

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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1,429 people killed in chemical attack

London.—US Secretary of State John Kerry said last night Syrian government forces killed 1,429 people in a chemical weapons attack in Damascus last week.

Kerry said the dead included 426 children, and described the attack as an “inconceivable horror”.

The US is pushing for intervention to stop the Syrian government from using chemical weapons.

The government of President Bashar al-Assad has denied carrying out the attack and blames rebel forces.

“Britain will always stand up for Gibraltar”

Britain will always stand up for Gibraltar and the interests of its people, David Cameron said yesterday.

The prime minister said it was something that mattered to us “very deeply”, as he held a meeting to discuss the border dispute with Spain.

After talks at Downing Street, the British territory’s Chief Minister Fabian Picardo said Gibraltar knew it had “a friend in David Cameron”.

Picardo also met Foreign Secretary William Hague on Wednesday.

● “I think there will be a national soul-searching about our role in the world and whether Britain wants to play a big part in upholding the international system...”



David Cameron has been forced to turn his back on possible military action against Syria.

London.—He lost by just 13 votes, but Prime Minister David Cameron’s failure to win parliamentary approval to launch military action against Syria may place a question mark over Britain’s role in the world as well as his own career.

Cameron’s inability to determine Britain’s foreign policy and join Washington and Paris in strikes against Syria will strain the “special relationship” with the United States - the foundation of Britain’s global role since World War Two.

It is a stunning reversal in international affairs, after a decade in which Britain was the only major power to join the United States on the battlefield in Iraq, and by far its most important comrade in arms in Afghanistan.

More than 600 British troops have died under U.S. command in those two wars, since Prime Minister Tony Blair declared he would stand “shoulder to shoulder” with America after the 11 Sept. 2001 attacks on the United States.

No more. After Cameron lost Thursday’s vote to support the principle of military action against Syria to deter President Bashar al-Assad from using chemical weapons, Washington can no longer rely on Britain for automatic military backup.

“I think there will be a national soul-searching about our role in the world and whether Britain wants to play a big part in upholding the international system,” said George Osborne, Cameron’s finance minister and close ally. “Obviously, it would be better from the point of view of the special relationship if we were able to take part in any military action.”

There were lively scenes in parliament’s wood-panelled debating chamber as lawmakers digested the result. One minister was seen repeatedly shouting “disgrace” at those who voted against Cameron, saying they had given “succour” to Assad.

Syria vote humiliates Cameron, strains special relationship