

469
 PH/1.2/6
 23/8/79

Senhor Ministro dos Negócios Estrangeiros

Excelência

Reacções da imprensa
 holandesa à formação
 do V Governo Consti-
 tucional.

Tenho a honra de levar ao conhecimento de V. Exa. alguns dos comentários e reacções desta imprensa à escolha da Enga Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo para o cargo de Primeiro-Ministro. Em relação a dois dos referidos artigos ("De Volkskrant", de 24/7 e "NRC Handelsblad", de 1/8) paraceu-nos oportuno enviar-lhe o envio das suas traduções integrais na versão inglesa.

a) "NRC Handelsblad" (liberal independente):

I) - "Portugal: talvez um Primeiro-Ministro feminino" - 19/7 (prov. Reuter). Informa que vários círculos políticos portugueses admitem a hipótese da Enga Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo - actualmente a desempenhar o cargo de representante português na UNESCO - poder vir a ser ingitgada para Primeiro-Ministro. Comunica que a referida personalidade, católica, não pertence a qualquer partido político.

II) "Uma mulher dirige o Gabinete Português" - 20/7. (prov. Reuter). Comunica que os partidos políticos reagiram diferentemente à escolha de Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo para o cargo de Primeiro-Ministro: enquanto socialistas e comunistas se abstiveram de formular críticas, os partidos do centro e da direita teriam expressado uma não confiança política no novo responsável pelo Governo Português.

b) "De Telegraaf" (liberal independente). "Portugal

.../...

.../...

tem uma mulher como Primeiro-Ministro" - 20/7 (prov. Reuter, AP). Informa que o Presidente Eanes convidou Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo para constituir o novo gabinete que terá como principal missão a preparação das eleições intercalares que se deverão efectuar em Outubro próximo. Comunica que os partidos do centro e da direita levantaram sérias dúvidas quanto à isenção política do actual Primeiro-Ministro que consideram ferveroso adepto da abertura em relação ao Terceiro-Mundo e muito conectado com alguns círculos da esquerda portuguesa.

c) "Het Vaderland" (independente de direita). "Já acidi do. Uma mulher como Primeiro-Ministro" - 20/7. (prov. AP, Reuter). Aponta que Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo foi a pessoa escolhida pelo Presidente Eanes para ocupar o lugar de Primeiro-Ministro, numa tentativa para pôr termo à crise política aberta com a demissão de Mota Pinto. Indica que Nuno Abecassis e Ângelo Correia teriam formulado severas críticas à escolha feita por Eanes.

d) "De Volkskrant" (católico de esquerda). "Uma mulher nomeada Primeiro-Ministro em Portugal" - 20/7 (prov. Reuter, AP). Comunica que o então Embaixador de Portugal na UNESCO, Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, aceitara o convite feito pelo Presidente Eanes. Afirma que a escolha de Eanes não foi muito bem recebida pelos círculos da direita portuguesa (PSD: surpresa; CDS: não a considerando a pessoa mais indicada para tentar solucionar a crise política) que teriam preferido recorrer a eleições antecipadas. Os comunistas e socialistas teriam apoiado a referida escolha, considerando as capacidades e a isenção política de Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo como garantes de um governo apartidário.

Com os melhores cumprimentos



De Volkskrant 24/7/79



Pintassilgo "too controversial"

IN PORTUGAL NEW PRIME MINISTER MAKES THE PEOPLE OF THE RIGHT
NERVOUS

"A controversial person who never hides her sympathies for progressive ideas. She is clearly progressive and orientated towards the Third World". That is how the extreme right Portuguese paper O Pais describes Mrs. Pintassilgo, who last Thursday had been appointed prime minister by president Eanes.

Like most other right papers O Pais had few good words to say about Mrs. Pintassilgo. They were also shocked about the fact that the new prime minister had in the past been in favour of legalisation of abortion, a delicate subject in catholic Portugal, against which the church has always opposed strongly. The nomination of Maria de Lurdes Pintassilgo has also provoked criticism from the right politicians. The management of the PSD, the Social Democratic Party has announced that the PSD will certainly not take part in the transtional cabinet of Mrs. Pintassilgo and that the members of parliament of the PSD will introduce a motion of no-confidence against the new cabinet Pintassilgo. The leader of the PSD, Francisco Sa Carneiro, declared that Mrs. Pintassilgo stood very close to the "anti-democratic socialists of the Revolutionary Council" and that her nomination had been a "plan of the president to introduce a military regime in Portugal with the apporval of the socialists and the communists."

Discreet

It is indeed true that the nomination of Mrs. Pintassilgo had been made by the discreet proposal from two of the members of the Revolutionary Council, colonel Vitor Alves and colonel Melo Antunes. The Revolutionary Council, also called the Council of the nine, is a remainder from the time of the

carnation revolution and has the task to "watch over the revolutionary attainments". This Revolutionary Council is a thorn in the flesh of the right parties and of the right generals who would like to see this Council disappear as soon as possible. Only a month ago the right offensive took place with a military processs against major Vaso Lourenço, member of the council.

However it remains to be seen if Maria Pintassilgo will again lead Portugal on a more revolutionary road, which the right groups fear for. The 49 old chemist Pintassilgo is more a moderate progressive catholic. She is not a member of any political party and has had several functions in the trade and industry since the fifties. In 1961 Mrs. Pintassilgo joined the Graal Order, a catholic order for layment. She lives in a small community whose members pay their salaries into a collective fund.

At the end of the sixties Mrs. Pintssilgo acted as functionary of the Vatican that had to maintain relations between the Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches. In 1974 she had been undersecretary in the Portuguese government and in 1975 minister of Social Affairs. From the end of 1975 until now she had been the Portuguese representative at the Unesco in Paris.

Maria Pintassilgo, after her nomination of prime minister, has declared to start direct discussions with "the whole Portuguese population and not only with the political parties". According to her, political life in Portugal has too many idealogies". She thinks that this is also one of the most important reasons for the permanent political crisis in Portugal where "social problems are presented as unsurmountable idealogic contrasts".

The right criticism of Pintassilgo's nomination has something ironic when one thinks that it had been the right parties to insist on early elections by president Eanes which



resulted in the nomination of Pintassilgo. After the business cabinet of Mota Pinto had been voted against on June 6th by the left majority in the Portuguese parliament president Eanes could choose from two resolutions: either a new cabinet with the support from parliament or early elections with a period of a hundred days to be overbridged until those elections, by a "neutral government". Eanes chose for the latter, very much against the wish of the socialist leader Mario Soares, who together with the left dissidents from the PSD would have liked to form a cabinet. It might be an obstacle for Eanes and for Maria Pintasilgo that the parliament has to give its approval for the "neutral cabinet" before being dissolved. The right parties will probably not give that approval. The Social-Democratic Party (PSD) and the Democratic Social Centrum (CDS) understand by a "neutral" cabinet, a cabinet that settles the current affairs of the cabinet Mota Pinto. Those current affairs are: the restoration of the in 1974 nationalised land to the owners and reducing socialists and communists from the management apparatus and press media. Mrs. Pintassilgo will probably not have the same interpretation of a "neutral" policy. She wants to introduce a new style in the political life of Portugal with her "cabinet of a hundred days". A style that will make it possible for the Portuguese people to decide freely about who should reign over Portugal in the coming years. It is hard to say if Mrs. Pintassilgo will succeed in settling the current affairs during her hundred days. Anyhow, the left parties and especially the communists will support Mrs. Pintassilgo.



NRC Handelsblad 4/8/79

NOT MUCH ELBOW ROOM FOR PORTUGALS LITTLE GOLDFINCH

by Eppo Jansen

It does not occur very often that a military man asks a woman to do a job for him. The nomination of Maria de Lurdes Pintassilgo as prime minister by the Head of State general Eanes is therefore remarkable. More so because it concerns a woman that has definitely more to offer the feminists than the British Margaret Yhatcher.

The this week newly installed cabinet (former without the political parties) of Maria de Lurdes Pintassilgo will have as main task the preparation of parliament elections next November. That is why the first female prime-minister in Southern Europe has not much elbow-room.

The appearance of Pintasilgo, whose name means goldfinch, remembers us of one of the most touching paintings in the museum the Mauritshuis, "the goldfinch" by C. Fabritius (from 1654). The painting represents a somewhat melancholic looking birds that is chained and has only a little space to fly.

Graal

The symbolism is obvious. However, there is another link with the Netherlands. During a visit in the sixties, Pintassilgo for the first time made acquaintance with the catholic women-movement Graal, of which she is a well liked member. This laymen movement dedicated itself in Portugal especially to the illiteracy that still largely exists. Graal just held a meeting in Lisbon on the day that Pintassilgo, until now ambassador at the UNESCO in Paris, was appointed prime minister and felt therefore in a triumphant mood.



For the rest it would not be right to suppose that the nomination of a woman to prime minister of the "Portugal from after the carnation revolution" has not a special signification. This revolution might have deeply interfered with society, but nevertheless the classic image of the man has emerged nearly undamaged.

People have to get used to it. The important paper *Diario de Noticias* dedicated these days a very serious article - referring to several experts - about the question how the new prime minister should be called - "primeira ministra - or "primeiro ministro". The paper chose the latter with the suggestion to address Pintassilgo as "senhora primeiro ministro".

Pintassilgo (49) who has never been member of a political, is generally considered as a "catholic from the left with a fighting spirit". She is even said to have progressive ideas about abortus, although such a serious problem as abortus (very much discussed at the moment in Portugal) would be so to say the last problem that she is supposed to solve during her "hundred days".

Pintassilgo has good relations with several leftist military men from the Revolutionary Council, such as the ex-minister of Foreign Affairs Melo Antunes. Through him she met president Eanes with whom, in the course of time, she built up a confidential relationship.

Her leftist sympathy and her connection with the group Melo Antunes have been the reason that the appointment of Pintassilgo has provoked, already from the beginning, very hostile reactions from the right parties, the christian democrats (CDS) of Freitas do Amaral and the social democrats (PSD) of Sa Carneiro, who lately have been acting together within the "Democratic Alliance".

They accuse her of marxist ideas, of wanting to maintain the special rôle of the military men within the portuguese policy and of wanting to introduce Third World con-



ceptions. The latter is a clear indication to the supposed influence of Melo Antunes who is strongly hated by the right.

The CDS and PSD also have their doubts about the ability of the cabinet Pintassilgo to organize the coming elections in an impartial way.

That the cabinet is a little leftist has certainly been the intention of Eanes. He knew that when he decided some weeks ago to by-elections as a way out of the dragging political crisis, he met the desires of the "right".

Especially Sa Carneiro, already for a long time, insists on those elections, of which he is expecting a considerable gain. The socialists, on the contrary, were strongly against those elections that would probably mean a loss for them. They took it ill of Eanes that he did not form a cabinet which would have the support in parliament of the votes of the socialists and the "dissident" social democrats who left the PSD because they did not agree with the Sa Carneiro policy and have now set up their own "association" (ASDI).

Everything indicates the fact that such a majority cabinet could have been possible if the president had given the green light. Apparently Eanes thought such a cabinet too disputed and feeble a case that would have risked the already little stability of the political life even more. Apart from that the members of parliament of the ASDI are politically seen in a kind of vacuum, for the supporters of the PSD, who helped the dissidents in the parliament, stand for the greater part behind Sa Carneiro.

To maintain the impression that he wants to stand politically in the middle, Eanes had to make a gesture towards "the left". Hence the government Pintassilgo. The president has also satisfied the "left" by refusing the demands for a referendum requested by the Democratic Alliance. Such a referendum should have made it possible that because of the elections in November those of 1980 would not have been necessary anymore. This referendum should make it also possible that the



parliament chosen next autumn would already study the revision of the leftist constitution, which according to this constitution is only allowed after 1980. That revision means a delicate problem which will occasion the political parties a lot of brain-racking.

Constitution

However Eanes did not yield, undoubtedly with the approval of most specialists in constitutional law, for the Portuguese constitution does not give the possibility of a referendum.

The consequence however is, that Portugal will start in November to go through an election flush of 18 months. Maybe flush is too strong a word, because the tired population has no enthusiasm left anymore. Anyhow the country will get in one and a half year, two parliament elections, one municipal election (December 1979) and one presidential election (1981). This will be a heavy test for the young democracy.

Undoubtedly all those political crisis in Portugal of the last time made the question of how the country should really be reigned more important than the contents of the government policy. This leads to a permanent unrest.

The new prime minister Pintassilgo in an interview with the O Jornal spoke these wise words "We have not yet succeeded in finding a way of government, that appeals to the rights and obligations of our own people".

