



Portugal's Prime Minister Maria Pintasilgo yesterday

## Lisbon plea for pre-poll calm

From Jill Jolliffe  
in Lisbon

Portugal's new Prime Minister, Ms Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, yesterday presented her Government's programme to Parliament, emphasising the need for pre-election political calm and saying that her Government hoped to offset some of the "negative effects" of austerity measures imposed by previous governments as part of an International Monetary Fund agreement.

Her economic package includes short-term incentives to increase agricultural production and stimulate industry, including new incentives to foreign investment.

Ms Pintasilgo also outlined emergency measures to reorganise the administration of the controversial Sines industrial complex in the south of Portugal. The country's largest industrial development, Sines has been a victim of Portugal's political crises.

Storm damage to the deep-water port at Sines last winter has still not been repaired due to political disputes in the planning authority, and experts have warned that the multi-million dollar project will be irreparable unless action is taken soon. Ms Pintasilgo pledged emergency action to repair the port.

The interim Government's foreign policy aims to reinforce political and cultural ties with Portugal's former

African colonies. Ms Helena Roseta, a Deputy from the conservative Social Democratic Party, which is vigorously opposing the Pintasilgo Government, attacked this policy in Parliament yesterday.

She accused the Government of cynical unconcern for Portuguese prisoners in Angolan and Mozambican gaols. She said her party and other parties of the Right-wing Democratic Alliance were not interested in debating the programme of a Government which they considered represents exclusively Left-wing interests. "Our only answer is an election victory," she said.

The debate on the Government programme will be resumed on Friday, and a vote taken next week.

Government survival at the end of the week would leave the way clear for President Antonio Ramalho Eanes to dissolve Parliament and set an election date, expected to be November 11 or 18.

Meanwhile a strike by the Portuguese Medical Association is threatening to paralyse health services.

Ninety per cent of doctors in the north of Portugal are supporting the strike which is spreading to the south, where many private clinics closed yesterday. The doctors are striking for a statute to regulate work conditions. President Eanes last week vetoed the statute, which was passed by the last Government,

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