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Catalonia announces law to formalise 1 Oct. vote on split from Spain

Madrid.—Catalonia yesterday announced a law to make formal its plans for a 1 Oct. referendum on whether to declare independence from Spain, a vote the government says is illegal and has said it will stop.

Catalan lawmakers were due to vote late yesterday on the referendum law and the legal framework needed to set up an independent state. The laws will likely be approved because pro-independence parties have a majority in the regional parliament. Polls in the northeastern region, whose capital is Barcelona, show support for self-rule waning as Spain's economy improves. But the majority of Catalans do want the opportunity to vote

on whether to split from Spain. The government yesterday said it had asked the Spanish constitutional court to declare the referendum law void as soon as it approved by the regional parliament. The Spanish constitution states that the country is indivisible. "What is happening in the Catalan parliament is embarrassing, it's shameful," deputy prime minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria told reporters. The details of the referendum, which aims to pose the question "Do you want Catalonia to be an independent republic?" to all Spanish citizens living in Catalonia, were revealed amid a tense atmosphere in the regional parliament.

Calvia Mayor meets with British Consul General

Palma.—The British Consul General, Lloyd Milen, held talks with the Mayor of Calvia Alfonso Rodriguez to discuss the holiday season and also the campaign against bad and rowdy behaviour in the resorts which has been

launched by the council. Rodriguez said that bad behaviour by British tourists would not be tolerated. Milen welcomed the campaign. The Calvia council underlined the great working relationship it has with the British government.

Police: Tourists offered 3,000 pounds for false holiday allegations

● “Touts received 50 pounds per complaint,” according to police

Palma.—The alleged organised plot to defraud hotels in Majorca through false claims by British holidaymakers for food poisoning or gastric complaints used an “army of tiqueteros” or “touts”. These agents would approach holidaymakers and offer them “free holidays”. They were told

that they could get between 2,500 and 3,000 pounds compensation plus the cost of their stay at the hotel. For each holidaymaker who made a claim, there was a commission of 50 pounds.

Seven people were arrested by the Guardia Civil on Tuesday. The two main accused were arrested

at a Bendinat mansion. They have categorically denied that they are responsible for the plot.

The national government’s delegate, Maria Salom, and the colonel in chief of the Guardia Civil, Jaume Barceló, will be holding a press conference to explain the details of the operation.



Police launched a major operation on Tuesday and made a series of arrests.

Brexit will not hit British tourism to Spain: See Page Three Inside