

'We're reviewing the revolution'

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ANC Congress starts on Sunday

BY HOWARD BARRELL

THE African National Congress begins an 11-day national consultative conference to review its revolutionary program and methods on June 16, the anniversary of the Soweto uprising.

About 200 delegates will attend.

ANC sources refuse to say where the conference is being held, except that it is "somewhere in Southern Africa".

The conference will end on June 26 — the anniversary of the adoption in 1955 of the Freedom Charter by the ANC and other Congress Alliance members.

The main issues are expected to be:

- The practical ways and means of extending the ANC's underground machinery inside the country.
 - Developing "people's war".
 - Developing insurrectionary forces and tactics inside the country.
 - Improving external and internal structures to ensure correct co-ordination between different ANC machineries.
- Sources predict that basic ANC strategy will not change — but tactics and methods will be closely examined.

It is the ANC's second national consultative conference since it was outlawed in 1960.

The last was held in 1969 in Morogoro, Tanzania — now the site of the ANC's Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College.

That conference resulted in the document, "Strategy and tactics of the ANC".

The ANC's choice of June 16 for its second conference is seen as significant. The 1976 uprising led to thousands of young people joining the ANC — and the movement has declared 1985 "The Year Of The Cadre".

The second conference follows months of discussion within ANC structures inside and outside the country. ANC sources say these preparations have been fruitful and successful. Observers feel the 11-day conference could change the face of South African national liberation politics.

A number of younger men and women are expected to move further up the ANC ranks at the conference.

ANC sources expect the movement to come out in favour of a more clear-cut leadership role in national liberation politics — particularly for black working people.

ANC members in diplomatic missions round the world voted among themselves to choose representatives to attend the historic meeting, reports PETA THORNYCROFT.

The voting took place after months of what was described as "intense pre-conference debates" about the future of "the struggle".

An ANC communique said the consultative conference would assess the current stage of "the struggle" with a view to its further escalation.