

Jornal: *The Guardian* N.º *11*
Inglaterra

Date: *29. 3. 889* Loc.

Portugal tense after farmers' deaths

From Jill Jolliffe in Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal

Tension is growing in Portugal's southern Alentejo Province after the fatal shooting of two Left-wing farm workers, and the wounding of another.

Antonio Maria do Pomar Casquinha, aged 17, and Jose Geraldo Caravela, aged 57, died during a clash between supporters of agrarian reform and officers of the National Republican Guard in Montemor-o-Novo. Antonio Carvalho, aged 23, was shot in the leg.

The fighting began as National Guardsmen, under instructions from the Agriculture Ministry, were returning land seized by radical peasants during the 1974 revolution to its former owner.

As a result of the shootings, the Prime Minister, Miss Maria

de Lourdes Pintassilgo, has postponed by 24 hours her departure for New York, where she is to address the UN.

The Communist Party leader, Mr Alvaro Cunhal, has been granted an emergency meeting with Miss Pintassilgo to discuss the situation.

Thousands of workers from Alentejo's farms converged on Montemor-o-Novo yesterday, to demonstrate against the killings. Women wore traditional straw hats over black head scarves and most of the demonstrators carried black flags.

Many wept as a Communist Party central committee member, Mr Antonio Gerayisio, told them that the killings were a direct result of the policy of Miss Pintassilgo's Government of test of the programme of agrarian reform which began with the 1974 revolution.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

