisation and economic and social progress in developing countries.

The CPI extends our greatest gratitude to the IDCPC for the opportunity to witness their country's remarkable progress and achievements and wishes our comrades in the Communist Party of China continued success in leading the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in a concerted effort to realise the Party's Second Centenary Goal of building China into a great modern socialist country and to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernisation.

In the words of International Delegation Leader, Robert Griffiths (Communist Party of Britain):

"You have shown us a tantalising glimpse of the future and what a peaceful, modern socialist world will look like. Long live the Chinese Revolution! Long live the CPC! Long live the international communist movement!"

The EU and Cuba

On July 26th, the CPI, along with the Cuba Solidarity Forum, organised a demonstration on Ha'penny Bridge in Dublin's city centre. There were other demonstrations attended by CPI members in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone and Clones, Co. Monaghan. After the demo, comrades held a very successful fundraiser in Connolly Books.

The CPI sent a delegation to Cuba for the annual May Day Brigade, where comrades took part in voluntary work, attended conferences, and saw first-hand the effects of the US blockade. The highlight of the Brigade was attending the May Day parade in the city of Sancti Spiritus, along with other solidarity delegations and political

organisations from all continents. Delegates also attended a conference in Havana which was presided over by Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel.

Delegates also brought over much-needed medical supplies as an act of solidarity.

As always, the CPI continues to show solidarity with Socialist Cuba under the brutal US blockade, with comrades also involved in holding fundraisers for the Cuba Solidarity Forum's efforts to bring much needed medical supplies to Cuba.

Venceremos!



Solidarity demonstration in Dublin, July 26th



Cuba medical aid fundraiser in Connolly Books, July 26th

Statement of Solidarity with the PCV

The CPI extends its solidarity to our fraternal comrades in the Partido Comunista de Venezuela and condemns the actions of the PSUV government. The PCV – the oldest political party in Venezuela – continues to stand with the people of Venezuela against imperialist interference, but also against those who do not stand within the principles of Bolivarianismo.

The PSUV government is following a strategy of using legalistic attacks against the PCV, attempting to usurp the official structure, ideology, strategy and leadership of the PCV as decided by its own members.

They have used state media, as well as former disgruntled members, to assist them in this strategy. The only ones to

benefit from this are the Venezuelan capitalists and their masters in the empire to the north. Certainly not the masses of Venezuela, certainly not the activists of the PCV, whose members have also lost their lives in the people's struggles against capital in recent years.

We can learn from history that no revolution advances on the basis of anti-communism. Neither do revolutions advance by putting the costs of the imperialist-imposed crisis on the backs of the revolutionary people, while negotiating with the reactionary opposition. We support the PCV in its struggle. Only with a strong Communist Party can any revolution succeed in Venezuela.



Venceremos!

Solidarity with the people of Palestine

On July 5th, CPI members in Dublin attended an event organised by the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign in protest at the Israeli regime's slaughter of innocent Palestinians in the Jenin refugee camp, where up to 80 percent of homes and shelter were destroyed.





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