

Notes on the PCTP / MRPP

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MRPP/ Movimento Reorganizativo do Partido do Proletariado

was founded at a clandestine meeting held in Lisbon on 19 September 1970, attended by Arnaldo Matos who was the first secretary general , Fernando Rosas, João Machado and Vidaúl Ferreira, which from then onward constituted the Lenin Committee, as the Central Committee of the organization was referred too. From December 1970 *Bandeira Vermelha / Red Flag*, its theoretical journal was published and the newspaper *Luta Popular /People's Struggle*, from 1971 onwards edited by Saldanha Sanches.

An article, “Reorganizar o Partido Revolucionário do Proletariado,” in *Bandeira Vermelha / Red Flag*, its theoretical journal, proposed a regrouping of the Marxist-Leninists, because the PCP was seen as dominated “by a fraction of the bourgeoisie that betrays and paralyses the struggle of the working class and the exploited.” The perspective and tasks that the organisation set itself was a Marxist-Leninist line dedicated to “reconstructing” the true Communist Party.

While the document—essentially written by Fernando Rosas, a former PCP militant—valued certain moments in the history of the PCP up to 1956, it also affirmed that since its foundation in 1921, the PCP had been a “failed attempt at a Marxist-Leninist rupture with the petty bourgeois domination of the working

class movement,” and that its history amounted to nothing more than a “long itinerary of petty bourgeois control.”¹

This position, defended in particular by Arnaldo Matos, characterised relations with other Maoist groups. Serrano observes that the MRPP did not participate in any of the unification processes of other Maoist groups, maintaining its distinct identity.² A stance reinforced by the MRPP being the largest of the anti-revisionist formations.

The origins of the MRPP date back to developments following the October 1969 elections for the National Assembly, and the involvement of the *Esquerda Democrática Estudantil* (EDE; Student Democratic Left) in the student unrest that took place in Lisbon in 1968–69. The roots of the EDE itself lay in the demonstration against the Vietnam War at the American Embassy in February 1968, the similarity to the war being fought in Africa were not lost on the young protestors. In the aftermath of a student demonstration against the Vietnam War held in front of the US Embassy in Lisbon, the Student Democratic Left (EDE), which was active in the university's student milieu, was formed. On September 18, 1970, EDE became the Reorganizing Movement of the Proletariat Party (MRPP), in a meeting attended by Arnaldo Matos, Joao Machado, Fernando Rosas and Vidaúl Froes Ferreira.

Its origins in the Student Democratic Left Wing (EDE) shaped the membership of the MRPP: “it did not have membership among either emigrants or the workers movement”. The Law Faculty at the University of Lisbon became the most visible focus for the movement’s work and recruitment, with its influence subsequently extending to other schools in Lisbon and later, from 1973 onward, to student circles in Coimbra, Porto, Braga, and Guimarães. The party's youth wing, *Federação dos Estudantes Marxistas-Leninistas*, the FEML/ Marxist–Leninist Students Federation played an important role in the early years of the party.

¹ CARDINA, Miguel (2017) *Territorializing Maoism: Dictatorship, War, and Anticolonialism in the Portuguese “Long Sixties”*. *Journal for the Study of Radicalism*, 11.2, Fall 2017.

² SERRANO, Julio Pérez (2018) *Radical Left in Portugal and Spain (1960–2010)* in *Challenging Austerity: Radical Left and Social Movements in the South of Europe* Edited by Beltrán Roca, Emma Martín-Díaz and Ibán Díaz-Parra. London Routledge

One participant recalled the protests of the student movement before April 1974 unleashed wider participation in society,

In Economics, where I think there was the most interesting fight, the students occupied the school, banned exams, adopted voting to decide grades, and created free courses running after working hours, so that workers could attend. And these were free courses on the history of the labour movement, on the issue of imperialism, on Marx's texts, on Bettelheim, and on Marxist writers who were banished from teaching. And they occupied the school and lectured the courses themselves (F. Rosas, 2018).³

The 1968 crackdown on the Prague Spring had led many young Portuguese people to become disillusioned with the Soviet model and the Portuguese Communist Party that defended it. The inspiration of Mao's China and the Cultural Revolution, rarely came from knowledge of the country and more stimulated by imagination of the alternative it offered. The Maoist iconography, its artistic and cultural practices proved to be inseparable from the process of politicization and elements of it were reproduced in the large scale murals that became associated particularly with MRRP post-74.

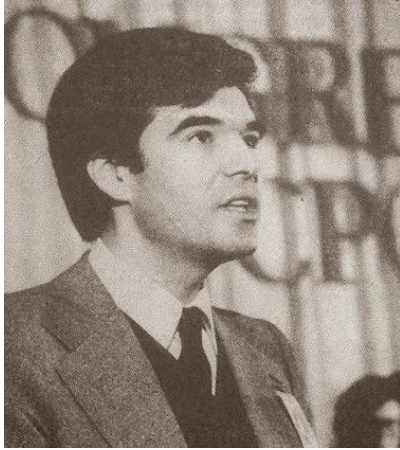
Fernando Rosas, who had been a member of the Communist Party since 1961, lived this rupture in 1968. From participate in the founding of the Student Democratic Left (EDE), he went on into the Movement for the Reorganization of the Party of the Proletariat (MRPP). The student movement, the fraction inspired by Maoism was part of the dynamic of the times, at the forefront of the formation of a new radical left in Portugal in the transition from the '60s to the '70s.

At that time, we saw Maoism as a challenge to the Soviet system, a challenge from the bottom up, which nevertheless wanted to preserve socialism and return it to its non-bureaucratic, non-administrative purity. So, Maoism was ultimately the solution to save the socialist idea from Stalinist or post-Stalinist bureaucracy. [...] And that was very popular. [...] This kind of imaginary of the Cultural Revolution was very popular.⁴

³ PINTASSILGO, J., De ANDRADE, A. N., & BEATO, C. A. S. (2019). Student Movement in Portugal throughout the '60s: Actors' Representations of a Period of Social and Cultural Experimentation. *Espacio, Tiempo y Educación*, 6(1), pp. 145-159. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14516/ete.266>

⁴ F. Rosas, quoted in Pintassilgo et al.

Before 25 April 1974, *Movimento Reorganizativo do Partido do Proletariado* had extensive clandestine activity, especially in the Lisbon particularly among students and young workers, who continued after the revolution that ended the dictatorship.



By far the most famous former FEML cadre was José Manuel Durão Barroso. “Comrade Abel”, went on to serve as the President of the European Commission and the Prime Minister of Portugal. During the *Estado Novo* regime in his university days, he was one of the leaders of the underground Maoist MRPP. Now firmly on the centre-right, he explains his Maoism as a natural reaction to the autocratic regime running Portugal at the time. In an interview with the newspaper *Expresso*, he said that he had joined MRPP to fight the only other student body movement, also underground, which was controlled by the Portuguese Communist Party. Despite this justification there is a 1976 interview recorded by the Portuguese state-run television channel, RTP, in which Barroso, as a politically minded student during the post-Carnation Revolution turmoil criticises the bourgeois education system which "throws students against workers and workers against students."

**HONRA A RIBEIRO SANTOS
E ALEXANDRINO DE SOUSA!**



On 12 October 1972, José António Ribeiro dos Santos, a law student and prominent activist in the Federation of Marxist-Leninist Students (Federação de Estudantes Marxistas-Leninistas), was murdered by agents of the DGS during an academy student meeting of Lisbon at the then Higher Institute of Economic and Financial Sciences (ISCEF). The funeral of Ribeiro dos Santos was transformed into a significant demonstration against the regime and ended with the intervention of the police and the imprisonment of various demonstrators. The MRPP Central Committee approved the resolution *Todos os Quadros São Servidores do Povo* (All Cadres

Are Servants of the People), which contained a eulogy to the “first Marxist-Leninist-Maoist who gave his life for the Proletarian Revolution and for Communism,” using the language of martyrdom.

After April 1974, the MRPP called for the immediate end of the colonial war and for “not one more soldier” to be mobilized to the colonies - even preventing the embarkation of a military unit to Africa - José Luís Saldanha Sanches, then interim director of *Luta Popular*, was arrested on 7 June 1974 and imprisoned at Elvas Fort. In March 1975, the MRPP had its political activity suspended until the date of the Constituent Assembly elections - to which it could not run, being prohibited during this period from developing public propaganda, including the holding of rallies - on the false accusation of “their possible participation or influence in the counterrevolutionary manoeuvres that led to the 11 March counterrevolution”.

The episode reinforced the hostility of the MRPP toward the PCP and the other political formations on the far left, which it called “neo-revisionists.” The resolution stated that they benefited from the “favours of repression, since they not only boycotted the construction of the revolutionary party of the proletariat, but also denounced its militants.”

However, the central aspect that shaped its intervention was clearly the fight against the colonial war, which had helped to define a new approach to opposing the Estado Novo dictatorship. The theme of the colonial war had been placed on the student agenda in the transition from the 1960s to the 1970s mainly through the action of the Progressive Catholics and organizations of Maoist inspiration: ‘War against war! Right?’ That’s the slogan that emerged around 69-70, War against war!» – «Peoples’ war against the colonial war»⁵. These slogans became prominent in the street demonstrations organized by students. The commitment to anti-colonialism had been a key feature of the MRPP.

On 21 February 1970, the first demonstration was held as a direct protest against the colonial war, organized by the Comitês de Luta Anticolonial (Anticolonial Struggle Committees) led by young pro-Maoists. In February 1971, the headline of the first issue of *Luta Popular*, the organ of the MRPP,

⁵ F. Rosas, quoted in Pintassilgo et al.

read: “Long Live the Great, Glorious and Just Revolutionary Struggle for National Liberation of the Oppressed Peoples of the Colonies,” using the (cultural revolution inspired) triumphalist language that was a hallmark of the movement.

The slogan of “not another shipment” was raised by the MRPP. On the night of 3 to 4 May 1974, a group of MRPP activists invaded Figo Maduro airport to boycott the first shipment of troops to Angola scheduled after the 25th of April. It has some success. Some soldiers do not board. “More than 50 were sucked by the popular,” says Major Zilhão, from the Armed Forces intelligence service. Despite being "sucked", out of 50, only ten do not board. But the movement led by the MRPP was unstoppable and many historians accept that street demonstrations contributed to the acceleration of decolonization.



After the revolution, the MRPP achieved fame for its large murals.⁶ The party became intensely active during 1974 and 1975. It took seriously the need to communicate culturally the struggle with guidelines drawn up and the First National Conference on Propaganda Work at the University City Rectory in January 18/19 1975. From December 1973 onward, the newspaper of the

⁶ See separate posting ‘Political Art – MRPP style’

cultural organization linked to the MRPP was called *Yenan*, after the centre of the Chinese communist insurrection from 1935 to 1948. The Technical Institute (IST), the major engineering school in Lisbon, a very strong infrastructure for printing and therefore it became a very strong propaganda center.

The MRPP was the most visibly active in Lisbon and its surroundings: it advocated an aggressive style of political intervention very much based on triumphalism and militant courage that converged with certain conservative positions regarding behaviour, through which it sought to emphasis an imagined “proletarian morality.”

This distinctive characteristic of the MRPP was its accentuated moralism, clearly expressed in the directive *Pensar, Agir e Viver como Revolucionários* (*Think, Act and Live Like Revolutionaries*), dating from October 1972. In this document, following a case of adultery in the ranks, the Central Committee decided to launch a campaign understood as a “prophylactic” against the “microbes of bourgeois moral corruption.” The main weapon against liberal ideologies had to be understood as “a vast and energetic campaign of criticism and self-criticism” of the moral and amorous behaviour of militants to “eradicate from our ranks any displays of ideological, moral and political corruption.”

In January 1974, an MRPP cultural organization defined Portugal as a “neocolony” in which the “jackals of imperialism” were subjecting “the Portuguese people to their decadent values, corrupt habits, pornography, prostitution, poisonous and alienating propaganda, oppression and humiliation, imperiously trampling our beloved people underfoot.”

As to why other aspects of western student radicalism did not feature as prominently with the student activists, this hypothesis was advanced by Fernando Rosas:

Now, there is no radical sexual revolution in the Portuguese May 69. And I have an explanation for that: because the priorities were very different, you see? People had the war, had the PIDE [the regime’s political police], the tortures, the prisons [...]. This took a lot of people’s minds. The urgency, the

*necessity was to overthrow fascism, to fight against fascism, to fight against war.*⁷

Forbidden to run

The MRPP was legalized as a party in February 1975 but as *The New York Times* March 23, 1975 reported,

“Portugal's best known Maoist, whose party has been forbidden to participate in elections scheduled for next month, has vowed to fight against the ban by “mobilizing the masses.”

Jose Saldanha Sanches, editor of Popular Struggle/ *Luta Popular*, referred to the High Council of the Revolution, the ruling group, as “the high council of the counter-revolution” on the ground that most decisions are adopted under the influence of the Communists. “They are social fascists, but this is not yet the opinion of the large masses whom we have to educate,” he said.

Mr. Sanches, who said he Was both Maoist and Stalinist, was told that Alvaro Cunhal, the Communist leader, was also described by some of his adversaries as Stalinist.

“That is an affront to Stalin,” Mr. Sanches said.

When the MRPP is forbidden to run for election to the Constituent Assembly in 1975, one of the reasons is "disturbances of public order, with prejudice to the discipline of the Armed Forces". The “discipline” was the mobilization of troops for the then colonies, which continued after the 25th of April. The MRPP *Not another shipment*, an appeal “to mass desertion”, written by José Luís Saldanha Sanches for the official MRPP newspaper, *Luta Popular*, resulted in the author being the first political prisoner after 25th of April detained by Copcon, the Continental Operational Command, created by António de Spínola and commanded by Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho, who had the duty to enforce the

⁷ F. Rosas, personal communication, June 25, 2018. Quoted in Pintassilgo et al.

“ rules ”of the Revolution. Other MRPP activists, including Arnaldo Matos, would be arrested.

When, after 30 years of prolonged silence, Arnaldo Matos return to the public space - using digital mediums such as Twitter and the online newspaper *Luta Popular* -, he uses a language that surprises those who forgot, or did not know, what Arnaldo Matos said in the hot years of Revolution. The kindest assessment was that he had stood still while everything around him had changed. The 25th of April had been - according to the official pronouncements of the MRPP "a manoeuvre of the bourgeoisie", promoted "by a section of the official of the colonial-fascist army " and unleashed "against the Marcelist clique".

“The Constituent Assembly is a den of parasites”, said the then leader of the MRPP in February 1976, defining the first legislative elections after the 25th of April as “a manoeuvre by the bourgeoisie to obtain a guarantee from the people, the blank check that the Marcelist clique spoke, so that, the day after the opening of the new Parliament, to impose on workers and peasants the most unbridled exploitation and the most ruthless repression”. The Constituent Assembly was “a windmill of words” that served to “applaud the stunts celebrated, outside the Constituent Assembly, between the different factions of the ruling class”.



Figure 1MRPP Publications through the Ages



Figure 2 MRPP mural in Estrela for the release of Arnaldo Matos 1975



Arnaldo Matos Speaks

The PS *Partido Socialista* was “the spokesman for American imperialism”, but that did not prevent a secret meeting between Mário Soares and the leader of the MRPP, who decided to remain “underground” even after April 25. The story is told by Vítor Ramalho, Soares' friend until his death, in his book *Chronicle of a cool friendship*.

Soares and Arnaldo Matos had one thing in common: for both, in 1975, were the enemy was the PCP. A group of MRPP activists comes to pick up Mário Soares but demands that he put a blindfold on so that the PS general secretary does not know where he was being taken. Soares agrees to put the blindfold on. When they arrive at the house where Arnaldo Matos lived, the blindfold to is taken off. But the socialist secretary-general quickly finds out where he was: a citizen sees him coming and says: “Look at Mário Soares here at Parede”.⁸

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⁸ <https://www.publico.pt/2019/02/23/politica/noticia/arnaldo-matos-homem-ficou-1863118>

MRPP brought close to close to 10,000 onto the Lisbon streets to peacefully protest the electoral ban, although it was noted “The group has concentrated its appeals and organizing efforts on the lowest ranks of the armed forces. Soldiers and sailors have been prominent in demonstrations and the Maoist electoral lists contained the names of 20 soldiers.”

Its policy of alliances, shaped by its anti-PCP positions, were inclined towards collaboration with the PS (*Partido Socialista*) which differentiated it from other radical groups. During the revolutionary period of 1974 and 1975, the MRPP was accused by the Portuguese Communist Party of being an agent of the CIA, a belief that was fuelled by cooperation between the MRPP and the Socialist Party against the program of the Provisional Government. Demonstrations warning against the advancement of fascism involved thousands of workers and students “despite the hysterical campaigns of the revisionists, calling these demos provocations against the govt. and the ‘Democratic Armed Forces’.”⁹

Shortly after the legalization of the movement, on 18 February 1975, Arnaldo Matos was arrested for the first time in Mirandela, by COPCON. On May 28, 1975, COPCON, using military units controlled by the PCP, began Operation Turbilhão, occupying MRPP headquarters in the Lisbon region, and arrested Arnaldo Matos; some 432 Party activists and supporters were imprisoned.

"In those months, from a hot summer that starts before summer and extends into autumn, MRPP is the hegemonic force of the far left," wrote journalist Miguel Marujo, quoting former deputy of Bloco de Esquerda and member of Contemporary History Institute of Universidade Novas, Fernando Rosas, in his book *Morte ao traitors!*¹⁰ Another political opponent agrees: “By 1974 it was the largest and strongest and certainly the nosiest of the maoist groups”¹¹

According to Rosas, these assessment are perhaps due to the presence of the youthful militant in the party that were to end up prominent in Portuguese politics and society at various times. A roll call of Portuguese political personalities, names such as Ana Gomes, Agostinho Branquinho, Diana Andringa, Fernando Rosas, Jose Freire Antunes, Jose Lamego, Jose Manuel Barroso, Jose Saldanha Sanches, Maria Joao Rodrigues, Maria Jose Morgado,

⁹ PLP, *Challenge* newspaper September 29th, 1974

¹⁰ Death to the Traitors! The improbable history of the most controversial Portuguese political party. edition: Matéria Prima, November 2018

¹¹ Colin Barker (2008) *Revolutionary Rehearsals* London: Bookmarks

Romeo Frances or Vitor Ramalho, some of whom were arrested in May 1975, during the period labelled PREC (Revolutionary Process in Progress), after the party was suspended.¹²

However what was evident was a kind of cult emerged around the party leader, Arnaldo Matos, from this time onward, he would be known by the MRPP as the “Great Leader and Educator of the Working Class,” and poems and murals appeared representing him in this role.



On July 7, 1975, Arnaldo Matos was released from the Military Hospital by a group of sympathetic soldiers, followed by the release of all other prisoners. The large rally held in Campo Pequeno on 18 July celebrated the defeat of the forces of the PCP (Partido Comunista Português) and the fascists. However, for all its verbal leftism and denunciations of the MFA, the MRPP itself propose "a democratic and popular revolution, made not only by workers and peasants but by other revolutionary sectors of society, such as small and medium shopkeepers, small and medium farmers, small and medium industrialists, etc".

Throughout the Portuguese upheaval their hatred of the 'social-fascists' of the PCP drove the MRPP into some very strange political alliances. They welcomed

¹² The **Processo Revolucionário Em Curso** (PREC) (*Ongoing Revolutionary Process*) was the period during the Portuguese transition to bourgeois normality, which started after a failed right-wing coup d'état on March 11, 1975, and ended after a failed left-wing coup d'état on November 25, 1975. This period was marked by political turmoil, violence, and instability, and the nationalization of industries

the bombings of the PCP headquarters in the summer of 1975 as evidence of "popular justice against the revisionists". In the trade union field they concluded a whole series of electoral alliances with the PS and PPD - and even with the CDS - aimed at diminishing the influence of the PCP. They reproached the victorious officers of November 25 with being too indulgent in relation to "the principal enemy: social-fascism". In fact they welcomed the coup. 'The situation is excellent' they claimed in December 1975, 'Revisionism is being increasingly unmasked'. In the presidential elections of June 1976 the MRPP even urged their supporters to vote for Eanes, the PS backed law-and-order candidate. The telling critiques which the MRPP made of the PRP-BR, whose setting up of 'workers' councils' the MRPP correctly described as "providing a mass basis for COPCON" .

The first turnout in 1976 "is a resounding failure for the MRPP", receives only 36,200 votes (0.66%) and is a disappointment to leader Arnaldo Matos. In 40 years, in all the elections in which it participated, the PCTP / MRPP never elected any deputy. [See Election results on Wikipedia]

PCTP/MRPP Partido Comunista dos Trabalhadores Portugueses/ **The Portuguese Workers' Communist Party/**

April 11/12 1975 the Second National MRPP Conference, on The present situation and the new tasks, raised the question of the foundation of the Party.

In September 1975, Arnaldo Matos launched the "Left Appeal" - in order for the MRPP militants to fight the "black line" within - which shortly after led to departure of Saldanha Sanches and Maria José Morgado.

This was follow-up in December 26-28 1976 with the First National Congress, the MRPP rebadged itself the Communist Party of Portuguese Workers, and started to use the acronym PCTP / MRPP.

1979 March 17/18. Communist Party of Portuguese Workers (PCTP / MRPP), 2nd National Congress in Lisbon. Shortly after Arnaldo Matos was replaced as Secretary-General following his resignation on 25 May 1979.

While the membership and activism of the PCTP / MRPP drifted away in the 1980s, Matos had seemingly left the PCTP/MRPP justifying this decision at the time with the idea that the counterrevolution had won, and therefore considered the party's role in the new society useless. Arnaldo Matos says that this justification was never given by him, revealing the true reason for abandoning the Party: “I left because, in fact, I had to take care of my children and I had no other way of earning a living, and you cannot be secretary-general of the party part-time.” He earned his crust as a lawyer.



1980 with family

Despite this, he continued to speak at PCTP / MRPP rallies and associated with the party, although formally disconnected from it and removed from the traditional left.

Between 1982 and 2015, the Lawyer and University Professor António Garcia Pereira was then in charge of the PCTP / MRPP, having been candidate for President of the Republic, in 2001 and 2006 as well as for the legislative elections and for the municipalities in Lisbon

At war with Garcia Pereira

The PCTP / MRPP had endured into the new century but accelerated decline when it entered a phase of internal turmoil following the 2015 legislative elections, when shortly after, despite not having any office in the party, Matos

gave the order for the suspension to all members of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee, including António Garcia Pereira, the best-known face of the Party and his personal friend. It is then an internal struggle played out in the now online newspaper "*Luta Popular*".

Pereira, over 30 years at the helm of the PCTP / MRPP , was suspended from the party committee of the party's Central Committee on 6 October 2015 , along with four other as they were held to be "*primarily responsible*" for legislative defeat. An internal struggle begins but did not end with the resignation of Garcia Pereira from the Party on November 25th 2015, when he left amidst mutual accusations of "treason" raised by Arnaldo Matos and António Garcia Pereira.

Pereira explains his decision because of the "permanent *personal attacks and infamous imputations of all kinds, without any possibility of debate*" being made against him in the party's Internet newspaper. Both his wife, Sandra Pereira Vinagre, and her daughter, Rita Garcia Pereira, went public to defend Garcia Pereira in an attempt to clarify public opinion about what was really going on . Eventually, in May 2017, Garcia Pereira broke the silence and published eight texts on a *website* entitled "In the Name of Truth", with the aim of restoring the truth of the facts. (www.emnomedaverdade.com)



Figure 3 Arnaldo Matos still in charge

Still Arnaldo Matos had maintained his influence with the party. Despite this, the party contested the 2017 local elections, gaining 12,387 votes (0.24%) but losing the two council seats they held. ¹³

Urgeiriça Theses

Best known for its old mine and milling facilities, Urgeiriça now became associated within the circle of PCTP influence for the much lauded and praised, *Urgeiriça Theses* on the October Revolution. Arnaldo Matos's presentation at the colloquium held on November 6, 2016 in Urgeiriça, on the Centenary of the October 1917 Revolution, is said to have clarified why the two great revolutions in Russia in 1917 and in China in 1949 *were not* proletarian revolutions. Supporters of Matos' claim, on little evidence, that his analysis is nationally and internationally known:

“The “Urgeiriça Theses” have been a fundamental instrument for understanding not only the reality of today, but also the inevitable social transformations that the diners of imperialism around the world already foresee, which are the foreshadowing of a new epoch of revolutions aimed at the Marxist Communist Proletarian World Revolution designed to liberate all mankind from the shackles of oppression, elevating all men to truly free beings in a classless and unexploited society!” ¹⁴



In 2019 “Urgeiriça Theses” achieved some wider notice, published in five languages on web magazine of the French-speaking Canadian Marxist Robert Bibeau. ¹⁵

¹³ See election results listed on Wikipedia entry as PCTP/MRPP still polls tens of thousands of votes in national elections.

¹⁴ Marxism as a Lighthouse, TOWARDS THE COMMUNIST SOCIETY! November 6th 2018
<https://www.lutapopularonline.org>

¹⁵ <http://www.les7duquebec.com/>

February 22nd 2019 Arnaldo Matos, founder and leader of the PCTP/MRPP died. The PCTP / MRPP tribute, “Honor to Comrade Arnaldo Matos”, said his work and his example “will last forever in the memory of the Portuguese workers and workers and will constitute a guide in the struggle of the revolutionary proletariat and the communists for the overthrow of capitalism and imperialism and for the establishment of the communist mode of production and a society of equals”.



Through a note published on the Presidency of the Republic's website, the head of state sends "heartfelt condolences" to the family of Arnaldo Matos and praises his contribution to the debate democratic in Portugal.

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa describes him as a "personality of Portuguese public life known for the shock of his interventions", who "will remain in everyone's memory as an ardent defender of freedom and as a fighter for the cause of social justice and the most disadvantaged".

"Whether or not he agreed with his ideas and statements, the voice of Arnaldo Matos, for his uncompromising independence, contributed decisively to enrich the democratic debate and the pluralism of opinion within Portuguese society. For all of this, Portugal became poorer with his disappearance ", said the President of the Republic.¹⁶

¹⁶ <https://expresso.pt/politica/2019-02-22-Arnaldo-Matos-ficara-na-memoria-de-todos-como-um-defensor-ardente-da-liberdade-diz-Marcelo>