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Spanish prosecutor seeks four year sentence for ex-IMF chief

THE Spanish public prosecutor requested yesterday a four-and-a-half year prison sentence for ex-International Monetary Fund chief Rodrigo Rato, who is being investigated over an expenses scandal during his time at Bankia. The prosecutor issued a statement saying Rato, a former finance minister and leadership contender for the ruling centre-right People's Party, should also pay 2.69 million euros (\$2.93 million) in damages. Rato, who was chief executive of Bankia



shortly before it needed Spain's costliest state bailout in 2012, has denied wrongdoing in all cases against him.

The case has yet to go to trial and the High Court has said it is looking into whether there are grounds to take it further as it investigates allegations that Rato and other former Bankia executives misused company credit cards for personal expenses.

In a separate case, the High Court is looking into whether a 2011 flotation of Bankia, under Rato's tenure, was flawed.

SANTA PONSA IN MAJOR MIS SPY OPERATION

● High-profile dissident republican Colin Duffy was allegedly targeted in an MI5 sting operation in Majorca, a court has been told.

● An agent said he posed as a holidaying businessman with criminal links in a bid to secretly record discussions about potential arms dealing. **See Page Three.**



The Demons arrive! Centres



The Danish Girl, Oscar nominated and showing in Palma in English: See Inside