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Inside today: Our spotlight on the north of the island



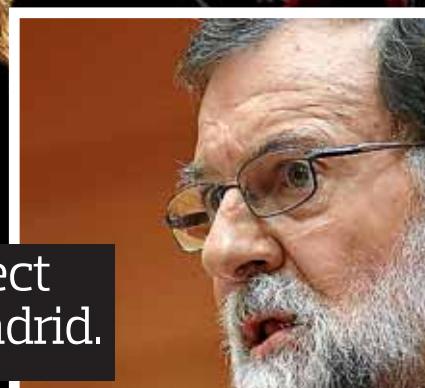
Catalonia declares independence from Spain, direct Madrid rule looms

- Catalan parliament declares independence.
- Senate authorises government to rule Catalonia directly.
- Prime minister calls for calm.
- Risk of confrontation increases as crisis spirals.



● Puigdemont: independence.

● Rajoy: direct rule from Madrid.



THE main secessionist group in Catalonia, the Catalan National Assembly (ANC), yesterday called on civil servants not to follow orders from the Spanish government after Madrid authorised direct rule over the region.

Following a declaration of independence in Catalonia the upper house of Spain's parliament authorised the government of prime minister Mariano Rajoy to rule Catalonia directly from Madrid.

The ANC called on Catalan civil servants to respond with "peaceful resistance."

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