

II* The Parliamentary System of Cyprus

(Extracts from the minutes of the Nicosia meetings in April 1990)

Mr. Hadjioannou spoke as follows:

Cyprus is a very young small state and most probably many colleagues know very few things or even nothing about it. Therefore with your permission, I propose to make a brief historical analysis before going through the parliamentary system and constitutional structure of the Republic of Cyprus.

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean with an area of 9,251 sq. kilometres. It is situated at the crossroads of three continents, Europe, Asia, Africa. Its advantages and strategic position was always a disadvantage for its inhabitants.

The island's prehistory runs as far back as the beginning of the 6th Millennium B.C. Early in the 2nd Millennium B.C. the Archaean Greeks established city-kingdoms in the island and introduced the Greek language, the Greek religion and the Greek way of life.

Cyprus was well known to the ancients for its copper mines and forests. Its wealth made it the object of contest among the great powers of the Eastern Mediterranean in antiquity; the Assyrians, the Egyptians and the Persians, who in turn became its masters.

Alexander the Great liberated Cyprus from the Persians. Later it became under the dominion of the Romans in 58 B.C. On division of the Roman Empire in 330 A.D. it became a province of the Byzantine Empire.

During the crusading period, it was conquered by Richard the Lion Heart of England. Richard passed the island onto the Knights Templar and they, in their turn, to the Lusignans from France. The last Lusignan Queen was forced to pass her rights onto the Republic of Venice, which ruled the island until 1571, when it was conquered by the Turks. The Turkish period lasted until 1878, when it was ceded to Britain, which promised to help Turkey in the event of an attack by Russia on certain bordering provinces. The Turco-

British agreement was concluded, of course, in complete disregard of the wishes and interests of the Cypriot people.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Cyprus was annexed to the British Empire, and in 1925 was formally declared a British Crown Colony.

The 1960 Constitution

British rule lasted until August, 1960, when after a four year liberation struggle by the Greek Cypriots, the island became independent and was proclaimed a Republic.

The 1960 Constitution of the Cyprus Republic provides for a presidential system of government. Article 1 of the Constitution provides that "The state of Cyprus is an independent and sovereign Republic with a presidential regime". There is an almost complete separation of powers.

The executive power is ensured by the President of the Republic, who is elected by universal suffrage and secret ballot for a five-year term of office. The President ensures the executive power through the Council of Ministers appointed by him.

The legislative power is exercised by the House of Representatives, consisting of 80 Members elected by universal suffrage and secret ballot for a five-year term. 56 members are Greek-Cypriots, elected by the Greek-Cypriot community and 24 members are Turkish-Cypriots elected by the Turkish-Cypriot Community. There is a ratio 70% to 30%, although the corresponding ratio in the population is 80% Greek-Cypriots (plus 2% Armenians, Latins, Maronites and others who opted to belong to the Greek-Cypriot Community) and 18% Turkish-Cypriots.

The judiciary power is exercised by separate and independent judiciary organs.

Before entering into details of the Cyprus parliamentary system I feel obliged to make a brief historical analysis of how the 1960 constitution emerged, of the political developments since 1961, and of the present situation. Otherwise I may confuse you with what I shall say and with what you will see in the Constitution of Cyprus, which you have in your hands.

In February 1959 the Prime Ministers of Greece and Turkey met at Zurich and worked out the framework of the Cyprus Constitution. Later in London the agreements of Zurich were endorsed by the British, under whose power Cyprus was a colony at that time, and the two main communities of

Cyprus, the Greek-Cypriot community and the Turkish-Cypriot community. Since February 1959 until August 1960 there was a discussion with the assistance of constitutional experts for the final draft of the Constitution. But this constitution is the most rigid constitution of the world.

One quarter of the Articles or parts of Articles of the Constitution which are considered as *basic* Articles of the Constitution cannot, in any way, be amended, whether by way of variation, addition or repeal. The rest of the provisions of the Constitution can be amended by a majority vote comprising at least two-thirds of the total number of the Representatives belonging to the Greek Cypriot Community and at least two-thirds of the total number of the Representatives belonging to the Turkish-Cypriot Community.

The Constitution in practice

For 30 years now we have made no amendment to the Constitution although we felt the necessity for some changes. For instance the Constitution (Article 63) provides that a citizen can be registered as a voter if he has attained the age of twenty-one years. Following the world developments, the House with all *Greek Cypriot Members* present unanimously voted to change this provision and give the right to vote to citizens of 18 years old. This amendment was considered by the Constitutional Court as unconstitutional, because of the absence of the Turkish-Cypriot parliamentarians.

Very recently another amendment to the Constitution, regarding the introduction of civil marriage between Greek-Cypriots of Christian orthodox religion, is to be considered by the Constitutional Court as to whether it is constitutional or not.

Some provisions of the Constitution gave to the Turkish-Cypriots advantages (privileges) disproportionate to their numerical strength. For instance, the Cyprus Army should have been composed of 40% of Turkish-Cypriots, the Civil Service of 30%, while the Turkish-Cypriots are only 18% of the total population of Cyprus. The Turkish-Cypriots did not have the necessary number of eligible citizens to man the Civil Service according to their given ration of 30%. The quantitative distribution had also to be applied in all grades of the hierarchy in the Public Service.

In practice the 1960 constitution proved unworkable in many of its provisions and this made impossible its smooth implementation. When in 1963 the then President of the Cyprus Republic proposed some amendments to facilitate the functioning of the state, the Turkish community responded, at the

instigation of Turkey, not only in a negative way but with rebellion, withdrawing the Turkish-Cypriot ministers, the Turkish-Cypriot Parliamentarians and the Turkish-Cypriot Civil Servants from the Cabinet, the House of Representatives and the Civil Service respectively.

In July 1974 a coup was staged in Cyprus by the Greek military junta, then in power, for the overthrow of the President of the Cyprus Republic. Turkey, using this as a pretext, launched an invasion against Cyprus and occupied 37% of the island's territory, which is still under their occupation.

The House of Representatives is working now with only the Greek-Cypriot Parliamentarians and the Council of Ministers with Greek-Cypriot Ministers.

The main and highest executive organ of the Republic is the Council of Ministers with powers to formulate policy and exercise the executive power in all aspects except for the specific subjects allotted to the President of the Republic.

The President

The President of the Republic is Greek-Cypriot, elected by the Greek Cypriots, while the Vice-President of the Republic, with almost equal rights and powers with the President, should be a Turkish-Cypriot elected separately by universal suffrage and secret ballot by the Turkish-Cypriot voters. However, according to the Constitution, in the event of temporary absence or incapacity or on any vacancy in the office of the President of the Republic, the President of the House of Representatives shall act as President of the Republic. I repeat that the Vice-President and the Turkish Ministers withdrew from the legal Government and in 1983 the Turkish-Cypriots under the guidance and protection of the Turkish Army in Cyprus proclaimed the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" which is recognised only by Turkey.

A person is qualified to be a candidate for election as President of the Republic if he is a citizen of the Republic, is 35 years old, has not been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude or is not disqualified by a competent court for an electoral offence and is not suffering from a mental disease incapacitating such person from acting as President.

A candidate for the office of the President of the Republic is elected if he receives more than fifty per cent of the votes validly cast.

The office of the President is incompatible with that of a Minister or a Representative or a member of any municipal council or a member of the armed or security forces of the Republic or with a public or municipal office.

The office of the President becomes vacant upon his death, upon his written resignation addressed to the House of Representatives, upon his conviction of high treason or any other offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude and upon such permanent physical or mental incapacity.

The President of the Republic may be prosecuted for high treason on a charge preferred by the Attorney-General before the High Court upon a resolution by the House of Representatives carried by a secret ballot and a majority of three-fourths of the total number of Representatives.

For the prosecution of the President for an offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude the leave of the President of the High Court is needed.

The President as Head of State represents the Republic in all its official functions, signs the credentials of diplomatic envoys and receives the credentials of foreign diplomatic envoys who shall be accredited to him, signs the letter relating to the transmission of the instruments of ratification of any international treaties, conventions or agreements and confers the honours of the Republic.

The executive power exercised by the President himself consists of the following matters:

Determining the design and the colour of the flag, the creation of the honours of the Republic, the appointment of the Ministers, the promulgation by publication in the Official Gazette of the decisions of the Council of Ministers and of the laws and decisions passed by the House of Representatives, the appointments of some high officials (the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Accountant-General, the judges of the Supreme Court, etc.) the institution of compulsory military service, the reduction or increase of the security forces, the exercise of the prerogative of mercy in capital cases, the publication in the Official Gazette of certain decisions of the Supreme Constitutional Court, and the address of messages to the House of Representatives.

He has also right of final veto on decisions of the Council of Ministers concerning foreign affairs, defence or security and on similar decisions or laws passed by the House of Representatives, right of recourse and right of reference to the Supreme Constitutional Court.

The House of Representatives

The Legislative power of the Republic is exercised by the House of Representatives in all matters, except certain matters expressly reserved to the Communal Chambers.

Under the Constitution a Greek Communal Chamber and a Turkish Communal Chamber should have been established, but both of them have been abolished long ago. So, today the House of Representatives exercise its legislative power in all matters.

As we have already said the House of Representatives is composed of 80 MPs, 56 Greek-Cypriots elected by the Greek-Cypriot community and the other small religious groups (Armenians, Maronites, Latins) and 24 Turkish-Cypriots elected by the Turkish-Cypriot community. The seats of the Turkish-Cypriot MPs are at present vacant.

A person is qualified to be a candidate for election as an MP if he is a citizen of the Republic, 25 years old, has not been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude, or is not disqualified by a competent court for any electoral offence and is not mentally diseased.

The office of a Representative is incompatible with that of a Minister, or a member of any municipal council, or of a member of the armed or security forces or with a public or municipal office.

The seat of a Representative becomes vacant upon his death, his written resignation, if he has been convicted for an offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude or for an electoral offence, or becomes mentally incapable of acting as a Representative.

The term of office of the House of Representatives, as I have said, is for a period of 5 years. However, the House may dissolve itself prematurely by its own decision carried by an absolute majority. The President of the Republic or any other organ of the State cannot dissolve the House.

The term of office of the House of Representatives elected after dissolution is for the unexpired period of the term of office of the dissolved House. In the case of dissolution within the last year of the five years' term of office, a general election is held for both the unexpired part of the term of office of the dissolved House, and for the subsequent five years' term of office.

At the first meeting of the newly elected House the President of the House is elected; his term of office is for the whole period of the term of office of the House of Representatives.

Something which perhaps seems peculiar to other Parliaments is the appointment by the President of the House of the Clerks from among the Representatives. He also appoints one or two MPs as Administrative Clerks.

Although all the decisions and laws have to be passed by the whole House, amendments to any legislation as a rule are decided by the Parliamentary Committees concerned and are approved by the House. Amendments made by the House during the consideration of a Bill are the exception. Most amendments are made during the Committee meetings.

The laws and decisions of the House of Representatives are passed by a simple majority of the Representatives present and voting. However, any modification of the electoral law and the adoption of any law relating to the municipalities and of any law imposing duties or taxes require a separate simple majority of the Representatives elected by the Greek-Cypriots and the Turkish-Cypriots respectively taking part in the vote. (Article 78).

The last provision has been the stumbling block to the due operation of the Constitution, as one Turkish representative (if two were present and voted) could by his negative vote wreck any of the aforementioned legislation and especially one imposing taxation. Actually, by a misuse of their right of separate voting the Turkish Representatives voted against a Bill for prolongation of the taxation laws which were due to expire on the 31st March 1961. On the 18th December, 1961 they also voted against the Income Tax Bill. And the Turkish MPs voted against some legislation not because they were opposed to it or because of any discrimination against their community but in order to compel the Government to yield to other Turkish claims which had no connection with taxation.

Every Bill, on being introduced in the House of Representatives, has to be referred for debate in the first instance to the appropriate Committee.

We have 16 Standing Committees. Eleven (11) Committees correspond to the Ministries and the rest are the following: Committee of Selection, Committee on Refugees, Enslaved, Missing and Adversely Affected Persons and the Rules of Procedure and Members' Rights Committee. Recently there was also established a new Committee on Environment.

The laws and decisions of the House, as I said earlier, are passed by a simple majority vote of those MPs present and voting, with few exceptions. In these cases an increased majority is needed. For instance the House

decides to dissolve itself with an absolute majority; a majority of three-fourths of the total number of Representatives is required if the President of the Republic is to be prosecuted for treason.

The minutes of the debates in the House of Representatives comprise all the proceedings fully, while the minutes of the proceedings of the Committees are kept in a summary form.

The meetings both of the House and of the Committees are open to the public. However, the House may hold a secret session on a resolution carried by a three-quarters majority vote of the total number of Representatives.

Both Representatives and Ministers can introduce Bills. But Representative cannot introduce Bills which increase expenditure.

Laws passed by the House come into operation on their publication in the Official Gazette.

In case of war or other public danger threatening the life of the Republic, the Council of Ministers has power to issue a Proclamation of Emergency. If the decision of the Council of Ministers is not vetoed by the President of the Republic, then he shall promulgate forthwith such Proclamation by publication in the Official Gazette. A promulgated proclamation is laid forthwith before the House of Representatives, which has the right to reject or confirm such proclamation of Emergency.

Electoral System

The electoral system is proportional.

There are six constituencies, namely:

Nicosia Constituency,	with 21 MPs
Limassol Constituency,	with 12 MPs
Famagusta Constituency,	with 11 MPs
Larnaca Constituency,	with 5 MPs
Paphos Constituency,	with 4 MPs
Kyrenia Constituency,	with 3 MPs

The electors are obliged to vote either for a party or an independent candidate, having no right to select candidates from different parties.

In the session beginning 19th September 1988 and ending 13th July 1989 there had been 43 Plenary sittings and 488 Committee sittings. Two hundred and sixty Bills had been introduced by the Government and 72 by individual

MPs or Committees. Two hundred and seventeen of the Government Bills and 36 of the individual MPs' Bills had been passed.

The Courts

The *judicial power* of the Republic, as we mentioned at the beginning, is exercised by the Courts, the Supreme Constitutional Court, the High Court and its subordinate courts. The Supreme and the High Courts have been amalgamated and now we have only one High Court.

The main jurisdiction of the High Court relates to the determination whether a law or decision of the House is contrary or repugnant to any constitutional provision. If a law or decision is declared unconstitutional, the law or decision is annulled.

The High Court furthermore has exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate finally on a recourse made to it on a complaint that a decision, act or omission of any organ, authority or person exercising any executive or administrative authority is contrary to the Constitution or any law or is made in excess or abuse of power, whereupon the Courts may confirm or annul such decision or act or declare that such omission ought not to have been made and that whatever has been omitted should have been performed.

Any decision of the High Court acting as Constitutional Court on any matter within its jurisdiction shall be binding on all courts, organs, authorities and persons in the Republic (Article 148).

The High Court acts also as the highest appellate court. It has also original and revisional jurisdiction as provided in the Constitution or may be provided by a law and has to issue orders in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari.

The High Court constitutes also the Supreme Council of Judicature for the appointment, transfer, removal and disciplinary control over judges of the subordinate courts (Article 157).

International Treaties;

The constitutional structure of the Zurich and London Agreement comprises also two International Treaties: the Treaty of Guarantee between the Republic of Cyprus and the United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey and

also the Treaty of Alliance between the Republic of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.

Under the Treaty of Guarantee the Republic of Cyprus undertakes to ensure the maintenance of its independence, territorial integrity and security as well as respect for its constitution and it undertakes not to participate in whole or in part in any political or economic union with any state whatsoever or to promote the partition of the island.

By the Treaty of Alliance the Three Parties thereto undertake to co-operate for their common defence and resist any attack or aggression directed against the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus.

According to Article 181 of the Constitution the two treaties shall have constitutional force. This article is considered a *basic* article.

Another treaty which is included in the constitutional structure is the Treaty of Establishment between the U.K., Greece and Turkey and the Republic of Cyprus, which provides for the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus.

Finally I should like to mention Article 185 of the Constitution which provides that: the territory of the Republic is one and indivisible. The integral or partial union of Cyprus with any other state or the separatist independence is excluded.

Unfortunately, however, Cyprus has been divided by one of those countries which guaranteed the independence and territorial integrity of this country.

These are the statistics for the session beginning 19th September 1988 and ending 13th July 1989:

Sessions of the whole House:	43
Meetings of the Parliamentary Committees:	488
Average number of MPs who were present during the sessions of the whole House:	48 or 87% of the total number of the Members attending the House.
Bills introduced by the Government:	260
Private bills introduced by MPs:	72
Government bills enacted by the House:	217
Private bills enacted by the House:	36

Government bills rejected by the House: 6

Private bills rejected by the House: 2

The Government also introduced to the House 141 By-Laws of which 217 were approved, 1 was rejected, 12 were withdrawn and 2 were pending before the appropriate Committee.

Question tabled by Mps: 722

Written Answers by Ministers: 581

The President of the Republic returned to the House (right of return) for reconsideration 6 Laws and referred to the Constitutional Court for its opinion regarding the constitutionality of 2 laws (right of reference to the Constitutional Court).

I hope to have given you in short an overall picture of the constitutional structure of the Cyprus Republic.

Question and Answer Session

Mr. CHARPIN thanked the President for his presentation and invited members of the Association to ask questions.

Mr. MAHRAN (Egypt) asked whether there were any restrictions on a Representative introducing a Bill, whether a law could be annulled or repealed and how the electoral system worked.

Mr. HADJIOANNOU said that the only restriction on an MP tabling a Bill was that he could not propose an increase in public expenditure. Anyone could take legal proceedings to challenge the constitutional validity of a Bill and the High Court would have to decide that. When voting the elector could mark either a party list or an independent candidate. The voter may also vote for specific candidates within the party list. Ballot papers marked only in support of the party ensure the election of the candidates who receive the most personal votes within the party list.

Mr. KAITOUNI (Morocco) asked about the composition of the High Court and the representation of different communities in political parties who received the most personal votes within the party list.

Mr. HADJIOANNOU said that originally the High Court had been presided over by a neutral Judge assisted by one Judge from each of the two communities. The neutral Judge had withdrawn after 1963 and for some years a Turkish-Cypriot Judge presided over the High Court but had

withdrawn some years later. Since then only Greek-Cypriot Judges had been appointed. No Turkish-Cypriots had sat in the House of Representatives since 1963, so political parties there represented related only to the Greek-Cypriot community. Prior to that the two communities had voted separately for their members of the House. At that stage the electoral system had involved a simple majority rather than proportional representation.

Mr. KIRBY (Canada) asked about the role of the Clerks referred to in Article 9 of the Rules of Procedure.

Mr. HADJIOANNOU said that both the Clerks and the administrative Clerks were elected members of the House who carried out duties such as reading out Bills and recording votes. After a General Election there was a problem about the lack of experience of people available to do this work.

Mr. LAUNDY (Canada) enquired about the doctrine of necessity in respect of a partially inoperable constitution.

Mr. HADJIOANNOU said that the doctrine of necessity had certainly been applied in respect of the appointment of Judges to the High Court in the absence of any Turkish Judges. A change in the electoral system had not affected the provision of the Constitution.

Dr. BUECKER (Federal Republic of Germany) asked whether there were any proposals for reunification in Cyprus.

Mr. HADJIOANNOU said that the long-term aim is a unified Cyprus under a federal system of administration.

Mr. QUIROZ (Venezuela) asked about the length of the electoral campaign.

Mr. HADJIOANNOU said that it usually lasted about a month. If the House decided to dissolve itself it had to set the date for the election and the convening of the new House between thirty and forty days after the dissolution.

Mr. KHAIR (Jordan) asked about the operation of party lists in elections and the number of parties.

Mr. HADJIOANNOU said that in the Republic of Cyprus there were four parties represented in the House of Representatives. Since the 1985 election a new party had been formed but it did not yet have any seats. There was also a possibility of a further party being formed before the next election in 1991. One of the parties represented in the House already had a partial split with five of its fifteen members leaving to form a new party. This group of five were not at first recognised as a political group under the Constitution. Each

political party could seek seats in any of these six constituencies and each party tended to field the maximum number of candidates in each constituency.

In response to Mr. LIMON (United Kingdom) Mr. HADJIOANNOU agreed that some of the duties of the Clerks as elected members were similar to those of parliamentary officials in other countries. His own role of Secretary-General was to brief these members for their role. Part of their duties were equivalent to a party whip in commonwealth parliaments.

In reply to Mr. HJORTDAL (Denmark), Mr. HADJIOANNOU confirmed that the administrative Clerks were also MPs rather than officials.

In reply to Mr. LAUNDY (Canada), Mr. HADJIOANNOU said that the duties of the administrative Clerks to assist the President in the keeping of order during meetings had not required much action in the last thirty years.

Mr. OLAFSSON (Iceland) said that his Parliament had 63 members and 24 Committees. He wanted to know how many committees there were in Cyprus. Mr. HADJIOANNOU said there were 16 Standing Committees and some *ad hoc* committees with only four or so members. Standing Committees tended to have 8 or 9 MPs although this was now being increased to 10. All MPs therefore belonged to 5 or 6 Committees. The quorum was half the number of members of the Committee.

III. The Assembly of the Portuguese Republic

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text: Jose Antonio de Souza Barriga

If there is to be Democracy, it is essential for every citizen to take part, in a concerned and responsible fashion, in democratic institutions.

This participation will be subject to the rules governing the form it is to take and, if it is to be effective, we must be familiar with the machinery and agencies in which it is embodied.

This is not simply because it exists but also so that each may attain citizenship.

We must know what this machinery and these agencies are if we are to search for them and live with them, otherwise the state machinery will become an ossified collection of failed pretensions.

Democracy is the dialogue, the understanding, the compliance and, in particular, the dynamics, the search, the permanent quest for giving form and expression to justice by means of the freedom of thought and action and the absolute respect for the dignity of man.

The Assembly of the Republic is the driving force of this dynamic process, not only because it makes the law but also because it is the origin of all the other institutions and has the task of taxing the acts of other bodies which affect the social fabric as a whole.

It is from this that it derives its importance which is primordial and has no equal.

For these reasons, the Assembly of the Republic is taking the necessary steps to inform its citizens about its internal structure, its *modus operandi*, its objectives and its field of operation.

This paper has been drawn up under the guidance of the Director-General with this as its aim and the commendable intention of making the Assembly better known.

It needs to be read, analysed and made public if the Assembly of the Republic is to become a part of the public conscience.

This work is therefore a valuable contribution in making this sovereign body better known, its power more widespread and enabling it to play a greater role among the people: it represents.

signed: Fernando Amaral
President of the Assembly of the Republic

Portugal is a democratic state

"Portugal is a sovereign republic, based on the dignity of the human being and the will of the people, seeking to become a classless society."

"The Portuguese Republic is a democratic state based on the sovereignty of the people, the respect and guarantee of fundamental rights and freedoms and the democratic pluralism of expression and political organisation, the aim of which is to effect the transition to socialism by means of an economic, social and cultural democracy and to achieve a participative democracy."

"Sovereignty, one and indivisible, rests with the people who exercise it in the forms provided for by the Constitution."

(Articles 1, 2 and 3 (paragraph 1) of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic.)

Organisation of political power

"Political power belongs to the people and is exercised in accordance with the Constitution."

"The organs of sovereignty are the President of the republic, the Assembly of the Republic, the government and the courts."

(Articles 111 and 113 (paragraph 1) of the Constitution of the Portuguese republic.)

The Assembly of the Republic

"The Assembly of the Republic is the representative assembly of all Portuguese citizens."

(Article 150 of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic.)

Composition of the Assembly of the Republic

1 st legislature

Elections for the first Assembly of the Republic took place on 25 April 1976. The number of registered electors at that time was 6 587 061 and those voting 5 487 852. The result of the elections (for those political parties represented within the Assembly) was as follows: Socialist Party (SP) - 1 913 521 votes (34.87%), with 107 Members of Parliament; Popular Democratic Party (PDP) - 1 334 393 votes (24.31%), with 73 Members; Social Democratic Centre Party (SDC) - 875 821 (15.96%), with 42 Members; Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) - 791 394 (14.42%), with 40 Members; Popular Democratic Union (PDU) - 91 920 (1.67%), with 1 Member.

In September 1979, by decree of the President of the Republic, the Assembly of the Republic was dissolved and a date was set for new elections. Under the Constitution, the newly elected Assembly would conclude the 1st legislative period (decree No. 98-A/79, of 11 September 79).

The 2nd Assembly of the Republic

After the legislative elections of 2 December 1979 the Assembly of the Republic had a different composition to the previous one, not only as regards the number of Members from each party but also as regards the total number of Members of Parliament.

The number of electors increased compared with the elections of 1976. In fact, in 1979 there were 6 894 636 registered electors and 6 007 453 voters. The result of the elections (for parties which gained seats in the Assembly) was as follows: Democratic Alliance (DA) - 2 554 458 votes (42.52%), with 121 Members; United People's Alliance (UPA) - 1 129 322 votes (18.80%), with 47 Members; Socialist Party (SP) - 1 642 136 (27.33%), with 74 Members; Popular Democratic Union (PDU) - 130 842 (2.18%), with

1 Member; Social Democratic Centre (SDC) - in the Azores and Madeira constituencies - 23 523 (0.39%) - and the Social Democratic Party (SPD) - also in the Azores and Madeira - 141 227 (2.35%), with 7 Members.

The official results of the intercalary elections were published on 24 December 1979 and the new Assembly of the Republic began its work on 3 January 1980.

At the present time (June 1980) the Assembly has 250 Members, 75 from the SPD, 74 from the SP, 44 from the PCP, 43 from the SDC, 5 from the PMP, 3 from the PDM/CDE, 1 from the PDU and 5 reformers.

The SPD, SDC, PMP and the reformers came together in a coalition as the Democratic Alliance (DA), thus possessing a majority in Parliament (128 seats) and supporting the Government. The other parties form the opposition (SP, PCP, PDM/CDE and PDU, with a total of 122 seats).

The number of women members of Parliament in the first legislature of the Assembly of the Republic: was:

In the first legislative session: 13 members (5 from the SP, 2 from the PDP, 1 from the SDC and 5 from the PCP).

In the second legislative session: 19 Members (8 from the SP, 3 from the PDP/SDP, 1 from the SDC, 6 from the PCP and 1 independent).

In the third legislative session: 17 Members (6 from the SP, 3 from the SDP, 1 from the SDC, 6 from the PCP and 1 independent).

In the fourth legislative session: 18 Members (7 from the SDP, 4 from the SP, 6 from the PCP and 1 from the SDC).

These figures are for the first day of each of the legislative sessions and vary according to the arrangements for Substitutes made by the Members. So, for example, of the day of the last plenary session during the normal period of the 4th legislative session (12 June 1980) there were 25 members (8 from the SDP, 4 from the SP, 8 from the PCP, 4 from the SDC and one from the PDM).

As regards the age and profession of the Members of Parliament at the end of the first legislature:

On 27 June 1980, 122 Members were below 40 years of age, 20 of these being below 30 years of age. 108 Members were between 41 and 60 years of age and 20 Members were more than 61 years of age.

This can be seen more clearly from the following table giving the number of Members of Parliament according to age:

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up to 30 years of age	20
between 30 and 40	102
between 41 and 50	59
between 51 and 60	49
between 61 and 70	15
over 70	5
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	250

Professions practised at the time of the election (for Members in office on 27 June 1980 - date of the last plenary session of the 4th legislative session, additional period):

lawyers	61
teachers	34
engineers and economists	27
public officials	22
doctors	13
managers and businessmen	12
journalists	5
other professions	71
students	5
	<hr/>
	250

The Second Legislature

New legislative elections took place on 5 October 1980 and the number of registered electors increased. There were 7 179 023 registered electors with 6 026 395 of these voting (83.94%).

The result of the elections (for the political parties with a seat in the Assembly) was as follows:

Democratic Alliance (DA) - 2 706 667 votes (44.91%), with 126 Members; United People's Alliance (UPA) - 1 009 505 votes (16.75%), with 41 Members; Republican and Socialist Front (RSF) - 1 606 198 votes (26.65%), with 71 Members; Popular Democratic Union (PDU) - 83 204 votes (1.38%), with 1 Member; Socialist Party (SP), in the Azores and Madeira, 67 081 votes (1.11%), with 3 Members; Social Democratic Party (SDP), in the Azores and Madeira, - 147 644 votes (2.45%), with 8 Members.

The official results of the elections were published on 31 October 1980 (official journal *Didrio da República*, 2nd supplement to No. 254, 1st series,

of 3 November 1980) and the new Assembly began its work on 13 November 1980.

Of the 250 Members of Parliament 82 come from the SDP, 66 from the SP, 46 from the SDC, 39 from the PCP, 6 from the PMP, 4 from the ISDA, 4 from the ULSD, 2 from the PDM/CDE and 1 from the PDU.

The Third Legislature

In February 1983, by decree of the President of the Republic, the Assembly of the Republic was dissolved and notice was given of new elections of Members of Parliament (decree no 2/83 of 4 February 1983).

In the elections which took place on 25 April 1983, there were fewer electors compared with the legislative elections of 1979 and 1980.

In fact, the number of registered electors in 1983 was 7 337 064 with 5 707 695 voters (77.79%).

The official list of the result of these elections was published on 20 May 1983 (official journal *Didrio da República*, supplement to No. 121, 1st series, of 26 May 1983, amended in official journal *Didrio da República* No. 137, 1st series, of 17 June 1983).

This list gives the distribution of votes as follows: United People's Alliance (UPA) - 1 031 609 votes (18.07%), with 44 Members; Social Democratic Centre Party (SDC) - 716 705 votes (12.56%), with 30 Members; Social Democratic Party (PDP/SDP) - 1 554 804 votes (27.24%), with 75 Members; Socialist Party (SP) - 2 061 309 votes (36.12%), with 101 Members.

The first legislative session of the third legislature started work on 31 May 1983 and the new Assembly of the Republic was made up as follows: 101 Members from the SP, 75 from the SDP, 40 from the PCP, 30 from the SDC, 3 from the PDM/CDE and 1 independent member (from the "Green" - Ecology Party), which gives a total of 250 Members.

This legislature, only 2 legislative sessions of which took place (1983/84 and 1984/85), was dissolved by a decree of the President of the Republic (decree no 43/85 of 12 July 85, which stipulated 6 October 1985 as the date for the election of Members of the Assembly of the Republic).

The Fourth Legislature

After the legislative elections of 6 October 1985, with 7 818 981 registered electors and 5 798 929 voters (74.16%), the following results were obtained (for parties with parliamentary representation): United People's Alliance (UPA) - 898 281 votes (15.49%), with 38 Members; Social Democratic Centre Party (SDC) - 577 580 votes (9.96), with 22 Members; Democratic Renewal Party (DRP) - 1 038 893 votes (17.92%), with 45 Members; Social Democratic Party (PDP/SDP) - 1 732 288 votes (29.87%), with 88 Members; Socialist Party (SP) - 1 204 321 votes (20.77%), with 57 Members.

The official results, published on 25 October 1985, are given in official journal *Didrio da República*, 2nd supplement to No. 250, 1st series, of 30 October 1985, amended in official journal *Didrio da República* No. 276, 1st series, of 30 November 1985.

On 4 November 1985 the new Assembly of the Republic began the work of the fourth legislature.

The Palace of São Bento

The Assembly of the Republic has its seat in Lisbon, at the Palace of São Bento.

The Palace, a former monastery - Mosteiro de S. Bento da Saúde - was built the end of the 16th century by Benedictine monks and inaugurated in 1615. Despite functional changes by Ventura Terra in the 19th century, the building's main structure is still of Benedictine origin.

After being used for various purposes, a ministerial decree ruled in 1833 that Parliament would take over the former Monastery of S. Bento da Saúde.

Restoration work and alterations were then carried out under the guidance of the architect Possidónio da Silva and, in 1834, the "Cortes" was installed there. From then on the Palace was known as the "Pala'cio das Cortes" and there were two chambers, one for the Peers and one for the Members of Parliament.

The Peers' Chamber was in the former chapter-house. It was decided, however, that this room was not suitable. It was therefore demolished and in its place a new room was built and opened in 1867. After 1910 the Senate and the Corporative Chamber operated from here.

The Members' Chamber, which occupied the library of the monastery, was destroyed by a fire in 1895. Afterwards, working from the plans of the architects João Couto and Marques da Silva and under the guidance of Ventura Terra, the hemicycle was rebuilt on the site of the former chapel and, nowadays, the Assembly of the Republic meets in plenary session here.

In 1933 further restoration work and alterations were carried out under the guidance of Leal de Faria *and* this greatly improved the building.

The Palace of S. Bento is now an imposing building. Its main door is enhanced by a colonnade, above which is a triangular pediment with a bas-relief by Simões de Almeida, nephew. The outside staircase and the four statues on pedestals representing Prudence, Justice, Strength and Moderation, by the entrance, between the arches, lend an air of magnificence to the building.

In the Palace, where the monastery church used to stand, there is a now a large atrium at the bottom of which could be seen, not long ago (1), the statue of José Estevão, a remarkable parliamentary orator from the XIXth century. On the wall on the right there are two alcoves for the statues of important people and, along the wall on pedestals, there are the busts of António Cândido and Hintze Ribeiro, who were also great orators in the Portuguese parliament during the last century. On 5 October 1983 other busts were added to these: those of Afonso Costa, António José de Almeida and Bernardino Machado, famous parliamentarians and well know characters from Portuguese history (2).

On the left, the grand staircase leads up to the main floor where the doors have sculptures by Leopoldo de Almeida and panels by Martins Barata (two triptychs showing the "Cortes de Leiria" and the guilds from the XVth century - industry, agriculture and trade).

On the main floor there is the Lobby which is all in marble and contains six paintings by Columbano depicting statesmen and lawyers; the Members' Meeting Room which is semicircular with two galleries, one above the other, is decorated by six plaster statues on pedestals (representing the Constitution, Diplomacy, the Law, Justice, Jurisprudence and Eloquence). On the wall behind the President's table there is a painting by Veloso Salgado depicting the "Cortes Constituintes" which met on the 24 January 1821 in the library of the "Convento das Necessidades"; there is also the former Senate Chamber where, on the doors, there are groups of sculptures by Camels. This room contains the painting "The Motherland" by Carlos Reis, a statue depicting the Republic by Costa Mota and also busts of the Dukes of Palmela, Saldanha, Terceira and Ávila, as well as one of the statesman Fontes Pereira de Melo,

by Manuel Bordalo Pinheiro and Simões de Almeida, uncle. There is the Nobles' drawing-room with frescoes designed by Sousa Lopes and painted by Domingos Rebelo and Costa Rebocho showing scenes from the Age of Discovery; the Luis XVI room; the D. Maria room (former conference room) containing portraits painted by Malhõa, Columbano and Carlos Reis; and also the reading room and studies of the library of the Assembly.

The historical and bibliographical museum, which is closed at present, contains works of art, documents and bibliographical data about the history of Portuguese parliamentarianism (manuscripts, printed texts, sculptures, paintings, drawings, engravings, medals and furniture).

The monastery garden and the beautiful renaissance-style gardens of the Palace are also well worth a visit.

Since 1834 the building has successively housed the Cortes (until 1910), with two chambers, that of the Peers (from 1838 to 1840 Chamber of Senators) and that of the Members of Parliament; the Congress of the Republic (1911-1926) which sometimes held plenary sessions but was usually divided into two chambers: the Members' Chamber and the Senate; the National Assembly and the Corporative Chamber (1935-1974); and finally, since 1976, the Assembly of the Republic.

Notes:

1. The statue of Jos6 Estevão Coelho de Magalhães, by the sculptor Victor Bastos, erected in 1878 in the square opposite the Palace, was brought inside during the restoration work and improvements carried out in 1933 and, in 1938, was placed by the entrance to the building.

In 1984 the statue of this great parliamentarian was once again placed outside the Palace, in the gardens of S. Bento square, where it was unveiled on 15 October by the President of the Assembly of the Republic, Engineer Manuel Alfredo Tito de Morais, in a public ceremony attended by various parliamentary representatives, media representatives and the public.

When the statue was being moved from the atrium and placed outside the Palace a plaque and a small box containing three coins of the era (20 reales, 200 reales et 2000 reales from the reign of D. Luiz I) were revealed on the base; these were given to the Museum of the Assembly of the Republic and have been on show since 22 October 1984 in one of the display cabinets in the office of the President of the Assembly.

The plaque bears the following inscription:

"This monument by Victor Bastos was erected by general consensus to the great orator Jos6 Estevão Coelho de Magalhães in the city of Lisbon during the reign of his Majesty Luiz I; it was devised and paid for by a parliamentary and public subscription led by a committee of the Nation's Members of Parliament and the first stone was laid on 8 July 1876."

It was agreed that the original dimensions should be adhered to when the statue was placed in the garden of S. Bento Square and so part of the pedestal had to be built in stone to reproduce the original.

The following inscription in bronze was fixed to the pedestal:

TO THE GREAT ORATOR
JOSÉ ESTEVÃO COELHO DE MAGALHÃES
THE PORTUGUESE NATION

2. The bronze busts of Afonso Costa, António José de Almeida and Bernardino Machado sculpted by António Paiva, Joaquim Correia and António Duarte respectively were ordered by a decision of the Administrative Council of the Assembly of the Republic of 29 June 1979, following a proposal made on 15 September 1978 by the President of the Assembly of the Republic, Mr. Vasco da Gama Fernandes.

The inauguration took place on 5 October 1983 during an official ceremony conducted by the President of the Assembly of the Republic, Engineer Manuel Alfredo Tito de Morais, in the presence of parliamentary representatives, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and other members of the Government, as well as the high authorities, the diplomatic corps, relatives of people honoured in this ceremony, the sculptors, the media and various guests. The bust of Afonso Costa was unveiled by his son, Mr. Afonso Costa, that of António José de Almeida by his daughter, Mrs. Maria Teresa, and that of Bernardino Machado by his granddaughter, Mrs. Maria Manuela.

The Meeting Room (Hemicycle)

The Members of Parliament hold plenary sessions in the Meeting Room, also known as the "Hemicycle" because of the way in which the Members' seats are arranged, in a semicircle facing the President's rostrum.

In the centre of the main wall and higher up is the chair of the President who directs the work of the meeting with the help of four secretaries.

Opposite, a little lower down, is the speakers' platform, where the Members of Parliament speak on matters of substance or when they wish to speak in a more official fashion. For brief interventions, debates etc. Members usually speak from their own places.

Still opposite, on the same level as the Members' there are the government benches.

The Members sit according to the party to which they belong. From right to left (of the President) there are the SDC, the SDP, the DRP, the SP, the PDM/CDE and the PCP. The first row is usually occupied by the leading members of the parliamentary groups. The others members of the group sit behind.

The benches on the left are reserved for the diplomatic corps and on the right there are the Government benches and those for guests. Lower down

there are seats for representatives of the media, the Portuguese media on the left and the foreign media on the right.

In the centre, between the Government benches and the first row of Members of Parliament, there are seats for the parliamentary correspondents.

The plenary sessions are public. The public galleries can accommodate 660 people and there are no reserved seats. However, the day before the sittings, each group or party can request entrance tickets, in accordance with criteria laid down by the Bureau of the Assembly. This includes the President, four vice-presidents, four secretaries and two deputy secretaries. For plenary sessions, the Bureau consists of the President and secretaries.

Media representatives receive texts concerning the issues being discussed and copies of written interventions.

The verbatim record of everything which takes place at each plenary session is published in the Journal of the Assembly of the Republic.

Functioning of the Assembly of the Republic

Although parliament sits every day of the week except for Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays and days of national mourning, the Assembly usually has a plenary sitting every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, with Wednesdays being kept for committee meetings.

The sittings very often continue into the night, particularly when the Government's programme is being examined or when the Budget or the Plan are being debated.

The chief functions of the Assembly of the Republic are legislative and supervisory.

It is the task of the Assembly of the Republic to make the laws, to approve international treaties, to examine the Government's programme, to put forward motions of confidence or no-confidence in the Government, to approve the law of the Plan and the Budget, to receive accounts from the State and other public bodies, to grant the Government legislative authority, to pronounce amnesties, to authorise the Government to borrow or lend, to ratify the Government's orders-in-council, to ensure fulfilment of the Constitution and the law and to assess the actions of the Government and Administration.

It is also the task of the Assembly of the Republic to elect ten judges for the Constitutional Court, the "Provedor de Justiça" (Ombudsman), the Presi-

dent of the National Planning Council, seven members of the Upper Council of the Magistracy, eleven members of the Social Communication Council and members of other bodies who have to be appointed by the Assembly of the Republic.

The political control of action by the Government and Administration, provided for by the Constitution, takes the form of interventions and votes before the day's business, questions put to the Government, the review of petitions and parliamentary enquiries.

The Assembly of the republic has various Councils and Committees, the composition of which is also governed by this sovereign body, namely: the Press Council, the National Elections Committee, the National Council for the Elimination of Illiteracy and Basic Education for Adults, the Committee for the Assessment of Action by the MAP, the Council for the Freedom of Education and the Social Communication Council.

The legislature consists of four legislative sessions. Each legislative session lasts for one year and begins on 15 October. If there is a dissolution, the Assembly which is then elected starts a new legislature, the duration of which is lengthened initially by the amount of time necessary to conclude the period corresponding to the legislative session underway when it was elected.

Before the 1982 constitutional review it was possible to have legislatures completed by more than one Assembly of the Republic.

This was the case with the first legislature which had two Assemblies of the Republic (elections of 1976 and 1979).

Members of Parliament

The Assembly of the Republic consists of members of Parliament. The Members elected for each party or coalition of parties can form a parliamentary group.

Independent Members who put themselves forward for election as part of a certain party or coalition can form a parliamentary group.

The parliamentary groups; have working premises at the seat of the Assembly and have their own experts and administrative staff on whom they can rely.

The parties represented in the Assembly of the Republic are allocated a state subsidy which is determined on the basis of the number of votes obtained.

Under electoral law, the number of Members of Parliament is between 240 and 250.

The first Assembly of the Republic, which was elected on 25 April 1976, had more Members (263) as the electoral law for these elections was published before the Constitution had been finally approved and therefore obviously did not take into account the constitutional provision stipulating the maximum number of Members of Parliament.

The Assembly of the Republic resulting from the elections of 2 December 1979, and subsequent ones, had exactly 250 members.

The members are elected by the electoral districts established by law and the number of Members elected by each electoral district on the national territory is proportional to the number of electors registered there.

On the mainland, the electoral districts are the same as the administrative districts; they have the same name and their headquarters in the respective capitals. There is one electoral district for the Autonomous region of Madeira and another for the Autonomous Region of the Azores, which are described by these names and have their headquarters in Funchal and Ponta Delgada respectively.

Electors residing outside the national territory are grouped in two electoral districts, the first comprising all the countries of Europe and the second, the remaining countries and the territory of Macau. These two electoral districts have their headquarters in Lisbon. Depending on whether or not the number of electors exceeds 55 000, each of these electoral districts has 1 or 2 members of Parliament.

The total number of Members of Parliament from the electoral districts on the national territory is 246.

Before elections are held, the National Election Committee draws up a table giving the number of Members of Parliament and the way in which they are distributed throughout the electoral districts. This table is drawn up on the basis of the number of electors given in the most recent census.

The candidates in the election of Members of Parliament are put forward by the political parties, singly or as a coalition, but the lists can include citizens who are not members of the respective parties.

Members of Parliament who are appointed members of the Government cannot take up their appointment before relinquishing their previous functions. They are then replaced by non-elected candidates, account being taken of precedence on the list on which they appear.

The Constitution and the law provide for various cases which are incompatible with taking up an appointment. On the other hand, the Member himself may ask for the appointment to be deferred. These two factors determine whether or not he is replaced. Because of this, if, from an individual point of view, the composition of the Assembly of the Republic is very unstable, this has no effect on its political composition, in view of the partisan way in which the posts are proposed and the way the Members are distributed by the parliamentary groups.

The main duties of the Members of Parliament are: to submit draft laws or resolutions and propose amendments, to propose a motion of censure against the Government concerning acts carried out by it or the Public Service and also to request and obtain from the Government, or the agencies of public entities, any data, information or official publications which they deem necessary to carry out their appointment.

The parliamentary rights (powers) of the Members can be exercised individually or by a group of members (for example, the request to ratify orders-in-council or proposing a motion of censure against the Government). The rights of parliamentary groups are various.

To guarantee their independence and to defend them against other State powers, the Members have parliamentary immunity and enjoy freedom from arrest and legal proceedings. Members of Parliament are not accountable for the way in which they vote or any opinions they may have expressed in the course of their duties and no Member can be detained or arrested without the authorisation of the Assembly (except for a serious crime and in the event of a flagrant misdemeanour).

The Members of Parliament have the option of giving up their appointment.

Factors which lead to the loss of office are, in particular, absences (it should be noted, however, that the arrangements governing absences are very liberal because absences can be justified and the number of absences resulting in loss of office is very high).

A Member of Parliament who no longer belongs to the party through which he was elected does not lose his office as long as he does not join another party.

The office of Member of Parliament begins with the first sitting of the Assembly of the Republic after the elections and ends with the first sitting following the next elections, subject to any suspension or determination of office by the individual.

The first legislature which began on 3 June 1976 ended on 14 October 1980.

Rights and prerogatives

Members of Parliaments are entitled to a laissez-passer, a special passport and a special identity card; they have free use of collective transport, whether it be public or private, throughout the country, with the exception of the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira - Members elected by electoral districts on the mainland or by those of migrants only being able to use collective transport to these destinations once a year.

Members elected by the electoral districts of migrants are entitled to requisition collective transport officially, up to 3 times per legislative session, to travel to the electoral districts which elected them.

Members have free use of the Assembly's postal, telegraph and telephone services.

They benefit from the most favourable welfare scheme applicable to public officials but they can opt for the welfare scheme of their professional activity. In this case, the Assembly bears the expense which would normally be that of the employer.

Pay and subsidies received by Members of Parliament are subject to the tax arrangements applicable to public officials. Members who are State officials or other public legal persons can opt, under the law, for their respective pay and subsidies. In this case, the tax arrangements which are applicable are those which applied to their previous position.

Being a Member of parliament cannot adversely affect a person's circumstances, social benefits and permanent employment.

They are entitled to be exempt from all professional activities, public or private, during the legislature.

Payment and subsidies

Members of Parliament are entitled to receive a monthly payment equal to 50% of the pay of the President of the Republic, as well as a special payment, equalling monthly pay, for the months of June and November each year.

Members of Parliament are also entitled to a per-diem allowance for each day they attend a plenary, meeting, a committee or other meeting convened by the President of the Assembly of the Republic, and one more day per week.

During the actual functioning of the Assembly of the Republic, Members of Parliament who live outside the electoral districts which elected them are entitled to a maximum of 2 per-diem allowances per week for journeys to the respective electoral district in the exercise of their duties.

Whenever they travel, on an assignment for the Assembly, outside Lisbon, within the country or abroad, Members are entitled to per-diem allowances.

Members of Parliament who are members of committees receive an allowance for each day of the meeting at which they are present, equal to 1/50th of their monthly pay, except for days when there is a plenary session.

The President of the Assembly of the Republic receives a monthly payment equal to 80% of the pay of the President of the Republic and is entitled to an official residence, his own car and a monthly entertainment allowance equal to 40% of his pay.

The Vice-Presidents of the Assembly of the Republic, the chairmen of parliamentary groups, the Bureau secretaries, the vice-chairmen of parliamentary groups consisting of at least 20 Members of Parliament and the chairmen of parliamentary standing committees are entitled to a monthly entertainment allowance.

Members of Parliament who are State officials or other public legal persons can opt for the pay and subsidies applicable here. If they take this option they lose the right to per-diem allowances.

Subsidies for life and ireintegration subsidies

Members of Parliament are entitled to subsidies for life and reintegration subsidies in accordance with the Pay Regulations for those holding Political Posts (law No. 4/85 of 9 April 85).

The President of the Assembly of the Republic

The President of the Assembly of the Republic is elected for each legislative session and, if he is absent or unable to attend, one of the vice-presidents deputises for him.

Candidates for the presidency of the Assembly of the Republic are proposed by a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 50 Members of Parliament. The candidate having obtained the absolute majority of the votes of Members in office is elected President of Assembly.

The task of the President of the Assembly of the Republic is to manage parliament and the services of the Assembly.

In addition to the President, the agencies of parliamentary management are the Bureau and the Standing Committee and, as an auxiliary body, the Conference of the Chairmen of Parliamentary Groups.

The Assembly of the Republic has administrative and financial autonomy and has its own services and staff.

The agencies of administrative management of the Assembly of the Republic are the President, the Bureau, the Administrative Council and the Secretary General.

The President of the Assembly of the Republic temporarily replaces the President of the Republic.

The agenda for plenary sessions is drawn up by the President of the Assembly of the Republic, after consultation with parliamentary groups and according to the priority given to issues in the Rules of Procedure.

The Government can ask for priority to be given to matters of national interest which need to be settled urgently. It plays very little part in drawing up the agenda, as its request can be turned down by the Assembly. Obviously, as happened with the 2nd Assembly of the Republic and the 2nd and 3rd legislatures, if the Government has the support of the majority of the Assembly, its ability to determine the order of business for parliamentary work is practically unlimited.

The parliamentary groups are entitled to draw up the agenda for a certain number of meetings, which enables them to have a vote taken on some of their parliamentary initiatives (draft laws in particular).

Ordinary legislative procedure

The Members of Parliament have the power to propose legislation as do parliamentary groups, the Government and, for the autonomous regions, the regional assemblies.

Legislation proposed by Members of Parliament or parliamentary groups takes the form of a draft law; it takes the form of a government draft if put forward by the Government or regional assemblies. As far as the Government is concerned, it is the Council of Ministers which approves government drafts.

The next step is a proposed amendment.

The legislative procedure begins, not with a debate in a Plenary Assembly - as happens in other Parliaments (the system of "first reading") - but with the draft law or government draft being considered by a committee.

The draft laws or government drafts are referred to the Bureau as authorised by the President and published in the journal of the Assembly. Once accepted, the draft law or government draft is allocated to the relevant committee and this fact made known to the Assembly.

In practice, the parliamentary committees can propose legislation after all, by means of alternative drafts of the draft laws or government drafts.

Proposed amendments can only be put forward by Members of Parliament. The Government and the regional assemblies do not have this power.

When it is a question of labour legislation, the committee has the draft law or government draft reviewed by workers' committees or trade unions.

In the committee does not give its opinion within the prescribed time, the draft law or government draft is discussed in a plenary session, irrespective of this opinion.

The committee can put forward alternative drafts either during the general debate or the special one. The alternative draft is discussed during the general debate, together with the draft law or government draft and, after the debate, there is voting on the drafts in the order in which they appeared.

When it is a question of issues concerning the autonomous regions, the President of the Assembly has them examined by regional government agencies.

The discussion of draft laws and government drafts takes place in a general debate and then in a special one.

Voting consists of a general vote, a special vote and a final overall vote.

After the opinion of the committee has been obtained, it is debated during a plenary sitting of the Assembly and then a general vote is taken.

At the beginning of the discussion, the author, or one of the authors, on the draft law or government draft can submit it at a plenary sitting.

If the text of the draft law or government draft is approved in general, the specific nature of it is then discussed and a vote taken on it. This stage of the legislative procedure is almost always carried out in committee, subject to the power of review by the Assembly and the final vote of the latter for overall approval.

It is compulsory for a special vote in plenary session to be taken on laws dealing with certain issues. The law provided for under heading m) of article 167 of the Constitution has to be approved by a majority of two thirds of the Members present, in so far as this is greater than the absolute majority of Members actually in office. Constitutional laws are approved by a majority of two thirds of the Members of Parliament in office.

The draft laws, government drafts and proposed amendments are published in the 2nd series of the Journal of the Assembly of the Republic. The 1st series is reserved for the verbatim report of each plenary session.

The draft laws and government drafts which are approved are called decrees of the Assembly of the Republic and are then passed to the President of the Republic to be promulgated.

The President of the Republic can exercise the right of veto and ask for the draft to be reassessed in a reasoned request. If the Assembly of the Republic confirms the vote by an absolute majority of Members in office, promulgation can no longer be refused. For certain issues, the Constitution requires a qualified majority of two thirds of the Members present, in so far as this is greater than the absolute majority of Members in office.

The President of the Republic also has the right of veto when the Constitutional Court declares a text unconstitutional. Under these circumstances, if the text is to be promulgated it has to be approved again by the Assembly by a majority of two thirds of the Members present.

After the promulgation as law and following a Government referendum, the text is published in the official journal, *Didrio da República* (1st series).

In the first three legislative sessions (1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79) of the 1st legislature 331 draft laws were introduced, 277 government drafts and 91 requests for ratification (cf. table I).

The draft laws, government drafts and ratifications submitted during the abovementioned period resulted in 275 decrees of the Assembly of the Republic (265 laws, as 10 decrees were not promulgated, with 5 being vetoed because of their unconstitutional nature - cf. table II).

The committees

The Assembly of the Republic has committees provided for in the Rules of Procedure and can form committees which may be commissions of enquiry or have some other specific aim.

The committees must consist of no less than 10 and no more than 30 Members of Parliament. Their composition is in line with the way in which the existing parties are represented in the Assembly of the Republic. The number of members on each committee and their distribution as to the various parties are laid down, except for the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Appointments, by a decision of the Assembly, on a proposal from the President, after consultation with the Conference. Appointing Members to the committees is the task of the respective parliamentary groups or parties and is for the same length of time as each legislative session.

The chairmanship of the committees, overall, is shared by the parliamentary groups in proportion to the number of their Members.

Each committee has its office with a chairman, one or more vice-chairmen and one or more secretaries. The chairman takes an active part in the work. The Members of the office are elected by uninominal ballot at the first meeting of the committee, which is convened and conducted by the President of the Assembly.

Each committee draws up its own rules of procedure and can appoint sub-committees.

It is the task of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Appointments to advise on the verification of the powers of members of Parliament, the loss of office, the lifting of immunity, the interpretation of and compensation for any deficiencies in the rules of procedure, proposed amendments of these rules, conflicts of authority between the committees and to carry out enquiries into incidents which have occurred at the Assembly and which adversely affect the honour or dignity of a Member of Parliament. Apart from this, there are at present 13 specialised standing committees which can suggest the formation of permanent sub-committees which are deemed useful. The Assembly can also set up any committees having a specific aim.

The task of the specialised standing committees is to examine petitions, draft laws, government drafts, proposed amendments and treaties submitted to the Assembly, to take a special vote on texts approved in general in a plenary session, to supervise the enforcement by the Government and Administration of the Assembly's laws and resolutions and to make enquiries about political and administrative problems within their powers.

The work of the committees may involve, not just members of the Government (at their request or on their own initiative) and their staff taking part, but also listening to ordinary citizens, fact-finding missions and collecting information or opinions.

Committee meetings are public, except if the Committee has decided the contrary, and their opinions are published in the Journal of the Assembly of the Republic.

The committees send monthly reports dealing with the progress of their work to the Assembly in the form of statements made in plenary session or published in the Journal.

Standing committee

When the Assembly of the Republic is not actually functioning, if it has been dissolved or in other cases provided for by the Constitution, the Standing Committee of the Assembly functions in its stead.

This Committee has nothing to do with the parliamentary committees which tend to be auxiliary agencies of the Assembly and its plenary sessions.

The Standing Committee is chaired by the President of the Assembly of the Republic and includes vice-presidents and Members of Parliament, chosen by all the parties according to their representation in parliament. Sometimes it replaces plenary sessions, thus becoming a sort of mini-Assembly.

Its duties are to follow the activities of the Government and Administration, if need be to ensure that the Assembly is convened and to prepare the opening of the legislative session.

The Standing Committee is always in existence but its activity is suspended while the Assembly of the Republic is functioning.

Parliamentary commissions of enquiry

Parliamentary enquiries can be conducted as part of the political control of the actions of the Government and the Administration and in order to ensure compliance with the Constitution and the law.

This action can be taken by parliamentary groups, the Assembly's specialised committees, the Members of Parliament (minimum of 30) and the Prime Minister.

When there is a decision to conduct an enquiry, a committee to be responsible for this is set up. After the enquiry, the parliamentary commission of enquiry draws up a report which is published in the Journal of the Assembly of the Republic and which the latter has to examine during the proceedings, in a general debate, within thirty days of its publication.

Subject to their formation in general, it is compulsory to set up parliamentary commissions of enquiry when this is requested by one fifth of the Members in office, with a limit of one commission per Member of Parliament per legislative session.

The parliamentary commissions of enquiry have the powers of research inherent in legal authorities, and other powers and rights provided for by law.

Petitions addressed to the Assembly of the Republic

Petitions, representations, objections or complaints sent in writing to the President of the Assembly of the Republic are examined, once they have been received, by the committees and, in some cases, they are published like the reports which the committees believe should be made public.

The author, or the person chiefly responsible for the petition, is told afterwards of the committee's report and the steps taken.

Investiture of the President of the Republic

The Assembly of the Republic takes no part in the election of the President of the Republic; the latter is elected by universal suffrage, a direct and secret ballot on the part of Portuguese electors recorded in the national territory.

However, the President who is elected is invested before the Assembly of the Republic.

Administration of the Assembly of the Republic

The President of the Assembly of the Republic controls the services of the Assembly. These consist of two directorates-general: the Parliamentary Services Directorate-General and the Technical Services Directorate-General.

The President is assisted in these functions by the Administrative Council (consisting of vice-presidents of the Assembly of the Republic representing the respective parliamentary groups, the Secretary-General of the Assembly of the Republic and two workers' representatives) and he also has the support of his own departmental staff.

The Secretary-General of the Assembly of the Republic (appointed by the President, provided the Bureau of the Assembly is in agreement, for the duration of the legislature) has to coordinate and control the directorates-general and submit to the President all matters which require the decision of a higher authority. The Museum of the Assembly comes under the Secretary-General, as does the security department and the reproduction and microfilm department.

The Parliamentary Services Directorate-General includes the Administrative and Financial Services Directorates (archives, administrative work, personnel, accounts, control of funds and stationery department) and the Parliamentary Services Directorate (drafting and preparing the Journal of the Assembly of the Republic and parliamentary support for Committees and plenary sessions).

The Technical Services Directorate-General includes the Directorate for Documentation Services and Bibliographical Information (documentation, publishing, library and historical parliamentary records) and the Directorate for Public Relations and Publicity (public relations and support for international assignments).

There is also a legal auditor who answers directly to the Bureau.

The Assembly also has an administrative assessor and a body of legal assessors.

Under its organic law, the Assembly of the Republic has financial and administrative autonomy and its own assets.

The budget and the accounts of the Assembly are approved in a plenary sitting and published in the official journal *Didrio da República* and in the *Journal of the Assembly of the Republic*.

The income of the Assembly of the Republic, apart from the amounts shown in the budget, consists of transfers of balances from previous years and the proceeds from its publications and royalties.

The staff of the Assembly of the Republic have special arrangements for working allowances, in view of the operating conditions of the Assembly. The nomination procedure is governed by its own rules, drafted and approved by the Assembly, and the Organic Law stipulates that the staff are also subject to the rules applicable to public officials.

There are 266 officials - 24 in the managerial class, 35 senior experts, 106 experts, both professional and auxiliary, 30 administrative posts and 71 assistants and workers.

The parliamentary groups and a Member representing a party on his own have their own personal staff, appointed by the management of each parliamentary group or party and having the same working arrangements as a minister's departmental staff.

ANNEX

Legislation of the Assembly of the Republic

1. Staff regulations for Members of Parliament

- law No. 5/76, of 10 September 76
- law No. 23/79, of 14 July 79
- law No. 43-A/79, of 10 September 79
- law No. 11/80, of 20 June 80
- law No. 1/82, of 14 January 82
- law No. 3/85, of 13 March 85

2. Rules of procedure

- resolution No. 9/85, of 6 March 85

3. Organic law of the Assembly of the Republic and Service Regulations

- law No. 32/77, of 25 May 77

- law No. 86/77, of 28 December 77
- law No. 27/79, of 5 September 79
- law No. 27/79, of 5 September 79
- order ("Despacho Normativo") No. 368-A/79, of 14 December 79
- resolution No. 195-A/80, of 6 June 80
- order ("Despacho Normativo") No. 253/80, of 13 August 80
- order ("Despacho Normativo") No. 281/80, of 26 August 80
- law No. 5/83, of 27 July 83
- resolution No. 21/84, of 18 July 84
- law No. 11/85, of 20 June 85
- resolution No. 20/85, of 12 August 85

4. Various laws

4.1. Publication, identification and form of legal texts

- law No. 3/76, of 10 September 76
- law No. 8/77, of 1 February 77
- law No. 6/83, of 29 July 83

4.2. Parliamentary enquiries

- law No. 43/77, of 18 June 77

4.3. "Provedor de Justi^a" (Ombudsman)

- law No. 81/77, of 22 November 77 - Regulations governing the "Provedor de Justi^a"
- law No. 10/78, of 2 March 78 - Services of the "Provedor de Justiça"»

4.4. Information Councils

- law No. 78/77, of 25 October 77 - Information Councils
- law No. 67/78, of 14 October 78 - Information Councils
- law No. 1/81, of 18 February 81 - amendment to law No. 78/77, of 25 October 77 — Information Councils

4.5. National Planning Council

- law No. 31/77, of 23 May 77 - National Planning Council
- law No. 4/78, of 3 February 78

- 4.6. Press Council
 - law No. 31/78, of 20 June 78 - Press Council
 - law No. 69/79, of 11 October 79 - Press Council support services
- 4.7. National Elections Committee
 - law No. 71/78, of 27 December 78
- 4.8. National Council for the Elimination of Illiteracy and Basic Education for Adults
 - law No. 3/79, of 10 January 79 - elimination of illiteracy
 - law No. 2/81, of 18 February 81 - amendment to law No. 3/79, of 10 January 79 - elimination of illiteracy
- 4.9. Committee for the Assessment of Action by the MAP
 - law No. 63/79, of 4 October 79
- 4.10. Council for the Freedom of Education
 - law No. 65/79, of 4 October 79 - freedom of education
- 4.11. Social Communication Council
 - law No. 23/83, of 6 September 83
 - law No. 11/86, of 3 May 86
- 5. Electoral census law
 - law No. 69/78, of 3 November 78
 - law No. 72/78, of 28 December 78
 - law No. 4/79, of 10 January 79
 - law No. 15/80, of 30 June 80
- 6. Electoral law for the Assembly of the Republic
 - law No. 14/79, of 16 May 79
 - law No. 14-A/85, of 10 July 85
- 7. Unofficial notes
 - law No. 60/79, of 18 September 79
 - law No. 5/86, of 26 March 86

8. Constitutional Court

- law No. 28/82, of 15 November 82 - organisation, operation and procedure of the Constitutional Court
- decree No. 149-A/83, of 5 April 85 - governing the organisation, composition and operation of the administrative and support services of the Constitutional Court

9. National defence and armed forces law

- law No. 29/82, of 11 December 82
- law No. 41/83, of 21 December 83

10. Pay regulations for those holding political posts

- law No. 4/85, of 9 April 85
- order in council No. 334/85, of 20 August 85
- law No. 16/87, of 1 June 87

11. Electoral Law for the Presidency of the Republic

- law No. 143/85, of 26 November 85 - amendements to the Electoral Law for the Presidency of the Republic (amended in official journal *Didrio da República* No. 289, 1st series, of 16.12.1985)

12. Regulations for Members of the European Parliament

- law No. 144/85, of 31 December 85

13. Regulations governing the elections of members of the European Parliament

- resolution of the Assembly of the Republic No. 4/86, (official journal *Didrio da República* No. 4, 1st series, of 6.1.1986, amended in official journal *Didrio da República* No. 22, 1st series, of 27.1.1986)

14. Regulations governing the recruitment of support staff for the European Parliament

- law No. 2/86, of 20 January 86

15. Rules governing a State of siege and a State of emergency

- law No. 44/86, of 30 September 86

16. High authority against corruption

- law No. 45/86, of 1 October 86

17. Radio Council

- law No. 8/87, of 11 March 87

18. Electoral Law for the European Parliament

- law No. 14/87, of 29 April 87
(amended in a supplement to the official journal *Diário da República* No. 104, 1st series, of 7 May 1987)

19. Internal security law

- law No. 20/87, of 12 June 87

20. Participation of the Assembly of the Republic in defining community policies

- law No. 28/87, of 29 June 87

21. National Council for Education

- law No. 31/87, of 9 July 87

This text was written in September 1986. Its sources were the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic, new text, in accordance with Constitutional Law No. 1/82, of 30 September 1982, the Rules of Procedure and Organic Law of the Assembly of the Republic, the Staff Regulations for Members of Parliament, the Pay Regulations for those holding Public Office, Electoral Law, various legislation, the Journals of the Assembly of the Republic and notes on the Constitution by Gomes Canotilho and Vital Moreira.

ORDINARY LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

Legislation proposed	Full publication of debates in the Journal of the Assembly of the Republic
Recording, authorisation, publication and allocation to the Parliamentary Committee	Final drafting decree of the Assembly of the Republic
Examination by the Committee	Publication of the decree of the Assembly of the Republic in the Journal of Assembly of the Republic
Proposed amendments	Promulgation
General Debate Voting	Referenda
Special Debate Voting	Publication of the law in the Official Journal Diário da República

TABLE I

Legislative sessions	draft laws	government drafts	ratifications
1st legislative session	75	128*	19
2nd legislative session	55	85**	15
3rd legislative session	201	64***	27
TOTAL	331	277****	91

* 118 from the Government, 4 from the Regional Assembly of Madeira (RAM) and 6 from the Regional Assembly of the Azores (RAA).

** 70 from the Government, 11 from the RAM and 4 from the RAA.

*** 61 from the Government, 2 from the RAM and 1 from the RAA.

**** 249 from the Government, 17 from the RAM and 11 from the RAA.

TABLE II

legislative sessions	decrees of the Assembly	not promulgated		laws
		political veto	veto because of unconstitutional nature	
1st legislative session	99	—	1 2*	96
2nd legislative session	82	-	- -	82
3rd legislative session	94	2	4 1	87
TOTAL	275	2	5 3	265

* one of the decrees of the Assembly was replaced.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC**

(1st, 2nd and 3rd legislatures)

Draft laws, government drafts and ratifications submitted

legislature	draft laws	government* drafts	ratifi- cations
1st legislative session	75	129	19
T 2nd legislative session	55	85	16
3rd legislative session	202	64	57
4th legislative session	207	105	244
1st legislative session	254	58	100
II 2nd legislative session	117	76	124
3rd legislative session	27	8	16
j T T 1st legislative session	391	88	118
--- 2nd legislative session	149	31	53
* 1st Legislature: Regional Assemblies		50	
Government		333	
IInd Legislature: Regional Assemblies		10	
Government		132	
IIIrd Legislature: Regional Assemblies		16	
Government		103	

Source: Documentation Division of the Assembly of the Republic.

legislature	discussed and approved in general	DRAFT LAWS	
		not allowed	withdrawn
Ist	16	45	15
IIInd	23	31	—
IIIrd	17	19	6

	discussed and approved in general	GOVERNMENT DRAFTS	
		not allowed	withdrawn
Ist	8a)	10	21b)
IIInd	2c)	-	10
IIIrd	5	-	5

- a) 1 government draft from the Regional Assembly of the Azores.
3 government drafts from the Regional Assembly of Madeira.
- b) 2 government drafts from the Regional Assembly of the Azores.
1 government draft from the Regional Assembly of Madeira.
- c) 1 government draft from the Regional Assembly of the Azores.

Source: Documentation Division of the Assembly of the Republic.

Constitutional and Parliamentary Information

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DECREES OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC

decrees	promulgated			not promulgated		
	legislature	I	II	III	I	II
draft laws	194	60	74	2	4	-
government laws	85	23	186	7	2	-
ratifications	42	13	4	3	-	-

legislature	GOVERNMENT DRAFT RESOLUTIONS		DRAFT RESOLUTIONS	
	submitted	final overall vote	submitted	final overall vote
III	57	24	25	14

LAWS PUBLISHED

LEGISLATURES	I	II	III
	310	94	260

Source: Documentation Division of the Assembly of the Republic.

Chronological Table

Elections	Legislatures	President of the Assembly of the Republic	Observations
25-4-76	1st legislative session (1976/77)	VASCO DE GAMA FERNANDES JAR no 15, 1st series, of 30-7-1976	The 1st legislative session of the 1st Legislature began its work on 3 June 1976
	2nd legislative session (1977/78)	VASCO DE GAMA FERNANDES JARno2, 1st series, of 26-10-1977	The 2nd legislative session began its work on 15-10-1977
	3rd legislative session (1978/79)	TEOFILO CARVALHO DOS SANTOS JARno5, 1stseries, of 31-10-1978	Dissolution of the A.R. by decree of the President of the Rep. no 98-A/79, of 11 September 79 The 3rd legislative session began its work on 17-10-1978 Intercalary elections
2-12-79	4th legislative session (1980)	LEONARDO RIBEIRO DE ALMEIDA JAR no 2, 1st series, of 9-1-1980	2nd A.R. The 4th legislative session began its work on 3-1-1980
5-10-80	1st legislative session (1980/81)	LEONARDO RIBEIRO DE ALMEIDA JAR no 2, 1stseries, of 19-11-1980	The 1st legislative session of the 2nd Legislature began its work on 13-11-1980
	2nd legislative session (1981/82)	FRANCISCO DE OLIVEIRA DIAS JAR no 4, 1st series, of 23-10-81	The 2nd legislative session began its work on 15-10-1981
	3rd legislative session (1982/83)	LEONARDO RIBEIRO DE ALMEIDA JARno7, 1stseries, of 4-11-1982	Dissolution of the A.R. by decree of the President of the Rep. no 2/83, of 4 February 83 The 3rd legislative session began its work on 19-10-1982
25-4-83	1st legislative session (1983/84)	MANUEL ALFREDO TITO DE MORAIS JAR no2, 1stseries, of 9-6-1983	The 1st legislative session of the 3rd Legislature began its work on 31-5-1983
	2nd legislative session (1984/85)	FERNANDO MONTEIRO DO AMARAL JAR no 6, 1stseries, of 26-10-1984	Dissolution of the A.R. by decree of the President of the Rep. no 43/85, of 12 July 85 The 2nd legislative session began its work on 15-10-1984
6-10-85	1st legislative session (1985/86)	FERNANDO MONTEIRO DO AMARAL JAR no 2, 1stseries, of 9-11-1985	The 1st legislative session of the 4th Legislature began its work on 4-U-1985
	2nd legislative session (1986/87)	FERNANDO MONTEIRO DO AMARAL JAR no 5, 1stseries, of 29-10-1986	Dissolution of the A.R. by decree of the President of the Rep. no 12/87, of 29 April 87 The 2nd legislative session of the 4th Legislature began its work on 16-10-1986

Chronological Table

	Legislative elections	Government	Prime Minister	Programme	○ ○	Presidential elections	Investiture of P.R.
1st legislature (1976/1980)	1st leg. session (1976/77)	Ist Constitutional Government	MARIO ALBERTO NOBRE LOPES SOARES Decree no 603-A/76, of 23 July 76	JAR no 17 (Supp.), of 3-8-1976	Order-in-council no 683-A/76, of 10 September 76 Order-in-council no 178-A/77, of 3 May 77		14-7-1976 ANTONIO RAMALHO EANES
	2nd leg. session (1977/78)	IIInd Constitutional Government	MARIO ALBERTO NOBRE LOPES SOARES Decree no 12/78 of 23 January 78	JAR no 34 (Supp.) Find series, of 3-2-1978	Order-in-council no 41-A/78, of 7 March 78		
		IIIrd Constitutional Government	ALFREDO JORGE NOBRE DA COSTA Decree no 85/78, of 28 August 78	JAR no 105, IIInd series, of 8-9-1978	Order-in-council no 300-A/78, of 30 September 78	27-6-1976	
	3rd leg. session (1978/79)	IVth Constitutional Government	CARLOS ALBERTO DA MOTA PINTO Decree no 134-A/78, of 21 November 78	JAR no 13, IIInd series, of 5-12-1978	Order-in-council no 448/78, of 30 November 78		
		Vth Constitutional Government	MARIA DE LURDES PINTASSILGO Decree no 74-A/79, of 31 July 79	JAR no 96, IIInd series, of 14-8-1979	Order-in-council no 386/79, of 19 September 79		
	2-12-1979	VIth Constitutional Government	FRANCISCO LUMBRALES SA CARNEIRO Decree no 2/80, of 3 January 80	JAR no 11, IIInd series, of 12-1-1980	Order-in-council no 3/80, of 7 February 80 (amended in DR of 27-3-1980)		

Chronological Table

Legislatures	Legislative elections	Government	Prime Minister	Programme	Organic law	Constitutional amendments	Investiture of P.R.
I st Legislature (1980/81)	A-15-1980	VIIIth Constitutional Government	FRANCISCO PINTO BALSEMÃO	JAR no 20, IInd series, of 17-1-1981	Order-in-council no 28/81, of 12 February 81 Order-in-council no 230-A/81, of 12 February 81	T-12-1980	14-1-1981 ANTONIO RAMALHO EANES
		VIIth Constitutional Government	FRANCISCO PINTO BALSEMÃO	JAR, no 101, IInd series, of 15-9-1981	Order-in-council no 290/81, of 14 October 81 Order-in-council no 295/82, of 28 July 82		
II nd Legislature (1981/82) 3rd leg. session (1982/83)							
III rd Legislature (1983/84) 2nd leg. session (1984/85)	Z-4-1983	IXth Constitutional Government	MARIO ALBERTO NOBRE LOPEZ SOARES	JAR no 6 (Suppl.), IInd series, of 21-6-1983	Order-in-council no 344-A/83, of 25 July 83 Order-in-council no 388/84, of 10 December 84		
IV th Legislature (1985/86) 2nd leg. session (1986/87)	6-10-1986	Xth Constitutional Government	ANIBAL ANTONIO CAVACO SILVA	JAR no 4, IInd series, of 16-11-1985	Order-in-council no 497/85, of 17 December 85 Order-in-council no 151-B/86, of 18 June 86 Order-in-council no 278/86, of 5 September 86	16-2-1986	9-3-1986 MARIO SOARES

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