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international briefs

The "New Portugal"; Spinola's Dignification Program

August 2 (IPS) — In the wake of the brutal crushing of the Portuguese mass-strike wave, "liberal" fascist General Antonio de Spinoła has unveiled a mass brain-washing/self-policing program designed explicitly to lure unruly Portuguese workers into believing Spinoła's "New Portugal" demagogy.

Speaking at a ministerial swearing-in ceremony last week, Spinoła announced his new "social plan into which Portuguese society will have to mold itself and which the Portuguese themselves "will map out." He also called for a "social pact constituted in discipline and obedience to the laws."

Wielding the psychological warfare techniques at which he is adept, Spinoła concluded with an emotional appeal to the Portuguese to participate willingly in his Mediterranean Reich. Spinoła said: "We propose opening up the way for the **dignification** of the Portuguese people through the intermediary of the perfect and complete realization of each citizen through his parti-

cipation in the political life of the community, and this we will do."

Affixing the "people's" stamp of approval to Spinoła's plan, Prime Minister Alvelino Pacheco Goncalves, a leading member of the Portuguese Communist Party, spoke next. Echoing Spinoła, Goncalves emphasized that "adhesion of private enterprise to national reconstruction is a necessary condition for the modernization of the economy." In other words — fascist "rationalization" to make massive slave-labor projects feasible and profitable.

Role of the Press

Goncalves pointed to the indispensable role of the news media in "educating" the population to become "New Portuguese." The news media, commented Goncalves, "will be a powerful stimulus for the education and localization of wills in the building of a new Portugal Political parties and civic associations must take part in that same task."

Plague Stalks Advanced Sector

August 2 (IPS) — As living standards break down worldwide, especially in health care and sanitation, epidemics usually associated with the Middle Ages and the under-developed sector are now raging through parts of Western Europe. A cholera epidemic is ravaging Portugal. The outbreak, which originated in the south and quickly spread to the rest of the country, has claimed nearly a dozen lives. So far, nearly 800 cases have been reported; more can be expected as living conditions continue to deteriorate under General Antonio de Spinoła's

fascist regime.

In Italy the health situation has so degenerated recently that the number of cases of amoebic dysentery, typhus, epidemic meningitis, and viral hepatitis have skyrocketed over the past six months.

And in the United States the medieval Black Death — bubonic plague — is on the upswing, claiming lives in the Southwest as pest control programs are axed from government budgets.