

Mário Soares arrives in Lisbon after visiting European capitals (Lisbon, 18 March 1977)

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[Journalist] Europe, Portugal's destiny. The European Common Market, one of the key objectives of the Government of Mário Soares.

[Mário Soares] I hardly need to tell you that the Portuguese delegation is very satisfied with the talks that we held with all four of the countries that we visited, as well as with Saturday's talks with the Holy See and with His Holiness the Pope in particular.

[Journalist] But not all Portuguese political forces are happy with the process of accession under way.

[Mário Soares] It's said that the position of the PCP [Portuguese Communist Party] ... At first, I hoped, as you'll probably remember, that the PCP would also be able to enjoy its 'Italian moment' and could gain something from dialogue with the PCI [Italian Communist Party]. It doesn't seem to have gained anything though, since their positions are still radically opposed.