

MINISTÉRIO DA COMUNICAÇÃO SOCIAL

SERVIÇO DE DOCUMENTAÇÃO

Journal: *The Guardian* N.º *21**London*Date: *10.10.79* Loc.

Portugal poll race begins

From Jill Jolliffe
in Lisbon

SEVEN political parties and three coalitions will contest Portugal's forthcoming elections.

Registration closed yesterday for the poll on December 2, which will be followed a week later by municipal elections. The parliamentary elections were called by President Eanes in July, after the political parties were unable to agree a formula to govern. Normal elections will still be held in 1980.

The major coalitions are the Right-wing Democratic Alliance — consisting of the Popular Social Democrats, Centre Social Democrats, and Popular Monarchists — and the Popular Unity Alliance, made up of the Communist Party and the Portuguese Democratic Movement.

Two Maoist parties, the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist), and the Worker-Student Alliance, are also running in coalition, as the Workers' Project.

The most important single party registered is the Socialist party, which won 107 of the 263 seats in the 1976 elections. The Popular Social Democrats gained 73 seats.

A group of 36 Social Democrats who recently broke with the party over its Rightward drift, and may have provided an alternative to the Socialist party for moderate voters, decided not to contest the elections because it was unprepared.

Other parties registered are the Portuguese Communist Marxist-Leninist Organisation, the Portuguese Workers' Communist Party, both Maoist, the Christian Democrat Party, the Trotskyist Socialist Revolutionary Party, the Left Union for Democratic Socialism, and the Democratic Popular Union.

Fundação Cuidado Futuro

