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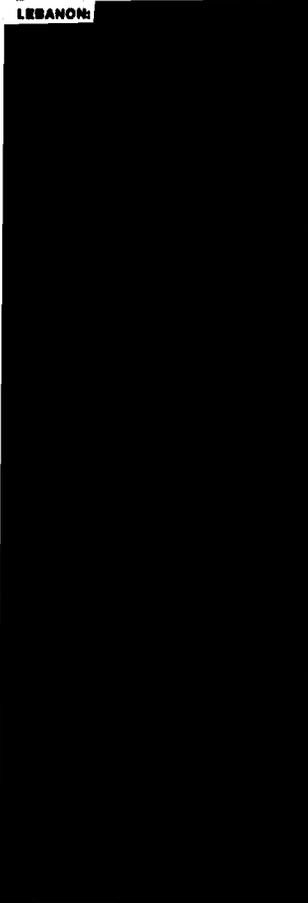
WEDNESDAY MAY 19, 1976

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TCS 543/76

In The Daily

LEBANON:



PORTUGAL: The Communists have nominated their second-ranking official as a candidate for president. He has no chance of winning, but he and two obscure candidates on the far left—along with possible right-wing entries—may win enough votes to force a runoff between the two leading contenders, Army Chief of Staff Eanes and Prime Minister Azevedo. (Page 1)



Portugal: Communist Candidate

The Portuguese Communist Party yesterday nominated its number two official, Octavio Pato, as a candidate for president in Portugal's election on June 27. Neither Pato nor two obscure candidates chosen last week by the far left have any chance of winning, but along with possible rightwing entries, they could attract enough votes to force a runoff between the two leading contenders, Army Chief of Staff Eanes and

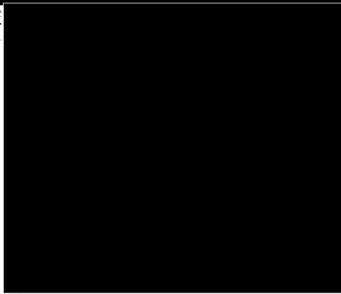
Prime Minister Azevedo.

Eanes' announcement on Friday that, if elected, he will choose Socialist leader Mario Soares as his prime minister will consolidate his support among members of the Socialist Party, which polled a plurality in the legislative election last month.

Prime Minister Azevedo does not have the support of any formal party organization, but he is a popular figure in Por-

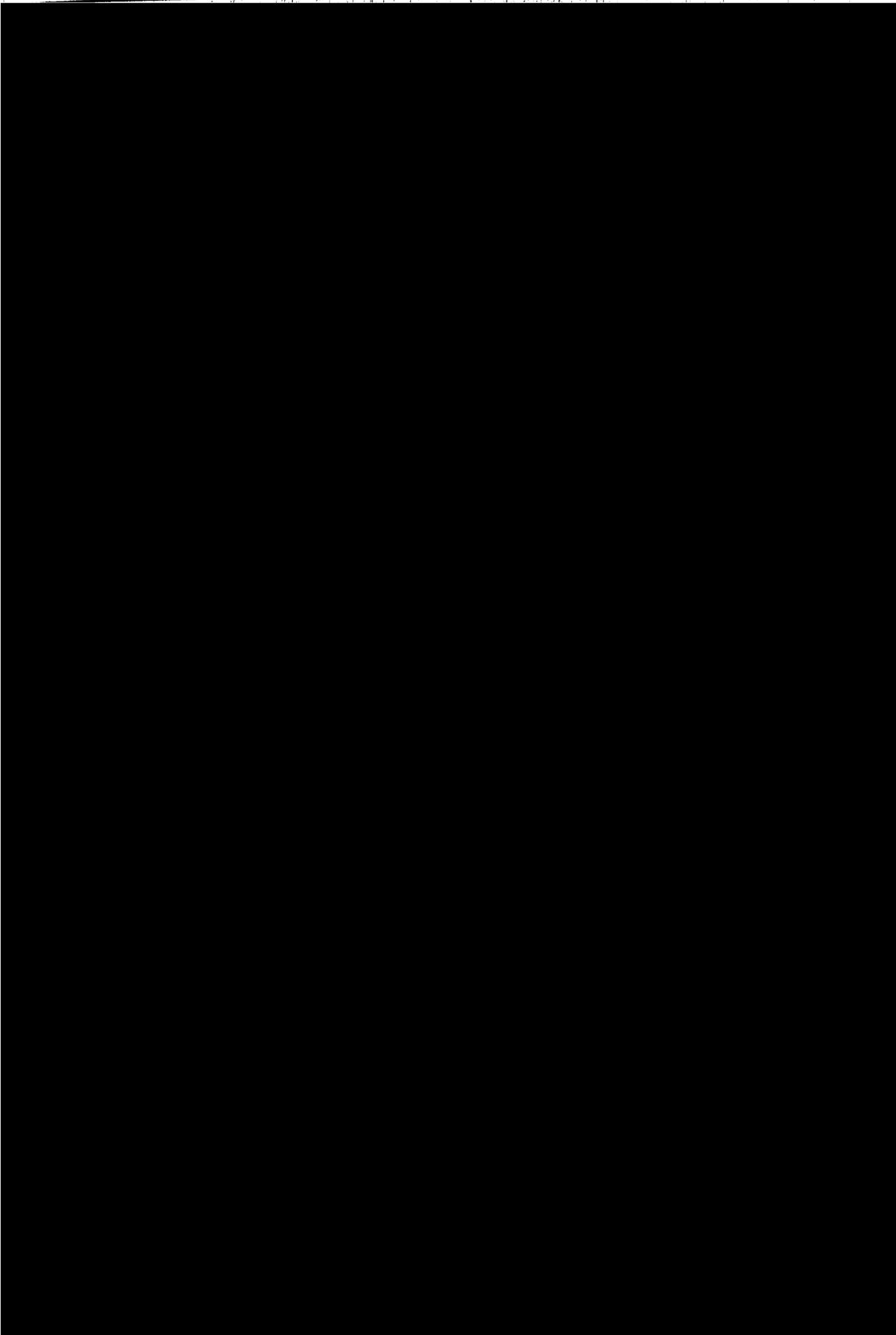
tugal, and his forceful style will make him an attractive candidate. He reportedly intends to focus heavily on his record as prime minister, but he will be hampered by his difficulty in attracting high-level endorsements and by his failure so far to put together an effective organization. An appeal to members of the cabinet last week to support his presidential candidacy apparently fell on deaf ears.

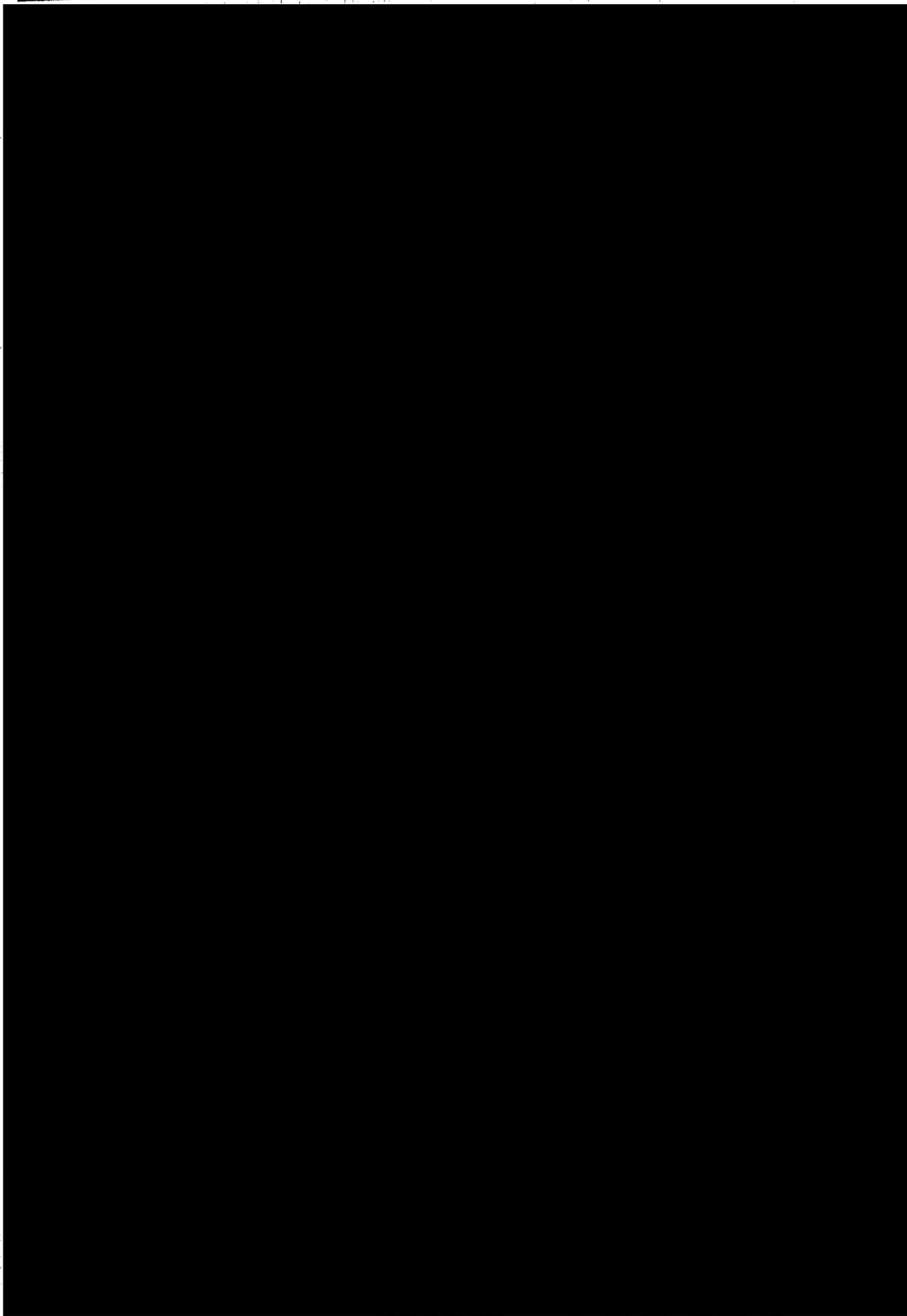
The absence of a declared Communist candidate appeared to assure Azevedo of a large number of Communist votes in his
(See Portugal. . . Page 4)

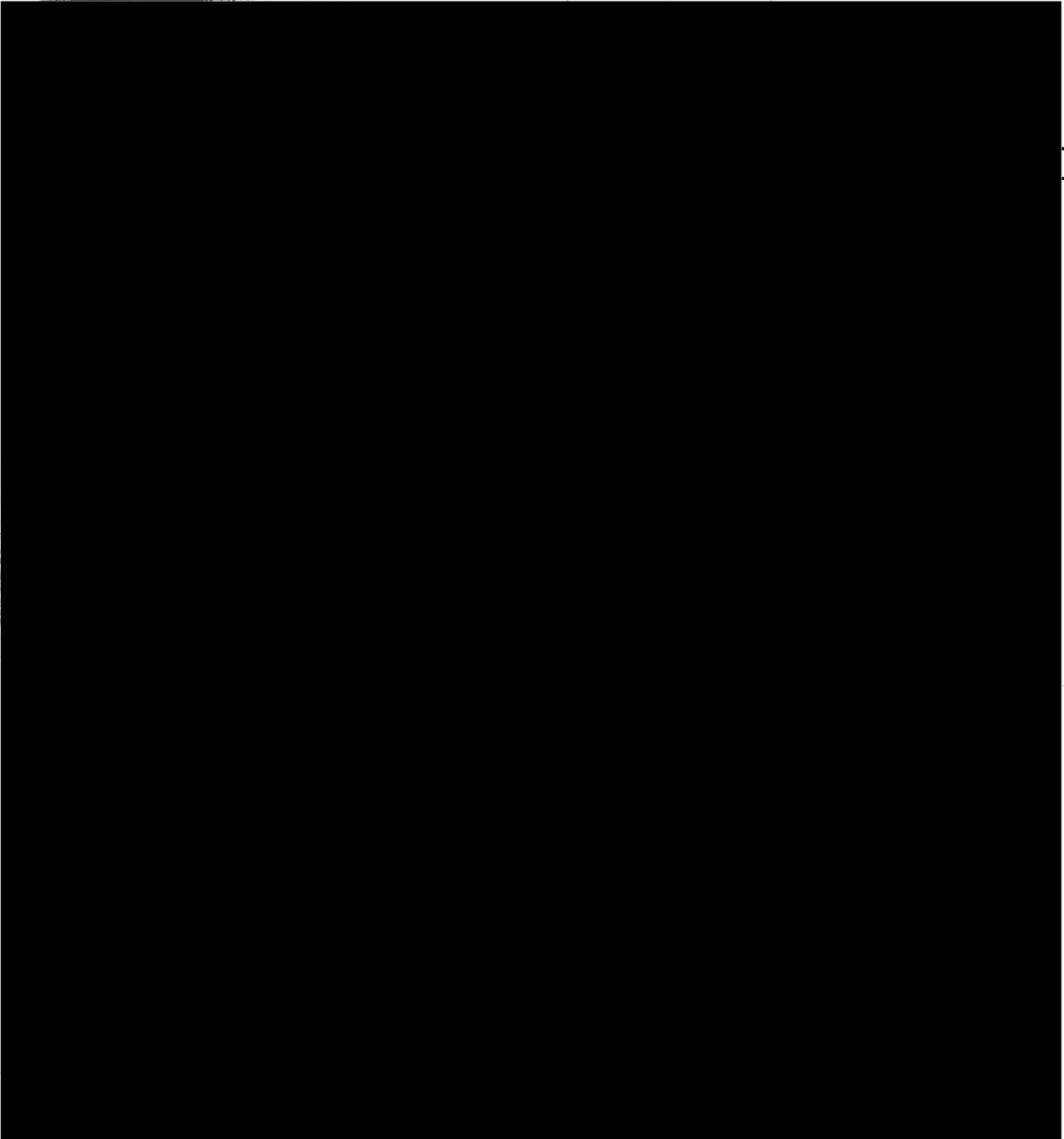


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Portugal. . .

From Page 1
bid to stop the more conservative General Eanes. Azevedo, however, apparently intended to run a strong anti-Communist campaign, and this probably helped party chief Cunhal decide to put forward Pato.

Azevedo's failure to sound out the political parties and the military before announcing his candidacy was a serious tactical error, and some

attribute his problems to the absence of good political advisers. The death of Azevedo's chief adviser earlier this year is said to have cost him the support of the Socialist Party.

In contrast, a blue-ribbon election committee is supporting Eanes. It contains leaders of the three major democratic parties, as well as some of Portugal's most prominent newspaper editors and columnists.

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