

Jorge Sampaio

President of Portugal

Jorge Sampaio was born in Lisbon on Sept. 18, 1939. He graduated from the law school of Lisbon University in 1961.

In 1969, Mr. Sampaio ran in the parliamentary elections as a candidate of the opposition movement to the dictatorship. In 1975, he took part in negotiations between civilian political forces and the moderate wing of the armed forces. Also that year he became Secretary of State for External Co-operation. From 1979 to 1984, he was a member of the European Human Rights Commission of the Council of Europe.

In 1978, Mr. Sampaio joined the Socialist Party, becoming a member of its National Secretariat the following year. He was elected to parliament five times between 1979 and 1991 and was the speaker for the Socialist Party Parliamentary Group in 1987 and 1988. In 1989, he was elected secretary-general of the party and became a member of the State Council, which advises the President.

Mr. Sampaio was elected mayor of Lisbon in 1989 and again in 1993. During his term as mayor, he was president of the Union of Portuguese-Speaking Capital Cities, vice-president of the Union of Iberian-American Capital Cities, president of the Eurocities Movement, and president of the World Federation of United Cities.

Mr. Sampaio took office as President of Portugal on March 9, 1996, and was re-elected on Jan. 14, 2001.

Mr. Sampaio is married to Maria José Ritta. They have two children.