

Pact Between Spinola and Military Men Saves Lisbon Government From Collapse

By HENRY GINIGER

Special to The New York Times

LISBON, Sept. 29—Portugal's revolutionary regime, which came close to collapse yesterday, appeared today to have been saved by a new truce between President Antonio de Spínola and leftist military and political groups.

A jubilant left hailed its "new and brilliant victory" against what the Communist party said was a rightist plot to defeat the revolution and restore the dictatorship overthrown April 25.

President Spínola, under a leftist threat of bloodshed, was forced to call off a rightist

demonstration in his favor by the so-called silent majority, and the logical outcome expected here was the President's resignation.

But a statement by the Armed Forces Movement's young officers, with whom the President has been at odds for months, reported an agreement among him, Gen. Francisco da Costa Gomes, head of the armed forces, and the members of the Coordinating Committee of the movement. Measures, their nature not specified, were decided upon to strengthen the process of democratization, and unity was proclaimed between the armed forces and the Provisional Government of

Premier Vasco dos Santos Gonçalves.

Late tonight, Premier Gonçalves appealed over radio and television for unity between the people and the armed forces against those who sought to halt democratization and warned that the country had to guard against civil war. He did not mention General Spínola, but it was announced that the President would address the nation tomorrow morning. It was assumed that he would also appeal for unity, as part of the effort to mask the deep rifts between him and the left.

The military's reaffirmation of support for Premier Gon-

çalves—who was recently promoted from colonel to brigadier general—took on special significance in view of the persistent reports that President Spínola had tried yesterday to dismiss him and even to arrest him after the left-leaning Premier opposed the demonstration by the rightists.

President Spínola has had defeat after defeat in his efforts to assert his personal authority and rally conservative opinion against the growing power and influence of the left in general and the Communist party in particular. But both sides have shrunk from an open confrontation that could lead to chaos or civil war. As in the

past, an effort appears to be under way to paper over the differences.

The Socialists, for example, said the rightist demonstration would have been "a cover" for a plot, and termed "the silent majority," which was to have staged it, "a shadowy minority." But the Government-controlled radio, in an apparent effort to absolve the President, said that his name had been used "abusively" to draw support to the demonstration. Three weeks ago the President himself called on the "silent majority" to "oppose actively totalitarian extremism," presumably meaning Communists.

More than 200 persons, including ministers of the old regime, have been arrested in the alleged rightist plot and the military has reported that caches of arms were found in Lisbon and in vehicles coming into the city. Among those detained is Nuno Caetano, an architect and a son of Marcello Caetano, the Premier who was overthrown in April and exiled to Brazil.

The continuing basic ideological split was illustrated by Brig. Gen. Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho, the leftist Military Governor of Lisbon, who declared on television tonight that "nobody can be in any doubt that the only enemies of freedom are

reactionary plotters." General de Carvalho, who had an operational role in the April coup, holds a key post as head of special headquarters that deal with subversion and threats to law and order.

Leftist vigilante groups continued to be active in and around Lisbon today, and a kind of revolutionary anarchy reigned on the outskirts of the city as groups of students and workers halted cars and searched them for arms.

Sunday drivers, out to enjoy the sunny weather along the Atlantic coast, were forced into long queues by the searches



Associated Press

Vasco dos Santos Gonçalves