



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 August 1979

Dea Bryan,

*FCO informed.
By 7/8 p.m.*

Prime Minister

Agree to send this message?

*Yes
6/8
mb*

PORTUGAL: MESSAGE TO THE NEW PRIME MINISTER

On 19 July the President of Portugal nominated Senhorita Maria de Lurdes Pintasilgo as Prime Minister.

Senhorita Pintasilgo was appointed following the President's decision on 13 July to dissolve the Assembly of the Republic and to hold early elections, which will probably take place in November. She was until recently the Portuguese representative at UNESCO and will be the third "technocrat" Prime Minister in Portugal since October 1978. A message of congratulation was sent by the then Prime Minister on the appointment of the outgoing Prime Minister, Dr Mota Pinto; the latter sent the Prime Minister a telegram of congratulation on her appointment in May.

There is no absolute necessity for a message of congratulation to the new Portuguese Prime Minister but the absence of one might be noted and a message would doubtless give pleasure - Senhorita Pintasilgo will be Portugal's first woman Prime Minister. I enclose a draft telegram to Lisbon.

*Jan evn.
Steph*

(J S Wall)

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Mr Bullard

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[TEXT]

YOUR TELNO 219: MESSAGE TO NEW PRIME MINISTER

1. Please deliver the following message from the Prime Minister to Senhorita Pintasilgo.

Begins

Please accept my warm congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister of Portugal. I have every confidence that the close friendship and cooperation between our two countries will continue.

Ends.

2. Please report delivery of message.