

# Portuguese converge on Lisbon to welcome Dr Caetano back home

From Our Correspondent  
Lisbon, July 19

A crowd of about 40,000 people gathered from all over Portugal to demonstrate support for Prime Minister Caetano on his return from London today. They also demonstrated against the "odious offensive" against Portugal launched on the eve of his departure.

Standing in front of the Parliament building of Sao Bento palace they roared and cheered, waved flags and handkerchiefs, as Dr Caetano with his Government Ministers appeared on the balcony overlooking the square.

People had travelled from all over Portugal, with 800 buses bringing loads of country folk. Provincial trains were crammed. Those who could not afford their fares were paid for by the municipalities they represented.

Lisbon shopkeepers had been invited to allow employees to join the demonstration and the mayor of Lisbon published an invitation to all citizens to be present.

Among the many banners waved was one inscribed "Down with *The Times*".

Cheers greeted Dr Caetano as he stepped forward. His voice was drowned with cries of "viva" as he struggled to make himself heard.

When at last the cheering had died down he said that he was aware that the country had followed with anxiety the "campaign of discredit" launched in England on the eve of his trip to London. He assured his hearers that the British people were not against the 600-year-alliance with Portugal and described the warmth of his welcome.

"I bring the certainty that nothing was said in England against the affectionate friendship between the two allies in spite of those who abused their liberties to insult us. The great majority of the British are for the alliance."

He said: "Yesterday in Lourenco Marques and today in Lisbon the Portuguese have guaranteed to the world that they are united in their intentions concerning the overseas territories and the Government policy in following these intentions to fulfil the national will. We are able to fulfil our will. It is best for our people and for the rest of the world."

Dr Caetano warned the country to be "vigilant and active" against those who wage a campaign to make Portugal give up her resolution and see that they did not penetrate into the bosom of the nation at home.

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one without distinction of colour where people can live and work out their destiny. This is worthwhile fighting for."

Christopher Walker writes: Unofficial estimates of the cost of the security operation mounted for Dr Caetano's visit range between £80,000 and £150,000.

During his visit, Dr Caetano had met crowds of slogan-chanting demonstrators on every one of his official engagements. There were only 17 arrests, however, and the level of violence was much lower than had been predicted.

The organizers of the demonstrations were pleased with the results they believed they had achieved.

Although the number of protesters swelled during the evening protests, it remained between 20 and 50 during the day. Miss Polly Gaster, secretary of the Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea, said: "The only people who will have seen these demonstrations as an anti-climax are those who were hoping for violence and blood in the streets."

As well as the scores of uniformed and mounted policemen on show throughout the visit, there has also been an undercover operation run by the Special Branch involving more than 50 men. Many of these have been spotted in anoraks and jeans and others have been placed in "casual jobs", near the scenes of planned demonstrations.

The general public viewing the demonstrations has displayed a general air of indifference, combined with vague sympathy with the attitudes of the protesters. One of the few who showed positive support for Dr Caetano during his stay was a grey-haired City worker who pursued one placard-waver with his umbrella shouting: "You communist bastard."

The highly-publicized re-appearance of Mr Tariq Ali and his colleagues has tended to obscure the fact that the majority of those protesting against Dr Caetano were young people who felt passionately opposed to his policies and the trappings which surrounded his visit.

During the four days in which I followed the demonstrations, the most poignant comment came from a 28-year-old Portuguese woman tourist who was shouting loud anti-Caetano slogans outside the British Museum. "It is something that I have wanted to do for years, but at home you could never do

Let us be a firm and steady force for the people of the world.