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The Government, in remaining faithful to the Political Constitution, of necessity remains faithful to corporative ideals

*REMARKS MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER,
PROFESSOR DOCTOR MARCELLO CAETANO,
AT THE AUDIENCE GIVEN TO THE CHAIRMEN
OF THE CORPORATIONS, AT SAO BENTO PALACE,
ON 10th OCTOBER 1968.*

SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DA INFORMAÇÃO E TURISMO

1968

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THE GOVERNMENT IN CONTINUING
FAITHFUL TO THE POLITICAL
CONSTITUTION IN NECESSARY
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I am sincerely delighted to receive the chairmen of the Corporations, a feeling that is all the more understandable if one bears in mind that my public life has been closely connected with the corporative doctrine and spirit. My feelings are justified when I see the structure of the State, as conceived and defined by the 1933 Constitution, thus completed.

The organization of moral and cultural activities set out from elements that arose quite spontaneously and which had long existed; but the organization of economic activities, on the other hand, represents a long, difficult and patient effort. Starting practically from scratch, national trade unions and employers' associations began to be formed, to accompany the industrialization of our country. As the process of economic development unfolded, the State, in close co-operation with the corporative bodies, promoted the development of Labour Law and Welfare. Without struggles, without damage or destruction, the

Portuguese workers gradually gained all the fair benefits that cost the working class and the national economy of other countries countless sacrifice at other periods of history. Nowadays the corporative organization forms an extensive, complex network which is one of the vital organs of the Nation.

The Corporations are the instruments to conciliate tensions that build up within major spheres of national activity. They serve to transmit to the State the needs and hopes of the interests they represent. But since such interests have to be considered in the light of the national interest they should also act as collaborators with the organs of State in putting into practice the supreme principles that necessitate the subordination of private desires to the requirements of the common weal.

The Corporative State enshrined in our Constitution is of necessity a social State, that is, a political power which includes in its essential objectives the moral, cultural and material progress of the society, in a harmonious, balanced rise which promotes the enhancement of the individual and the fair distribution of wealth and thus furthers progress and dignifies work and the worker. It is an extremely hard task, like all those based on training people, on their efforts and their contribution, and a major part is played in it by the fundamental associations, especially occupational or entrepreneurial associations. The Government cannot do everything by itself. The aims we desire can only be achieved quickly by the joint effort of rulers and those directly concerned in them.

Gentlemen: you, as Chairmen of the Corporations, are sufficient guarantee that the corporative spirit lives and is practised in the Corporations. In thanking you for your presence and your words today I would like to stress that in being faithful to the Political Constitution the Government is of necessity faithful to the corporative ideals; to carry them out in practice it knows that it can count on the Corporations.

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