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### Survivor of Early Days of Revolution

## *New Premier Angers Portuguese Right*

by James M. Markham

LISBON (NYT) — In the heady, stormy days of 1974, Col. Vasco dos Santos Goncalves, the leftist premier of Portugal's revolutionary government, would greet the arrival of his sole woman minister at Cabinet meetings with a mildly sarcastic: "Here comes our flower."

The taming of the revolution has swept away many personalities from those times, but last Thursday, one of them, Maria de Lourdes Pintassilgo, the "flower" of the Goncalves Cabinet, made a striking re-entry on the political scene. From a list of seven names, President Antonio Ramalho Eanes picked the 49-year-old engineer to become premier of the 11th government since the collapse of the dictatorship in 1974 — and the first woman head of government in Portuguese history.

The appointment of the sturdy, forceful Miss Pintassilgo (her name means "goldfinch") was greeted with anger and consternation on the Portuguese right, which has come to believe that politics was drifting in its direction. O Pais, a far-right daily, labeled her "a rather controversial person, who under the previous regime did not hide her adherence to advanced ideologi-

cal currents . . . progressive and Third-Worldist." Another daily recalled that she has spoken out in favor of legalized abortion — an issue that has already stirred deep debate in a country where the Roman Catholic Church has an important voice.

But Miss Pintassilgo, who has never married, defies easy categorization. She is a long-time Roman Catholic feminist and lives in Lisbon with a group of women from the Catholic lay organization Graal, which was founded in the Netherlands in 1921 and took root here in the mid-1950s.

While she plunged eagerly into the revolutionary ferment of 1974 and was minister of social affairs, she had earlier served as an appointed member of a quasi-legislative chamber of the Salazar regime.

"She is very open to the historical currents of the times," commented a woman friend who has worked closely with Miss Pintassilgo on study groups she has headed on the condition of women in Portugal. "She is very open to people. It's easy to get in touch with her. The commune where she lives has a very international atmosphere: Someone always answers the phone in Spanish, French or some other language. She is very generous and

very understanding. But she is also very strong-willed."

In the first, anxious months of the revolution, when the Communists appeared to be in the ascendant, two influential officers in the leftward-leaning Armed Forces Movement, Vitor Alves and Ernesto Melo Antunes, introduced Miss Pintassilgo to a little-known major named Antonio Ramalho Eanes. She and the future president became fast friends, and in past political crises, Gen. Eanes has floated her name as a possible nonparty premier. Now both members of the watchdog Council of the Revolution, Lt. Col. Alves and Lt. Col. Melo Antunes, are known to have discreetly advanced her candidacy, another reason for the explosion of outrage on the right.

Now Miss Pintassilgo, who since mid-1975 has been Portugal's ambassador to Unesco in Paris, faces the delicate task of putting together a government which, according to the president, will be a neutral referee for parliamentary elections, which will probably be held in late October. The president has insisted that the new government's program must be approved before Parliament is formally dissolved: a possibly tricky hurdle for the new premier.

Some analysts of Gen. Eanes' strategy argue that the nonparty Mota Pinto government served the purpose of wearing down Mario Soares' Socialists, who have begun to attack the president for his decision to dissolve the three-year-old Parliament. Now, this theory goes, Miss Pintassilgo will give the Socialists a respite and throw a newly fashioned rightist electoral alliance on the defensive. In this confusing process, the president retains the initiative and a certain equilibrium.

Whatever the explanation, in a country where men have for the last five years badly muddied the political waters, this woman, born to a middle-class family in Abrantes on Jan. 18, 1930, now has a chance.

