

Lisbon censure threat

From Jill Joliffe
in Lisbon

DR FRANCISCO SA CARNEIRO, leader of Portugal's conservative Social Democratic Party, said yesterday that his party will strongly oppose the new Government of Miss Maria de Lourdes Pintassilgo. "Boycott is too weak a word," he said.

Dr Sa Carneiro said that the Social Democrats will probably move a censure motion against the interim Government when it presents its programme to Parliament next week. He said the new Government was under the influence of the "Group of Nine," an alliance of military officers close to the President who unseated Portugal's sixth revolutionary Government in a preemptive military action on November 1, 1975. The Group of Nine later backed General Eanes for the Presidency.

"This pre-election Government has been formed against the Social Democratic Party, giving the Socialists, Communists and Independent Social Democrats an unfair electoral advantage," Dr Sa Carneiro added. "Three dissidents from my party are represented in the Cabinet, and we also object to the political personality of the Prime Minister."

He said his party was confident of success in the elections, which should be held in November.

The Social Democrats recently formed an electoral alliance with two other conservative parties, in the hope of consolidating the Right-wing vote. The Social Democratic leader said his party would probably decide against a joint electoral ticket with the Centre Social Democrats and the Popular Monarchist Party, their partners in the alliance. He said that, among other factors, the party would lose television and radio time if they opted for a joint ticket.

The Social Democrat censure motion is unlikely to be successful, even with the support of the Centre Democrats. It is not yet known whether the Socialist Party will support the Government's programme or abstain: if they abstain, the new Government could be in danger.

MINISTÉRIO DA COMUNICAÇÃO SOCIAL

CENTRO DE DOCUMENTAÇÃO

Jornal: <i>The Guardian</i> <i>Inglaterra</i>	N.º <i>I 1</i>
Data: <i>8.8.1979</i>	Loc.

Fundação Cuidar do Futuro

