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## Woman engineer is named as new Premier of Portugal

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LISBON — Maria de Lourdes Pintassilgo yesterday accepted President Antonio Ramalho Eanes' invitation to be Portugal's premier.

There now appears to be no obstacle to the dissolution of Parliament and the holding of early elections, as her nomination is acceptable to the Socialist Party, which otherwise may have opposed the caretaker government.

Speaking at the presidential palace after meeting with President Eanes, Miss Pintassilgo said that she hoped to push the government's program through quickly. If the program is accepted, Parliament will be dissolved and elections held within 90 days. The new premier leads Portugal's eleventh government since the 1974 revolution.

Miss Pintassilgo, who has headed Portugal's delegation to UNESCO since 1975, has a reputation as a radical Catholic who is widely respected for her abilities.

She holds a degree in chemical engineering and before the 1974 revolution worked as a consultant to Companhia Uniao Fabril, one of Portugal's largest industrial concerns. In 1971 and 1972 she was part of the Portuguese mission to the United Nations. From an early age she was active in the progressive Catholic organization Pax Romano,



Maria de Lourdes Pintassilgo

of which she became president.

After the 1974 revolution she held several government posts. She was state secretary for social security in the first provisional government, led by Palma Carlos. From July 1974 to March 1975 she was minister for social affairs in two successive revolutionary governments, under Col. Vasco Goncalves.

Miss Pintassilgo has an active interest in women's rights. She was a founder of the Women's Commission, which works to study and

improve the status of women in Portugal. She is the third woman to be head of state in Portugal in 800 years.

Her appointment does not meet with the approval of the right-wing parties, who have joined forces for the elections as the Democratic Alliance, but they do not have the combined numbers to block her program in Parliament, and are already committed to supporting early elections.

A spokesman for the alliance denounced Miss Pintassilgo as a "Third Worldist" with Socialist political convictions.

Her participation in the Vasco Goncalves years is also regarded as a black mark. Last year she was criticized in the Portuguese press for her role in the UNESCO conference on the media and the Third World. As leader of the Portuguese delegation she supported Third World countries against the Western bloc.

In making the appointment, President Eanes has preserved his image of evenhandedness. His earlier decision to dissolve Parliament was applauded by the right and opposed by the Socialists but his appointment of Miss Pintassilgo has pacified the left, which has a parliamentary majority, at the expense of the right.

