

# LISBON PRESIDENT IS HEARD AT U.N.

He Tries to Allay Fears of  
Communism in Portugal

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UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 17 — The new President of Portugal, Gen. Francisco da Costa Gomes, in an address to the United Nations General Assembly today invited delegates to visit his country and see for themselves that "alarmist" appraisals of its situation were unfounded.

With a clear allusion to fears that Portugal was sliding toward Communism, General Costa Gomes said that "minor social derangements" had occurred, but that the present provisional government had been able to handle them.

The Portuguese head of state, who arrived here last night from Lisbon, is scheduled to meet with President Ford in Washington tomorrow.

The invitation from the White House had originally been extended to President António de Spínola, Portugal's first President after the downfall of Premier Marcello Caetano in the military coup of last April 25.

President Ford renewed the invitation to General Costa Gomes when the latter succeeded President Spínola on Sept. 30, in a political shift that appeared to mark an advance of left-wing forces in Portugal.

General Costa Gomes, who is 60 years old, had been chief of the defense staff and a close associate of President Spínola. In today's address, General Costa Gomes pledged that Portugal would proceed along the road to democracy, "to rid minds of the intoxication of half a century of propaganda of the extreme right."

The President said that Portugal, in its current "predemocratic situation" was beset by economic difficulties and was hoping to receive assistance from the world's democratic nations.

The President, who spoke in Portuguese, departed from a prepared text to plead with Africans to believe in his nation's "honesty and sincerity" when it vowed to complete decolonization.

President Costa Gomes, the first Portuguese head of state to visit the United Nations, received a standing ovation from the delegates in the hall. Black Africans led the applause, and the representatives of South Africa joined.

Portugal's Foreign Minister, Mario Soares, who is accompanying the President, conferred with the delegates of African states this afternoon. Dr. Soares appealed to the African countries to establish diplomatic relations with Lisbon as quickly as possible.

African heads of state had agreed at a meeting in Somalia last June that their countries should refrain from relations with Portugal until her former territories were independent.

## Costa Gomes in Washington

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17 (Reuters)—President Francisco da Costa Gomes of Portugal arrived here tonight for talks with President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger.