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Woman Named to Form Portugal Regime

By James M. Markham

LISBON, July 19 (NYT) — Maria de Lourdes Pintassilgo, a 49-year-old engineer and diplomat, was named today by President Antonio Ramalho Eanes to form a caretaker government that should preside over parliamentary elections in the fall.

Miss Pintassilgo, who served as minister of social affairs in the leftist government of Premier Vasco Dos Santos Goncalves in 1975, will become the first female premier in Portugal's history — though her mandate will presumably come to an end in several months.

"Somebody had to take this job," said Miss Pintassilgo, who had been serving as Portugal's representative to Unesco in Paris. "If these words were not worn out, I would say that it is a service to be rendered to the country. I know there are few people who are willing to take this job."

With a reputation as a moderate leftist, Miss Pintassilgo appeared likely to gain the support of the Communist Party and the acquiescence of Mario Soares' Socialists, who have been extremely critical of Gen. Eanes' announcement last week that he intends to dissolve parliament and call fresh elections.

Gen. Eanes has said, though, that he will only dissolve parliament after a new government is in



Maria de Lourdes Pintassilgo

place to replace the nonparty administration of Premier Carlos Mota Pinto, which resigned June 6 after its budget was picked apart by the Socialists and the Communists.

Portugal's two main rightist parties, the Social Democrats and Center Democrats, appear to have the gravest reservations about Miss Pintassilgo's appointment, even though they have lately been pressing most eagerly for the dissolution of parliament and new elections.

Given democratic Portugal's tortuous parliamentary history, political analysts said that the rightists'

opposition could still pose problems for the approval of the new government's program. After meeting with Gen. Eanes today, Miss Pintassilgo said she expected to be able to form her Cabinet before the end of next week.

Together with a tiny monarchist party, the Social and Center Democrats have formed a "democratic alliance" with the aim of forming the country's next elected government, though at this point few neutral observers are willing to predict victory for anyone in the elections, which could be held at the end of October.

'Let the People Speak'

Miss Pintassilgo's task, if she manages to put together a Cabinet and get its program approved, will be "to allow the people to say, without any constraints, who it wants in power."

Like Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain, Miss Pintassilgo, who was born in the town of Abrantes, is a chemical engineer by training. In 1971 and 1972 she was a member of Portugal's delegation to the United Nations. After the April 25, 1974 coup that toppled the dictatorship of Marcelo Caetano, she served briefly as secretary of state for social security. In the summer of 1974 she was named minister of social affairs under Col. Goncalves.

