

# Portugal's New Leader Lauds Ties to U.S. and NATO

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LISBON, Oct. 20—President Francisco da Costa Gomes stressed the importance today of Portugal's ties with the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

As the President spoke at the airport on his return from the United Nations and Washington, the Portuguese Communist party, a principal source of American concern about Portugal's future, was taking an extremely moderate line at its first legal convention in the country in more than 50 years.

Alvaro Cunhal, secretary general of the party and a Minister Without Portfolio in the Government, made it clear in an opening statement that the Communists would do nothing now to hinder the President's efforts to keep the country on a democratic course.

General Costa Gomes had pledged to do so in a speech before the United Nations General Assembly and in talks with President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger.

He said the talks were "extraordinarily important" for Portugal because they had opened the door to negotiations "in which both countries are interested, especially us, since the help that we will be able to get from great country [the United States] will be of the kind that we desire."

The Portuguese have asked for aid in exchange for a five-year renewal of a United States lease on the Lajes Air Base in the Azores.

General Costa Gomes and diplomatic sources here have indicated that his visit to Washington helped to dissipate mutual concern that began with

the military coup here last April. The concern was aggravated three weeks ago when, in a conflict between conservatives and leftists, President António de Spínola resigned with veiled warnings of possible leftist dictatorship.

Mr. Kissinger, in particular, was understood to have been worried about the possibility of a Communist take-over not only in Portugal but in Spain and Greece, as well. He sent a four-man team here a few days ago to assess the country's future direction.

The mission's report ap-

peared to be reassuring enough to make the United States willing to help the crisis-ridden Portuguese economy. Economic problems could conceivably wreck the often-stated intention of the armed forces to lead the country to free elections next March.

Following the Spínola resignation, highly placed officials here complained of American silence. They voiced a fear that Washington might start to treat Portugal like Cuba or Chile.

Brig. Gen. Otele de Carvalho, the outspoken commander of the Lisbon Garrison and of a special headquarters dealing with law and order, declared in an interview in a Portuguese magazine a week ago that "we know that the Central Intelligence Agency is a grave problem." "The Americans have a morbid terror of Communism," he said, "and, as you know, have a series of specific organs to fight against it. The C.I.A., which uses the most incredible methods—and you only have to look at the example of Chile — is probably the most dangerous, but it is not the only one."

"NATO is another example of an organization created specifically to fight Communism."

General Carvalho, the tactical commander during the uprising last April, says he favors a "European-type socialism." He said in the interview that he had no doubt that "from the moment Alvaro Cunhal came into the Government [last May], the comrades of the Second Bureau [intelligence] of the General Staff are taking the measures they deem necessary."

The measures were not explained, nor would American officials confirm a step-up of Central Intelligence Agency activities regarding Portugal.

The general's frequent political remarks have been causing embarrassment, but his ideas appear to be shared by other officers in the ruling Armed Forces Movement. The movement's official bulletin spoke a few days ago of the responsibility that the officers had assumed "to establish and defend democracy in Portugal, not only against already evident internal reaction, but principally against the inexorable offensive of world imperialism."

The last phrase appeared to refer to the United States.

The fall of General Spínola and several of his associates did produce a shift to the left, but the Armed Forces Movement has been insisting this has not meant that the country has changed the course set last April toward free elections and democracy in Portugal and decolonization in Africa.

In his remarks at the airport, General Costa Gomes, who replaced General Spínola, stressed Portugal's membership in NATO.

"We have a geostrategic position that obliges us to make a choice," he said. He added that the choice of staying with NATO corresponded to "the wishes of the Portuguese people."

In his hour-long address at the Communist congress, Mr. Cunhal avoided foreign policy, although his opposition to NATO and to the American air presence in the Portuguese Azores is well known.

He called on labor to work hard "for a better Portugal" and said foreign investment was welcome under controlled conditions.

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