

Statement by Carlos Carvalhas to the Assembly of the Republic (Lisbon, 11 April 1985)

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Arquivo RTP, Rua General Humberto Delgado 12-2 Prior Velho, 2685-340 Sacavém.

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[Carlos Carvalhas] The Minister began by asserting that there are other options, that the choices must be free and based on serious studies. But he then went on to say that the PCP's serious studies are a smokescreen, since in his view they are rooted in ideological arguments. Well, Minister, we still hold the view that Europe is not the EEC. The EEC is the Europe of monopolies rather than the Europe of the workers; and it is not a charity club.

But we have conducted and published serious studies on what we see as the advantages and drawbacks, the positive and negative consequences, sector by sector and business by business. And I should like the Minister to tell us about these issues. Why bring up a hasty and falsified reading of 'Heading for Victory', saying that the Portuguese Communist Party has not changed its position? Minister, there is no need to change it because the situation has not changed. We are not like the Socialist Party, which has yet to change its manifesto ... It would be a good idea to read what it says about the European option!

As for our model, Minister, once and for all, our model is one that is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic to which, as a minister, you owe respect.

Now, Minister, you answer the specific questions that we have been asking in Committee and here in the Assembly of the Republic in various speeches with slogans in which you say that it is a challenge, a shock; that you believe in the EEC, that it is the European option ... but which European option? Could it be that Norway, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, which are outside the EEC, are not part of Europe?

These are the questions I would like to ask you, Minister: will Portugal lose significant parts of its sovereignty with European integration or not? Will vast sectors of the Portuguese economy be ruined through integration or not? Does the Government accept or reject the principle that, after the end of the transitional period, Portugal could come to be regarded as a net contributor?

I would like to know whether the modernisation of which the Minister speaks — and which the Prime Minister reaffirms — is the decay of the national steel industry, the non-exploitation of Moncorvo iron and Alentejo pyrites; is it the handover of copper mining, as is already happening, to the multinationals?

[José Rodrigues Vitoriano] Mr Carvalhas, you have come to the end of the time allowed. Please conclude.

[Carlos Carvalhas] I would like to know whether the increase in unemployment and the foreign debt are the palpable results of this integration?

To conclude, Minister, I would like to tell you that in the past also, for example in the Metween Treaty, there were those who were against and those who were in favour; there were also higher and lower 'Marquises of Alegrete'. Let history be our judge!