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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Saturday May 29, 1976 CI NIDC 76-127C

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
 DATE: SEP 2000

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E2 IMPDET

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Saturday May 29, 1976.  
//Slants indicate Nofor// Classification abbreviations precede  
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PORTUGAL

██████████ Four candidates of national stature met the filing deadline yesterday for Portugal's presidential election on June 27, but the campaign is likely to be primarily a personality contest between Prime Minister Azevedo and army chief General Eanes.

██████████ Eanes is the early favorite by virtue of the endorsements he has received from the three major political parties--the Socialists, the centrist Popular Democrats, and the conservative Social Democratic Center--as well as from two groups on the far left. He is also counting on support from much of the military.

██████████ Eanes' initial public appearances have raised some concern, however, that his reticence and austere appearance may severely limit his popular appeal.

██████████ Prime Minister Azevedo, in contrast, moves easily among the people and is widely credited with repulsing Communist-backed bids for power last year.

██████████ Pato probably would have withdrawn from the race if the Communists had been able to convince President Costa Gomes to run. If a runoff vote appears unlikely, Pato may still pull out of the competition and throw Communist votes to whichever candidate the party decides will be most sympathetic to its interests. ██████████

