

Portugal committed to resume IMF talks soon

BY JIMMY BURNS IN LISBON

PORTUGAL'S new caretaker government has committed itself to an early resumption of key negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) but acknowledges the "political limits" of its short-term in office.

Opening the debate on her government programme yesterday, Dr. Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, the independent Prime Minister, again warned that she would not back away from taking "unpopular measures" if they were necessary for Portugal's economic recovery. Her programme includes a pledge to increase controlled prices, to continue with a strict budgetary disci-

pline and to introduce energy saving measures.

The Prime Minister, however, stressed that a major political priority of her Government would be to secure a climate of peace and security in preparation for this autumn's election.

Significantly, her programme sidesteps politically controversial issues such as agrarian reform and ceilings on salary increases.

The government programme will almost certainly survive a motion of rejection which will be presented by the minority Right-wing alliance before the end of the week.

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