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EUROPEAN BRIEF

## 1. PORTUGAL:

THE INAUGURATION ON WEDNESDAY OF GENERAL ANTONIO RAMALHO EANES AS PRESIDENT OF PORTUGAL BEGINS A NEW PHASE IN THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION. THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO AN ELECTED LEADER IS EXPECTED TO GO SMOOTHLY, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF POSSIBLE DISRUPTIVE EFFORTS BY THE LEFT.

AS ONE OF HIS FIRST ACTS AS PRESIDENT, EANES IS EXPECTED TO APPOINT SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES PRIME MINISTER. SOARES IS COMMITTED TO FORMING A MINORITY GOVERNMENT BUT HAS GIVEN NO HINTS ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE CABINET.

SOARES MAY BE HAVING SOME TROUBLE PUTTING TOGETHER A QUALIFIED TEAM OF SOCIALISTS, INDEPENDENTS, AND MILITARY OFFICERS. SOME BETTER KNOWN ECONOMISTS, FOR INSTANCE, HESITATE TO RISK THEIR REPUTATIONS BY PARTICIPATING IN A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL HAVE TO MAKE MANY TOUGH ECONOMIC DECISIONS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

HOPING TO SPREAD THE BLAME FOR UNPOPULAR MEASURES

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THAT WILL BE REQUIRED, THE SOCIALISTS ARE PRESSING TO GET POLITICALLY SENSITIVE LEGISLATION OUT OF THE WAY WHILE THE OLD GOVERNMENT IS STILL IN OFFICE.4

SOME OF THE LEGISLATION HAS BEEN HASTILY CONCEIVED. POORLY PLANNED MEASURES TO REDUCE THE CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY HAVE INCLUDED DAILY POWER CUTS THAT ARE WREAKING HAVOC IN MANY INDUSTRIES, FORCING MANAGEMENT TO REVISE WORKING HOURS AND ADDING TO THE STRAINS IN RELATIONS WITH LABOR.4

PROBABLY THE MOST SENSITIVE LEGISLATION PUSHED THROUGH IN RECENT DAYS DEFINES THE ROLE OF WORKERS' COMMISSIONS--ORGANIZATIONS ELECTED BY THE WORKERS WHICH HAVE ASSUMED VIRTUAL CONTROL OF SOME INDUSTRIES. THE NEW LAW RESTRICTS THE COMMISSIONS TO A MONITORING ROLE AND PROHIBITS THEM FROM IMPEDING A COMPANY'S NORMAL OPERATIONS.4

IN A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE TROUBLE THAT AWAITS THE NEW GOVERNMENT, THE COMMUNISTS AND THE LABOR CONFEDERATION THEY CONTROL HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS DEPLORING THE NEW LAW AND SERVING NOTICE THAT THE WORKERS WILL NOT TOLERATE BEING ROBBED OF THEIR

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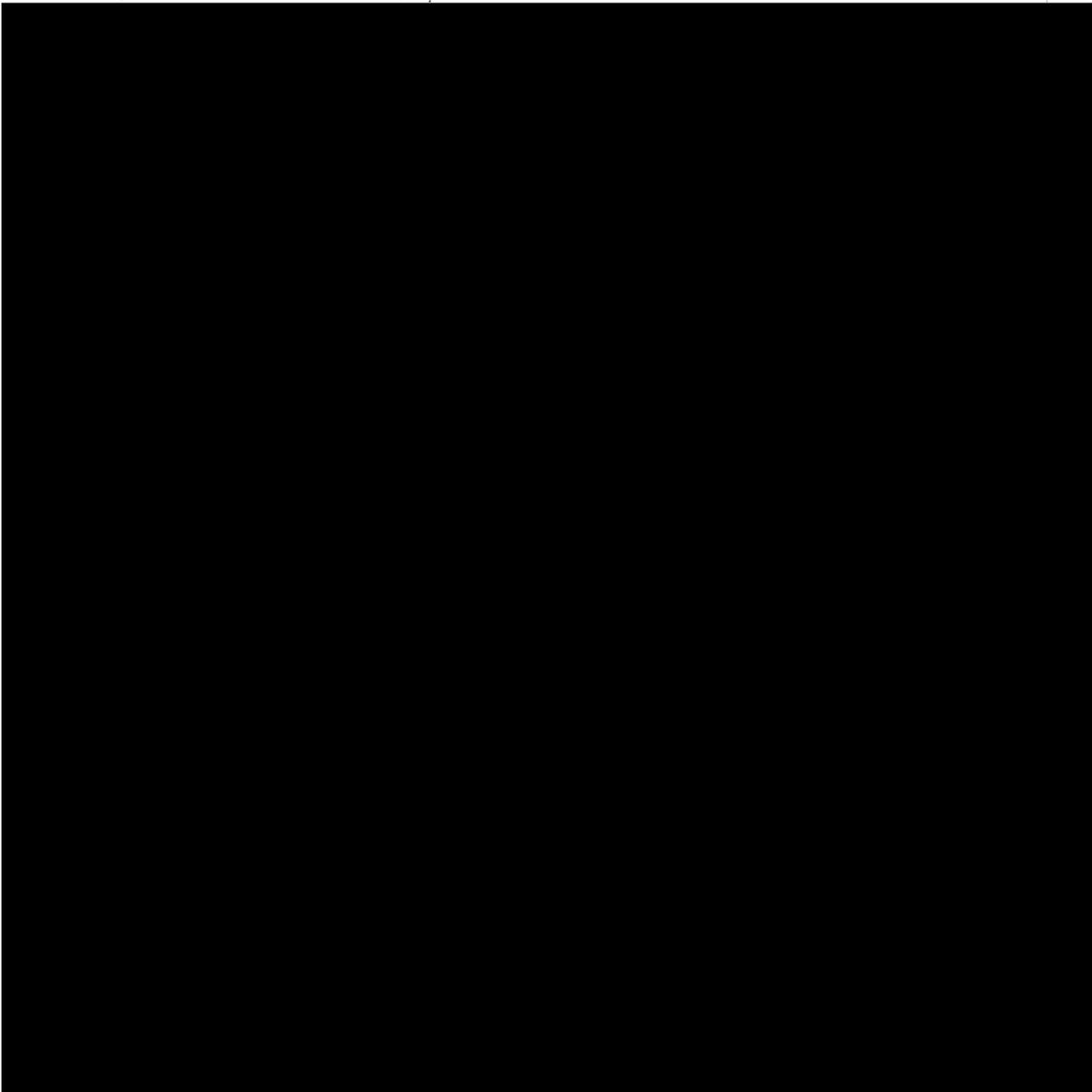
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"RIGHT TO CONTROL MANAGEMENT."



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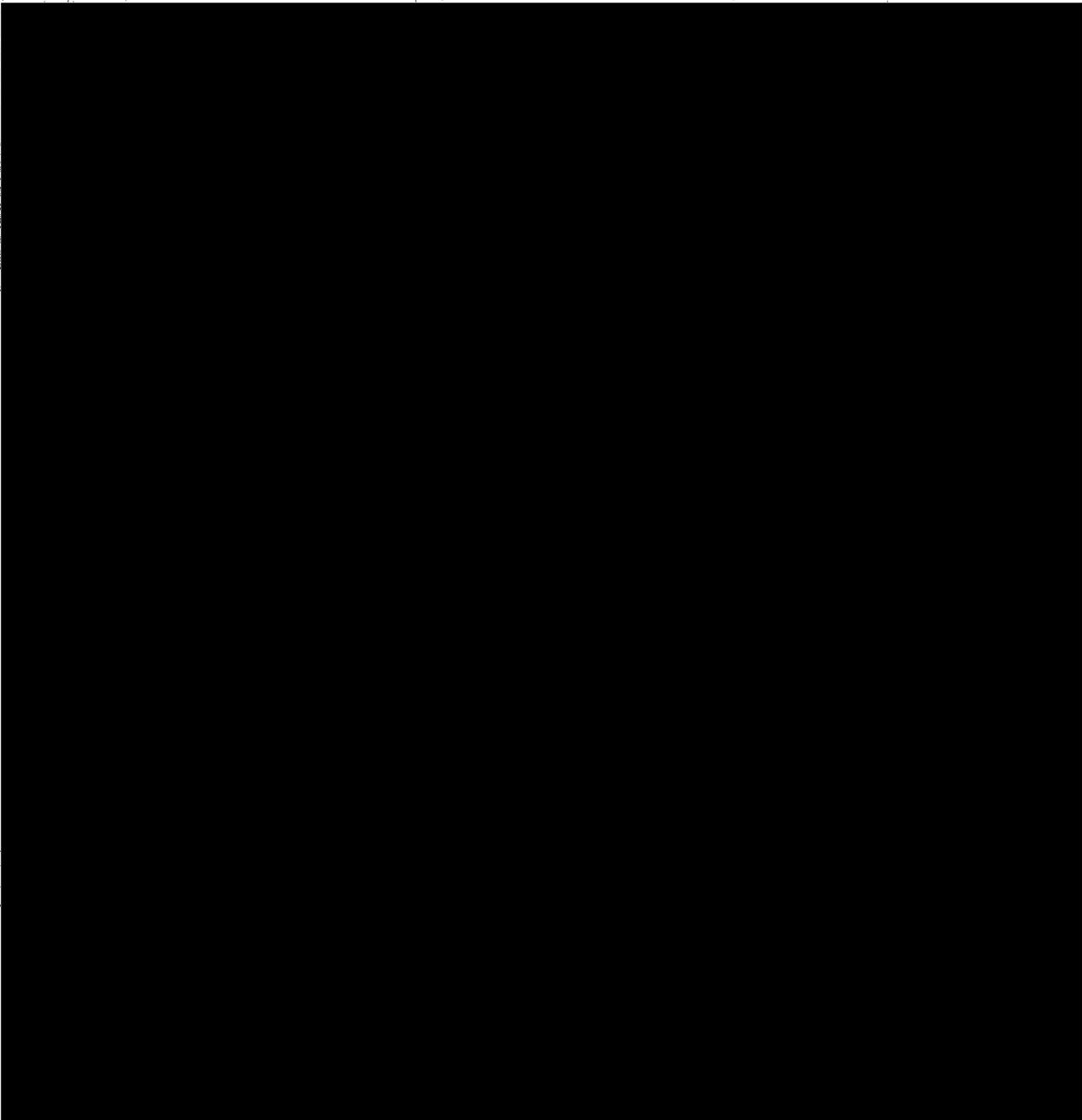
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