

# 300 police TT ring Caetano reception 19/7

By Christopher Walker 73

The third day of the controversial official visit to Britain by Dr Caetano, the Portuguese Prime Minister, ended last night with the biggest security operation yet mounted by the police.

Over 300 uniformed policemen and detectives ringed the Portuguese Embassy in Belgrave Square as guests, including Mr Heath, arrived to attend a dinner given by the Portuguese Government.

An angry crowd of 300 demonstrators shouted abusive slogans from a safe distance, kept well away from the embassy by steel barriers and lines of mounted policemen. From a nearby rooftop plain clothes detectives kept a close watch on the protesters through binoculars.

The demonstrators had marched through London in pouring rain to stage the last display of their opposition to Dr Caetano's visit.

Ambulances and a large mobile first aid unit were standing by for the second night running but there was no violence

and there were ~~no~~ further arrests.

After the last of the guests had arrived, Lord Gifford, the leader of the End the Alliance Campaign, was given permission to address his supporters through a loud hailer. "The battle is going to continue", he told them. "We will not rest until we get an end to fascism and to collaboration with fascist governments."

Earlier in the day Dr Caetano faced the most hostile demonstration of his stay when he arrived at the British Museum to view a special exhibition staged to mark six centuries of the Anglo-Portuguese alliance.

More than 1,000 angry demonstrators lined the streets on either side of the main gates shouting slogans and waving fists. The protesters included members of the museum staff who had been mounting an anti-Portuguese picket outside the gates since 10 am.

Just after Dr Caetano and members of the official party had left their cars there was momentary confusion when fire-crackers were hurled into the museum grounds. Extra police arrived at the spot and one young man was arrested.

A joint statement was presented to demonstrators signed by officials of a number of Civil Service unions including the Civil and Public Servants Association. It claimed that Dr

Caetano's visit to the museum was "nothing more than a disgusting public relations exercise on behalf of one of the most repressive states in the world today".

As the Portuguese Prime Minister was guided round the exhibition—which includes the original Anglo-Portuguese treaty signed in 1373—the protesters kept up their shouts of "Caetano assassino". The police operation was larger than others mounted for the visit. About 200 uniformed men were involved in restraining the demonstrators.

Prominent among the demonstrators was Mr Tariq Ali, the extreme left militant, who was one of the nine people arrested outside Buckingham Palace at another anti-Portuguese protest on Tuesday night. He is due to appear in court on Friday charged with assault.

During the three days of demonstrations the police have made a total of 17 arrests. Last night, Mr John Gerrard, the Deputy Assistant Commissioner, who has been in overall charge of crowd control, said: "I think everything has gone very well indeed. The demonstrators have had the opportunity of making their point without inconveniencing the visit itself."

No major demonstrations are planned for this morning when Dr Caetano is due to leave for Portugal.