Tents stay put

CANBERRA, Thursday. — Nine Aboriginal protestors today defied a police order to shift their tent "embassy" opposite Parliament House.

Police told the protestors yesterday they would have to move so that the lawn on which they are camped could be watered and mowed in preparation for the visit of Indonesia's President Soeharto next week.

The spokesman for the Aborigines, Mr Mike Anderson, 20, of Walgett, sent a note to the police saying the group would refuse to move.

The Aborigines later borrowed a mower from "a sympathetic person in Canberra" and mowed the lawn around their four tents themselves.

Government workmen mowed the edges of the lawn, but did not go near the Aborigines' area. The lawns remained unwatered.