

Proposed interview with the Prime Minister, Ex^{ma} Senhora Eng.^a Maria de Lourdes
Pintassilgo Jill Jolliffe, Guardian

1. Your government has pledged to ease the effects of austerity measures imposed by the IMF under the first agreement. A new agreement is about to be negotiated. Do you expect better terms? If not, how can you lighten the economic burden of the average Portuguese?
2. How do you see the overall state of the economy?
3. You also pledged to take emergency steps to solve the most pressing problems of Sines. Have these measures already begun?
4. You've been quick to deny claims that you're the instrument of a presidentialist project, but for some people the evidence looks strong—you're close to the President and to some members of the Revolutionary Council, and have no public links with any political party. Do you think there's a danger the parliamentary parties will be devalued?
5. Do you think a presidentialist party is undemocratic in concept?
6. You've expressed concern about the problem of illegal abortions in Portugal, and the need for a full national debate. Nevertheless, prosecutions are continuing under your government (for example, the case of Conceição dos Santos scheduled for October). Given that change seems desirable, when and how can it come about?
7. Do you think the status of Portuguese women has improved since 1974?
8. You seem to enjoy your job. Is that so?
9. Are you satisfied that the military accepts that its interventions in political life are a thing of the past? Will a national defence law assist in defining the relationship between military and civilians?
10. Being Prime Minister of a 100-day government is not a job every professional politician would choose. Do you think you have a future political role to play in Portugal? Or will you go back to the diplomatic world?

