

I. Project on ^{+with} social movements {institutionation, management, restructuring}

① One of the key-questions in the of democracy is the capacity to give institutional dimensions to ^{existing} social movements.

They represent in today's world the capacity of blending traditional democratic institutions with ~~and~~ forms arising from the information society. At the individual ~~level~~, they are perceived as a way to ^{overcome} the alienation created by the mechanisms of the representative democracy.

② ~~In~~ Social movements are originated in the awareness of societal issues which concern directly a certain potential group of citizens. Regardless of their previous ideologies, those citizens inaugurate another form of intervention in society. They reshuffle the political party lines. Hence the difficulty met by the social movements to enter decisively in the decision-making process of society.

③ For a period of 10/15 years the social movements appeared as "protest" movements. They said whatever their concern was in a negative mode. Their expressions - more imaginative, more symbolic than the traditional mass movements of the representative democracy - add to that protest a note of novelty. This doesn't go without a certain perception of marginality by the current powers. Hence, the traditional problem of the "political ~~of~~ of the social movements.

④ Many social movements present still a fragmented existence in space, a sporadic intervention

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in time. Their internal coherence doesn't resist
often to the dominating powers of the bureaucratic
State, of the ~~the~~ ^{consecutive} society. And yet, they are
the basis of what some are calling with perse-
verance "the Third system", namely, a system
which goes beyond the traditional ideological
ly economics of capit. vs. soc. This Third sys-
tem is but one emerging reality in the political
scene. ~~But~~ The freshness of its approach and
the work it has accomplished so far create new
hopes + establish a sound basis for new demo-
cratic institutions.

⑤ Some questions remain acutely raised for
the social movements to find the adequate
institutional expression in the political field.
We may state that the key-questions are the
following:

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a) grass-root nature of social movements
as expression of direct democracy and
tremendous need for leadership which pre-
vents division in numberless ≠ factions;

b) definition of clear-cut boundaries of clear
specific issue vs. global approach of all pro-
blems in ~~into~~ planetary awareness (global
village)

c) social movements as born of the shortcomings
of the present forms of democracy vs. information
society as only framework capable of giving
to social movements their specific present
my them from falling into the traps of
forms of democracy



II. Relevancy In European / Portuguese society

- ① Sprouts of social moves have come up in many ways in P^o after the 25th April '74. They have taken different forms + had a "glorious" moment in 76/76. The political parties have, however, seen their presence as "opinion" though they have borrowed (many of) the ideas the social moves presented.
- ② The forms taken by the marginalisation of the emerging social moves have been varied, + subtle:
- a) lack of conventions or lack of adequate legislation from the State;
 - b) privileges of "clients" of political parties at the expenses of the acknowledgment of the importance of new grass-root groups + associations;
 - c) open criticism and ostracism using the m-m as a vehicle to manipulate public opinion;

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- ③ The evolution of Port. society shows in a naked form, the incapacity of ~~modern~~ traditional democratic institutions to pave the way for development, for a better life for all citizens and for an essential interaction with different groups in today's world.

- ④ The awareness of such situation led some well-known personalities to take the following steps:

a) in Jan '81 - establishment of a platform of emerging social moves, in order "to reach, from the effective social practice of each of them, the global issues at stake";



Jan '81 - ~~Jan~~ '83 — different attempts to consolidate such a platform and to reach consensus on ~~primary~~ ^{primary} issues of P. society (integration in EEC, choice in type of energy, ecological environment, regionalisation) were made through regular meetings + research work and sharing of experiences;

March '83 — public statement "Por um aprofundado da democracia" as a joint declaration of the groups + associations concerning the chaotic situation of the Port. democracy + its inability to answer to the needs of the people

May '83 — creation of the "Movimento p: o aprofundamento da democracia" which was intended to gather together individuals + groups involved in ~~the~~ embryonic forms of ~~the Third System~~, a social movement

May '83 - Oct '84 — several attempts to respond to the statutory obligations of the Movement and yet jeopardized by the combined effects of: continuous attack from the press + political parties, absence of firm leadership, interference of the emerging question of presidential elections

Oct '84 - Jan '86 — coalescence of the efforts of individuals linked to many groups + associations into the work + structure of the electoral campaign of UP

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⑤ A MP lost the elections, a great demobilization followed for the ~~free~~ masses of participants. However, in 8 of the 18 districts of the country political associations have been formed.

Objective of the project

To create the (research) study environment necessary to provide the emerging social movements with the basic tools to take their place in the information society and to express themselves in the new categories of such a society.

In this way, it is hoped that ^{these} social movements may create new forms of democracy + express themselves so as to be able to answer to the needs of the Port. people.



Organization of work

- ① The Institute will deal with the theoretical framework for the develop/ of the social movements (political association).
- ② ~~In~~ The priorities of the social movements will be taken up as subjects of research, in so far as they will relate specifically with the information society (impact of new technologies, blending possibilities in concrete cases, etc.)
- ③ The main focus of the interaction Institute/social movements will consist on a process of global learning designed by the Institute and of the secure of the people involved in the social movements.
- ④ Such an approach will imply:
 - a) that there will be regular meetings between leaders of social movements + ~~researchers~~ director of project at Institute;

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b) that the researchers will provide the members of the social groups with the results of their work, in academic form

c) that each researcher ^{will be} committed to the production of material for global learning of members of social groups and ~~in~~ the people they reach;

d) that regularly (twice a year) the researchers will meet with the field workers so that mutual questioning may happen
of

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IV. Budget

