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FM LISBON 071733Z OCT

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 202 OF 08 OCTOBER 1980

INFO SAVING UKREP BRUSSELS, MADRID, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON, D13(WEST)MOD, PARIS, BONN.

MY TELNO 198: ELECTION RESULTS

1. THE FULL PROVISIONAL RESULTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE FOR THE FOUR EMIGRANTS SEATS OF WHICH LAST YEAR THE ALLIANCE WON THREE AND THE SOCIALISTS ONE. THE RESULTS ARE:-

	PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	SEATS
DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE	47.1	131
SOCIALISTS	28.0	73
COMMUNISTS	16.9	41
UDP	1.4	1

2. THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE THUS HAVE A MAJORITY OF 16 (WHICH MAY RISE TO 19 AFTER THE EMIGRANTS RESULTS ARE ANNOUNCED). THE COMMUNISTS HAVE LOST SEVEN SEATS (THREE OF THEM IN THEIR TRADITIONAL STRONGHOLD LISBON) AND ABOUT 2% OF THE POPULAR VOTE. THEY HAVE BEEN QUICK TO POINT OUT HOWEVER THAT THEY STILL MANAGED TO ATTRACT OVER A MILLION VOTES. THE ALLIANCE MADE THEIR SIX GAINS IN THE NORTH, IN LISBON AND THE AZORES. THE SOCIALISTS (WHO SHOULD HAVE GAINED SEATS WITH THE FORMATION OF THEIR COALITION WITH ASDI AND UEDS) HAVE IN FACT LOST SEVEN SEATS.

3. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT SA CARNEIRO WILL NOT BE TENDERING HIS RESIGNATION TO THE PRESIDENT AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTEND TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE AND TO PRESENT A MOTION OF CONFIDENCE TO THE NEW ASSEMBLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ONLY AFTER THE NEW PRESIDENT IS ELECTED AND SWORN IN IN JANUARY WILL THERE BE A GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL THEN PRESENT A FULL PROGRAMME TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC.

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4. THE GOVERNMENT ARGUE THAT THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT SPECIFY WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN WHEN A GOVERNMENT IN OFFICE WINS A RENEWED MAJORITY. THEY HAVE SAID THAT THEY BELIEVE IT WILL BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST FOR THEM TO STAY IN OFFICE. THIS VIEW CHALLENGES THAT TAKEN UNANIMOUSLY BY THE COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION (OF WHICH EANES IS CHAIRMAN) AT A MEETING LAST WEEK AT WHICH IT WAS DECIDED THAT IF THE ALLIANCE WON THE ELECTIONS SA CARNEIRO SHOULD RESIGN AND BE RE-APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT. BUT I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF EANES SHOULD NOW DECIDE TO DISMISS AND THEN RE-APPOINT THE GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BE A CUMBERSOME AND TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVINGS ADDRESSEES

MORAN

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

FCO/WHITEHALL
SED

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

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