



Police arresting Mr Tariq Ali shortly before Dr Caetano was due at Buckingham Palace last night.

Nine arrested during protest outside Buckingham Palace

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By a Staff Reporter

Nine people were arrested outside Buckingham Palace last night during a protest against the visit to Britain of Dr Caetano, the Portuguese Prime Minister.

Shortly before Dr Caetano was due to arrive at the palace, five demonstrators were picked up by police and bundled into the back of a police wagon after a minor scuffle.

Dr Caetano was due to attend an official banquet with the Queen and Prince Philip.

Those arrested included veteran demonstrator Mr Tariq Ali, and one unidentified woman. Mr Ali, who played a

prominent part in the Vietnam demonstrations of 1968, has already been seen on the streets protesting against the Portuguese visit twice this week.

The nine arrested were all charged with offences relating to obstructing and assaulting police. They will appear at Bow Street court on Friday.

More than 150 uniformed and plain clothes police were on duty last night in one of the largest security operations ever mounted outside Buckingham Palace. Three ambulances, a mobile first aid unit and a number of nurses were standing by.

The demonstrators were kept well away from the gates of the

palace behind steel barriers and cordons of police. They were unable to carry their usual banners because the area in front of the palace is designated as a royal park. Permission to stage a full-scale demonstration in the traditional manner had been refused by Mr Rippon, Minister for the Environment.

The arrests occurred half an hour before Dr Caetano arrived, after scuffles in a small section of the crowd.

Dr Caetano and his daughter, Ana Maria, arrived late, flanked by 10 police outriders.

Apart from the arrests there were no other incidents at the demonstration.