



**THE WORST MAY BE YET TO COME — BUT...**

*Despite threat of a massive bombing, some 400,000 devout Portuguese (above) gathered at Fatima last October 13th to pray for their country.*

## What Now in Portugal?

by John M. Haffert

**O**n October 6th, the Portuguese people were given a terrible test. They were told to work that *Sunday* to show that they were with the revolution.

"Communism is inevitable now," one highly placed person told me, "unless there is a miracle."

### COMMUNISM "INEVITABLE"

I talked with some priests who had expected to die before this, and still expect it. Many known opponents of Communism have fled to Spain. Many remain to take whatever comes.

Why has this happened?

"Because we have not responded . . . and especially among the clergy . . . to the responsibility of Fatima as we should have done," is what one priest (a seminary professor) told me.

How long will it last?

There are good grounds for believing that this is a storm that will pass in a short time and that already, through the storm clouds, can be seen the rainbow of peace. Monsignor John Mowatt, chaplain at the Byzantine Center in the Blue Army house of Fatima, is an expert on the

world-wide revolution. His opinion:

"What we are witnessing today is not so much a victory of militant atheism but the last and most violent manifestations of life before it dies."

When it would seem a time for despair, it is rather a time to hear the words of Pope Paul: "NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME."

But 1975 is not an acceptable time, a Holy Year, for sitting by. It is an acceptable time for **EXCEPTIONAL HOLINESS**. It is an acceptable time for more fervent response to the message of Fatima than ever before.