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Spanish court puts Repsol chairman, former bank chief under investigation in alleged spying case

London.—Spain's High Court curity firm belonging to foryesterday placed Antonio Brufau, chairman of oil company Repsol, and Isidro Faine, the former chairman of Spain's Caixabank, under formal investigation as part of a probe into a decade-old alleged spying case.

An official court document released yesterday showed the judge is investigating whether Repsol and Caixabank hired Grupo Cenyt, a semer police chief Jose Manuel Villarejo, to spy on the then chairman of construction company Sacyr, Luis del Rivero, in 2011 and 2012. The alleged aim was to block a takeover bid for Repsol by Sacyr and Mexican state oil firm Pemex. Repsol was then partly owned by Caixabank.

The so-called 'WINE' project allegedly started when Repsol detected a common

"strategy by Del Rivero to join (forces) with Pemex in order to obtain almost a third of the total shares of Repsol, and thus gain control of the Spanish oil company," the court document said.

Repsol said no current or former board member, executive or employee had acted illegally or unethically in relation to the procurement of information serv-

BRITISH EXPORTS TO SPAIN SLUMP AFTER BREXIT



• The sectors with the greatest weight in exports were capital goods and also food, beverages and tobacco each accounting for about 20% of the total.

ritain's exit from the European Union has hit Spanish imports from Britain in the first two months of the year as new EU trade rules disrupt trade flows across the Channel.

Spain's imports from the UK decreased 49% in the first two months of the year compared with the same period a year ago. By contrast, intra-EU

trade data showed Spanish imports fell only 7%, the Spanish industry ministry said yesterday.

During the same period, Spanish exports to Britain decreased 15%, much more than the 5.1% drop of Spain's sales to other EU partners. The ministry hasn't provided trade balance data with individual countries.

Britain ended its transition out of the

European Union on the Jan. 1 following a referendum in 2016, effectively erecting barriers to the trade of all sorts of goods and services.

Overall, data from the Spanish industry ministry showed the country's trade deficit narrowed 49% in the first two months of the year compared with a year earlier to 2.85 billion euros (\$3.41 billion). Total imports fell 11% to 46.89

billion euros, while exports decreased 6.6% to 44.04 billion euros as a result of coronavirus business restrictions.

The ministry did not provide a breakdown of the type of goods by country, but pointed that the sectors with the greatest weight in exports were capital goods and also food, beverages and tobacco each accounting for about 20% of





Real Madrid team bus attacked in Liverpool.

Liverpool apologise to Real Madrid after team bus damaged

iverpool apologised to Champions League opponents Real Madrid after the bus carrying the Spanish side was damaged as it arrived at Anfield for Wednesday's quarterfinal second leg.

"We condemn unequivocally the actions that led to Real Madrid's team bus being damaged during its arrival to Anfield this evening. It is totally unacceptable and shameful

behaviour of a few individuals," the English club said in a statement. "We sincerely apologise to our visitors for any distress caused. We will work together with Merseyside Police to establish the facts and identify those responsible."

A video posted on Instagram showed around a hundred Liverpool fans, some holding flares, booing the arrival of the