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Monday June 28, 1976

CI NIDC 76-151C

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Monday, June 28, 1976.
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PORTUGAL

Portuguese army chief Antonio Ramalho Eanes won a landslide victory over his three opponents in the presidential election yesterday. There will be no need for a run-off election.

Eanes won more than 60 percent of the vote. Far left candidate Otelo de Carvalho placed second with about 17 percent and Prime Minister Azevedo received some 14 percent. Communist Party candidate Octavio Pato was fourth with 8 percent.

Eanes had the backing and organizational assistance of the three major political parties--the Socialists, the centrist Popular Democrats, and the conservative Social Democratic Center. Together, these parties accounted for 75 percent of the vote in the legislative election in April. Eanes received less than that amount in part because of the low voter turnout yesterday; about 73 percent of the voters went to the polls as compared with 83 percent in April.

Some voters were unsure of Eanes' political views. The army chief has generally been considered to be conservative, and much of his campaign rhetoric advocated a return to law and order and solving Portugal's serious economic problems through hard work by all citizens.

At the same time, however, Eanes endorsed a Portuguese brand of socialism and agrarian reform policies that raised suspicions among more conservative party and military backers. Despite some defections from the Popular Democrats and the Social Democratic Center, the parties decided there was no better candidate.

The parties believe Eanes has the best chance to maintain discipline in the military during his five-year term and to ensure the support of the armed forces for Portugal's still fragile democratic institutions.

