

Comrades-- Lawyers Committee on American Policy Towards Vietnam

Excerpts from *Comrades in Arms*, americong.com, Roger Canfield

... According to FBI testimony before Congress, the WPC was

The largest and most active Soviet international front organization, with affiliates in 135 countries, the WPC is one the Soviet's major instruments for political action and propaganda in the peace movement [including] ...organizing and mobilizing the American Peace movement.

Over the course of the Vietnam War, American participants in WPC events, would expand beyond Soviet loyalists, the CPUSA, DuBois Clubs and YWLL, to include many groups nominally representing veterans, religious, lawyers, women etc. [including] the Lawyers Committee on American Policy Towards Vietnam.

...Lawyers Committee on American Policy Toward Vietnam

On January 15, 1967 The Lawyers Committee on American Policy Toward Vietnam ran an ad in the New York *Times* headlined "U.S. intervention in Vietnam is illegal." Rejecting that South Vietnam had a right to its own self-defense, proclaiming that the US was violating the Geneva Convention and the U.S. Constitution, the Lawyers Committee called for the unilateral U.S. halt of bombing and recognition of Viet Cong National Liberation Front.

That these demands for U.S. unilateral surrender were nearly identical to the key demands of Hanoi communists was no coincidence.

The makeup of the Lawyers Committee told the tale. The pro-communist Lawyers' Committee included members of CPUSA, the Congressionally cited "legal bulwark of the CPUSA," the National Lawyers Guild, a cited communist front the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and the CPUSA- helpful ACLU.

The committee's leadership included Senator Wayne Morse, William L. Standard and Joseph H. Crown, cochairmen, Carey McWilliams, Malcolm Monroe, Aaron M. Diamond, Robert I. Boehm, Harold I. Cammer, William Meyers, Hoch Reid.

Standard, Crown and Cammer were long time members of the National Lawyers Guild, identified by HCUA in 1950 as a "the foremost legal bulwark of the Communist Party, its front organizations, and controlled unions."

The NLG had never differed on any issue with the CPUSA's master the USSR, including its show trials, slave labor camps and conquest of Eastern Europe.

Indeed, Lawyers Committee of Policy toward Vietnam also was an affiliate of a Soviet front, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, which held conferences on Vietnam in 1961 in Budapest, 1968 Grenoble, 1971 Algiers and 1975 Paris. The Lawyers group position on Vietnam was by another "happy coincidence" identical to Hanoi's points of view.

During an International Conference of Lawyers for Vietnam sponsored by an international Communist front, the International Association of Democratic Lawyer, the Vietnamese and Americans wrote the conference's final resolution. Five American represented the Lawyers Committee on American Policy Toward Vietnam, LCAPC. Prominent members of LCAPC were William Standard, Carey McWilliams, Richard Falk, Hans Morgenthau, and Quincy Wright.

...Stockholm Conference on Vietnam—May 16-18, 1969

May 16-18, 1969 the 14-member Paris delegations of Hanoi and the NLF conducted an Emergency Action Conference in Stockholm hosted by two Communist members of the World Peace Council-funded Swedish International Liaison Committee, Carl H. Hermansson and Dr. John Takman.





Photo: Swedish Solidarity with Viet Cong

Of 350 to 400 attending the Communist dominated event were 33 Americans representing eleven organizations including American Friends Service Committee, Clergy and Laity Concerned About Vietnam, Lawyers Committee on American Policy Toward Vietnam, National Lawyers Guild, Women Strike for Peace, Resist, SNCC, SANE, War Resistor's League and American Deserter's Committee. National, later New Mobe committee leadership attending were William Davidon, Carlton Goodlett, Rev. Thomas Lee Hayes and John Wilson.

...Stockholm Conference on Vietnam-May 1969

May 16-18, 1969 the Soviet-Czech-Vietnamese run Stockholm Conference on Vietnam 1969 was held in Stockholm seeking closer consultation with between Americans and North Vietnamese.

Described as the Emergency Action Conference on Vietnam some 340 attended. It was here that Americans met Hanoi's Nguyen Minh Vy and the Viet Cong's Nguyen Thi Binh, and accepted congratulations on their "spring offensive" and planned the fall's antiwar demonstrations. This World Peace Council Conference noted, "The Vietnamese and U.S. delegations were numerous and took a leading part in the deliberations of the conference."

At 33, the Americans were the largest delegation out of 300 persons from 60 countries. A dozen officially represented American Friends Service Committee, SNCC, SANE, WSP, Clergy and Laity Concerned, and Lawyers Committee on American Policy Towards Vietnam.

Americans attending the May 1969 Emergency Conference of Stockholm Conference on Vietnam were: John Wilson and Sherman Adams of SNCC; Amy Swerdlow, Serita Crown, Althea Alexander of WSP; Noam Chomsky; Joseph Elder, Bob Eaton and Bronson Clark of AFSC; Joseph Crown, Richard Falk, Stanley Swerdlow of the Lawyers' Committee on American Policy Towards Vietnam; Doris Roberson of NLG; Carlton Goodlett of National Mobe; George Carranog and Donald McDonough of American Deserters Committee and John McAuliff of the Committee of Returned [Peace Corps] Volunteers.

House members Rep. John Conyers, Rep. Bella Abzug and "avowed socialist" Rep. Ron Dellums were among the Lawyers Committee's most prominent supporters. The Lawyers Committee presented a Five-Point program to end the war in Vietnam to the Stockholm Conference. The actions of this WPC conference were covered positively in the *Daily World*, an official CPUSA newspaper.

After Stockholm Joseph Crown (and others) would actively participate in other Communist organized peace conferences in Grenoble and Toronto and travel to Hanoi in 1972.

...Toronto: World Jurist Conference on Vietnam, May 22-24, 1970

May 22-24, 1970 the Lawyers Committee on American Policy Towards Vietnam (Joseph H. Crown, William Standard, Richard Falk) sponsored a World Jurist Conference on Vietnam, renamed The Lawyers Conference on Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, at Glendon College, York University in Toronto, Canada gathering some 100 U.S. lawyers and 50 foreign lawyers, some from Vietnam. (Ho protégé Tran Cong Tuong accepted the invitation).

The Conference's sole purpose was to condemn U.S. war crimes. The heavily subsidized participants, room and board was only \$11, included members of the National Lawyers Guild, Clergy and Laity Concerned About Vietnam, the Law Center for Civil Rights (Peter Weiss and Morton Stavis), National Committee for a Citizens' Commission on Inquiry on United States War Crimes in Vietnam (Dr. Howard Levy, Noam Chomsky, Ralph Schoenman, Eric Seitz), and

Education/Action Conference on U.S. Crimes of War in Vietnam (CALC, AFSC).

“By a strange coincidence” the conference had the same objectives as Communists worldwide, wrote John H. Vincent in *Twin Circle*, a Catholic newspaper. On the conference agenda were: Illegality and Immorality of Vietnamization and Pacification; Application of Nuremberg Principles to the Vietnam War; Biological and Chemical Warfare; Tonkin Gulf Resolutions: Deceptions...: Reparations.....

...Many of the thirty-five American delegates to World Conference on Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos November 28-30, 1970 received Soviet-subsidized Aeroflot transportation there. As had three Americans flown from Moscow on Aeroflot to an International Commission on Inquiry on U.S. War Crimes October 22-25, 1970.

Among the Soviet Berkov vetted American invitees and attendees of the Stockholm Conference in late November 1970, representing all the pro-Hanoi front groups, were: David Dellinger, Rep. Ron Dellums (D-CA), William Douthard, Sidney Peck, Mrs. Jerrie M. Meadows, and Willie Jenkins of either New Mobe or NCAWWR; Mrs. Janey Hayes of WSP and Mrs. Pauline Rosen of CPUSA and WSP; Bruce Beyer, Gerry Condon, Mike Powers, John Woods of American Deserters Committee; Estelle Cypher and Eleanor Fowler of WILPF, Stan Faulkner of Lawyers Committee on American Policy Toward Vietnam; Carlton Goodlett and Gil Green of CPUSA; Rev. Thomas Hayes of CALC; Ron Young of FOR, Silvia Kushner of Chicago Peace Council.

...the Center for Constitutional Rights, many of whose members had traveled to Hanoi as members of Lawyers Committee on American Policy Towards Vietnam and the National Lawyers Guild, sue to return Vietnamese orphans brought to America before the fall of Saigon and return the children to the new communist government. Max Friedman reports, “American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), led by hardcore communists, also infiltrated VN refugee camps in Thailand, Guam and the US (Indiantown Gap) with “return home” propaganda.”

...Torture stories in the Iraq War were manufactured out of distorted versions of incidents at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo.