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Portugal's First Woman Prime Minister Appointed

LISBON (UPI) — Europe's second and Portugal's first woman premier-designate began searching Friday for a "diverse" caretaker cabinet to oversee the dissolution of the fragile democracy's first freely chosen parliament in 50 years and the nation's return to the ballot box.

President Antonio Ramalho Eanes tapped Maria de Lourdes Pintassilgo, a plump,



Miss Pintassilgo

single 49-year-old former ambassador to UNESCO, to form Portugal's 11th government since the 1974 revolution restored democracy, Thursday.

The devout Roman Catholic social activist and chemical engineer told reporters that she

had one week to organize her cabinet and that it would be composed of "diverse personalities."

"Its (the cabinet's) primary function will be to assure that the people can decide without any constraints whom they want to govern," she said.

Politicians speculated that the lame duck parliament with socialist and Communist support would approve Gen. Eanes' replacement for outgoing Independent Prime Ministers Carlos Mota Pinto, who resigned June 6.

Ms. Pintassilgo, who served as a dissident voice in middle-level posts under the deposed dictatorship and as welfare minister in the second provisional revolutionary cabinet in 1974, has "close rapport" with leftist parties, observers said.