

Maria de Lourdes Pintassilgo

April 12-14, 1981





THE CLASS OF 1930 FELLOWSHIP

The Class of 1930 Fellowship was established by the members of the class to continue the tradition begun by President Hopkins of bringing distinguished men and women to the Dartmouth campus for white of Several days. The Class of 1930 Fellow will present a major address and during the several days join students and faculty members in smaller groups, both in class and in more formal settings.

The faculty and students of the College express their gratitude to the Class for this important gift.

The Class of 1930 Committee also extends its thanks to the Women's Studies Program which assisted in making arrangements for Prime Minister Pintassilgo's visit.



MARIA DE LOURDES PINTASSILGO

Portugal: Revolution and Democracy

In April 1974, Portugal emerged from the 40-year-long dictatorial rule of Antonio de Oliveira Salazar and began a complex process marked by revolution, decolonization, modernization and democratization. Maria de Lourdes Pintassilgo has been at the center of this process, first as Secretary of State and Social Security, then as Minister of Social Welfare, Ambassador to UNESCO and finally as Prime Minister, after 10 different governments had been formed and fallen since 1974. She was Portugal's first woman Prime Minister and only Europe's second.

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An independent, not belonging to any political party, she is a chemical engineer by training. Profoundly influenced by the writings of the French philosopher Simone Weil, Prime Minister Pintassilgo left her profession in 1960 to work full-time for the Graal, an international movement of Catholic women. She has been a forceful voice in support of women's rights in Portugal's struggle for democratization. "Sexism is a violation of human rights" she once said, "but it happens in specific ways, on specific grounds. At the same time, women's fight cannot be seen as an exclusive or isolated fight. It is like racism — a social plague."

Prime Minister Pintassilgo's career exemplifies the spirit of service and leadership which has helped improve the world in which we all live.

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