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JUBILEE

5,500 British residents now live in Calvia, according to new figures: See P14-15

Growing concern over alarming increase in balcony falls in Magalluf: See Page Three Inside Today

Britain talks tough on Gibraltar



London.—Britain will continue to push for a diplomatic solution to the dispute with Spain but has not ruled out “direct legal action” over “disproportionate and obviously politically motivated” border checks, Foreign Secretary William Hague said in written statement to the House of Commons yesterday.

Hague repeated the British Government’s commitment to stand by Gibraltar in the face of “continued hostility” and said the UK had briefed its EU partners on Spain’s “unjustifiable behaviour”.

He said Britain would continue to press the Spanish Government to de-escalate the situation and to remove the additional checks at the border, while “preparing prudently” to increase pressure on Spain if need be.

“We will continue to respect the wishes of the people of Gibraltar, and will take whatever action is necessary to safeguard Gibraltar, its people and its economy,” Hague told parliament.

The statement updated MPs on development over

the past month and sketched out the impact of the Spanish controls on Gibraltar’s economy. It was laid in the Commons yesterday ahead of today’s scheduled intervention on Gibraltar by Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel García-Margallo, who is due to address the Spanish parliament this afternoon. It also came as officials from all three governments worked behind the scenes to hammer out a framework for “ad hoc talks” in line with the formula first proposed to Spain by Hague last year with Gibraltar’s backing.



Syrian refugee in Majorca warns West against military strike n Syria

MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Obama: approve military action

● President Barack Obama urged Congress yesterday to approve U.S. strikes on Syria soon as the United Nations said two million Syrians had fled a conflict that posed the greatest threat to world peace since the Vietnam war.

Having startled friends and foes alike in the Middle East by delaying a punitive attack on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad until Congress reconvenes and agrees, Obama met congressional leaders at the White House to urge a prompt decision and assure them it did not mean another long war like Iraq or Afghanistan.

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