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Row in Lisbon over future of ex-Premier

By OUR LISBON CORRESPONDENT

A MAJOR political row is brewing over the future of Portugal's outgoing Prime Minister, Senhora Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, 49, who was due to resume her post in Paris as Ambassador to Unesco following the election of the conservative governing alliance last month.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed yesterday that the Government had ordered Senhora Pintasilgo not to return to Paris only a few hours before she was due to go last weekend, while a leading weekly paper has pre-

dicted that she will be replaced despite moves by France and China to elect her president of Unesco's Council of Human Rights.

If Senhor Francisco Sá Carneiro, Prime Minister, insists on removing her he is likely to clash with President Américo Gomes, who retains certain constitutional powers in the selection and dismissal of ambassadors.

The issue, which has been building up for weeks, could also lead to a row in Parliament because the government assured the electors during the campaign that it would not start a *vingança* in the public service if it came to power.

