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Fundação Cuidar o Futuro



# Soares takes the bull by the horns



Mrs Pintasilgo



Lisbon, July 28.

Thousands of jubilant Socialists today celebrated the "irreversible" decision of the outgoing Prime Minister, Mr Mario Soares, to stand for the presidency of Portugal in elections in January.

While members of Mr Soares' Socialist Party enjoyed a mammoth musical show in Lisbon's main bull ring, supporters of a rival candidate and ex-Prime Minister, Mrs Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, held more sedate celebrations elsewhere.

Mr Soares, 60-year-old secretary-general of Portugal's largest party and three times Prime Minister since the 1974 revolution, told a 5,000-strong special convention last night after a unanimous call to stand:

"This time, without hesitation or ambiguities, I say yes."

However, he said he would continue as head of the caretaker Socialist-Social

Democratic coalition Government until after general elections called by outgoing President Antonio Ramalho Eanes for October 6.

Only then would he formalise his candidacy, "although I have accepted and this is irreversible."

Mr Soares said he did not wish to create a power vacuum while Portugal was preparing to enter the European Community in 1986 and important decisions on the country's future were pending.

He was loudly cheered when he declared he would make his candidacy formal after "the Socialists have won the October elections and our comrade Antonio Almeida Santos (the outgoing Minister of State) becomes Prime Minister."

General Eanes, who is completing a second five-year term and cannot stand again, dissolved parliament and called



*Letter of 12/3/86*

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AIR MAIL

30th July, 1985

H. E. Mrs. Maria de Lourdes, Ex-Prime Minister,  
Lisbon,  
Portugal.

Dear Your Excellency Mrs. Maria de Lourdes, Ex-Prime Minister,

It is indeed heartening news to hear that you have declared candidacy for the presidency of Portugal in the January Elections. We dearly appreciate your firmness and fortitude.

We are also interested in your promise to solve economic and social crisis through a new style of political action. We all look forward to hearing good news from you soon.

With best wishes and kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

  
Y. W. Fong

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

