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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Saturday June 26, 1976

CI NIDC 76-150C

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~~NOFORN- Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Saturday, June 26, 1976.
//Slants indicate Noforn// Classification abbreviations precede
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PORTUGAL

██████████ Portuguese army chief Ramalho Eanes is the clear favorite in the presidential election scheduled for tomorrow. Should he fail to obtain a first ballot majority, he will be forced within three weeks into a runoff with the second place finisher.

██████████ The vote would be called off if Prime Minister Azevedo, who suffered a severe heart attack Wednesday, should die before the polls close tomorrow evening. Latest medical reports, however, describe his condition as improving.

██████████ The effect Azevedo's incapacitation will have on the voting is unclear, although it could lead to a reduced turnout. The campaign had been rather colorless until the final week when the Prime Minister stepped up his personal attacks on front-runner Eanes.

██████████ General Eanes is favored to win a clear majority and avoid a runoff, but he could be hurt by a low voter turnout, which would tend to favor the two leftist candidates--former security chief Otelo de Carvalho and Communist central committee member Octavio Pato. Eanes expects to pick up some of Azevedo's support, but many of the Prime Minister's backers and lukewarm Eanes supporters may stay home in the belief that the army chief's victory is now assured.

██████████ Prime Minister Azevedo was expected to wage the most effective campaign against Eanes, but his campaign failed to get off the ground and, barring a large sympathy vote, his illness is likely to remove him from the running.

██████████ Carvalho, on the other hand, has emerged as something of a dark horse, often attracting enthusiastic crowds twice as large as those turning out for Eanes. Some public opinion polls reportedly have showed that Carvalho had overtaken Azevedo even before the latter's heart attack.

██████████ Socialist leader Soares, whom Eanes says he will name prime minister, claims he will have a government selected and ready to take office as soon as he is officially designated. The new government may not take over until mid-July, however, and their program may not be through the legislature until late July or early August. ██████████