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**VJ DAY: UK COMMEMORATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY
AS ROYALS LEAD TRIBUTES**

GERMANY MAKES MAJORCA PAY THE PENALTY

Palma.—The president of the Playa de Palma Hoteliers Association, Isabel Vidal, said yesterday that the German government's inclusion of the Balearics as a risk area for Covid-19 is "a severe blow" for hotels.

Vidal added that "it is a very bad and difficult situation for everyone" and comes on top of the impact of the UK government's travel quarantine.

"It is time," she stressed, "to sit down and make the right decisions".

She observed that there is a "contradictory sensation" in Playa de Palma.



This is because the resort area is quiet and "clients are enjoying this".

Airport job losses

Germany is the main market for Playa de Palma, which does also attract decent numbers of UK tourists.

There are typically fewer numbers of tourists from Scandinavia and eastern Europe as well as from mainland Spain, although demand among the latter has increased this summer because of travel restrictions abroad.

At Son Sant Joan Airport

yesterday, employees were expressing their concerns about the impact of the German government's advice against travelling to the Balearics.

The feeling was that the tourism season was over. Flights will be reduced, and this reduction will mean job losses and companies' cutbacks.

There were some 40,000 German tourists in Majorca on Friday when the German government made its announcement.

The scramble to leave was evident yesterday.

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German health minister warns against "party holidays"

● The German health minister said yesterday party holidays were irresponsible as he defended a decision to declare nearly all of Spain, including Majorca, a coronavirus risk region following a spike in cases there.

"I know how much the Germans love Spain ... But unfortunately the infection rates there are rising sharply, too sharply," Jens Spahn told the *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper.

"Whoever goes to Spain despite the warning should protect themselves and others while on holiday. Party holidays are irresponsible in this pandemic."

People returning to Germany from designated risk regions face a coronavirus test or two weeks' compulsory quarantine.

Spahn's comments came as the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Germany rose by 1,415 to 222,828, the biggest increase since late April, data from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for infectious diseases showed yesterday.

Infections in Spain have also spiked in recent days after it ended a tough lockdown seven weeks ago.

The German move deals a new blow to hopes for a swift revival of mass tourism after months of lockdown all but wiped out this year's high season.

There are currently around 40,000 Germans on holiday with tour operators in the Balearics, the vast majority in Majorca, plus more independent travellers, the German travel association said.

"We know we have to be careful and we hope we can still have a nice holiday despite the difficulties."

"There are risks but I think it will be fine if we take care," a visitor from Berlin who only gave his name as Wolfgang told Reuters Television.

TUI, the world's largest tourism company, said it was cancelling all German package holidays to the region with immediate effect until August 24, appealing to customers already there to return within seven days.