

Regional conference reports

BORDER

Five hundred delegates representing 147 branches gathered at Fort Hare University for the Border Regional Conference. Rev Arnold Stofile, elected onto the NEC at the July Conference of the ANC, was replaced as regional chairperson by returned exile and MK member, Silumko Sokupa.

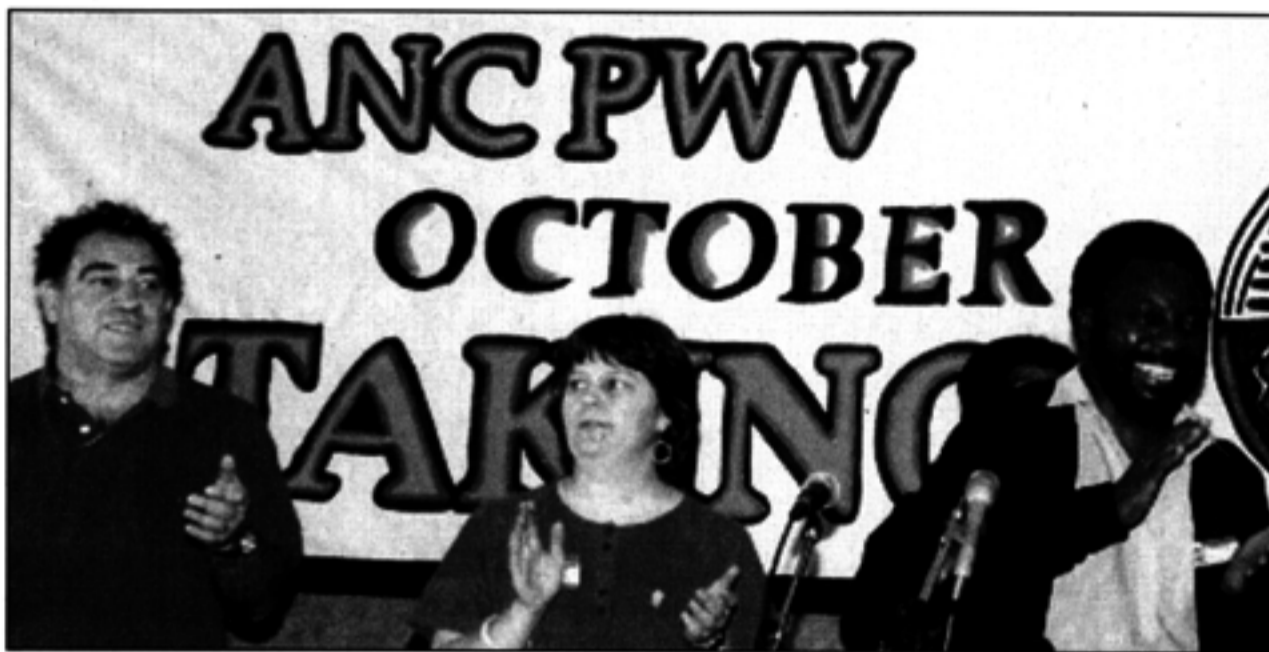
The REC has three women office-bearers with Lucille Meyer as regional secretary. The conference endorsed the resolution of the Border Peace Conference which has sent a letter to De Klerk calling for an Interim Government in Ciskei and which has set up a committee to work towards a broad-based development initiative involving all political, community and business organisations in the region.

Sokupa said that he was convinced that certain elements were trying to import violence into the region and that Brigadier Oupa Gqozo, head of the Ciskei administration, was trying to impose his so-called African Democratic Movement to secure a place for himself at the national negotiations table.

TRANSKEI

Relations between traditional authorities and the ANC featured prominently in the Transkei regional conference. Resolutions called for the review of the Tribal Authorities Act and the holding of a regional workshop to look at the role of chiefs. It was also decided that the Tripartite Alliance should be strengthened and the REC should look into the streamlining of its work to ensure maximum efficiency.

Three hundred delegates representing 94 branches attended



the conference. Observers to the conference included a delegation from the Transkei Military Council and allied organisations. David Ndawonde was elected as chair of the region while Mazwi Yako will serve as secretary. Four women were elected onto the REC.

PWV

The 246 delegates to the PWV regional conference, representing 97 branches, elected five women on to the REC with Barbara Hogan retaining the position of secretary. Tokyo Sexwale was elected chair.

Delegates expressed unhappiness with the rate of recruitment into the ANC. "The PWV, being the most populous and compact region, should ensure a higher rate of recruitment", said a delegate.

The conference came out in full support of the Patriotic Front Conference and the decision to move speedily to the All-Party Congress, which were described as major strategic initiatives.

The government's handling of the violence came under strong attack. The installation of an Interim Government was seen as essential in removing the obstacles to negotiations. The confer-

ence decided to step up the door-to-door campaign for an Interim Government.

WESTERN CAPE

The regional conference met under the guiding slogan "Build a Mass Based ANC". Though membership had doubled since the last conference delegates expressed confidence in being able to draw in many more people into the ANC.

The conference was held in the context of increasing violence in the region. Leading activists had been assassinated; Khayelitsha was being torn apart and Askaris in Hermanus were attacking ANC members.

Violence was thus a key issue on the agenda. The Peace Accord was welcomed and the need to build local structures emphasised.

Delegates from the rural branches emphasised their isolation from an urban-based ANC. Steps to correct this will be addressed at a rural conference in November this year. Reverend Allan Boesak was elected chair while Tony Yengeni was elected regional secretary. All regional chairs and secretaries automatically become members of the NEC. ♦