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IN GOOD VOICE

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SACKED CATALONIA LEADER CALLS FOR OPPOSITION TO MADRID'S RULE

SACKED Catalan president Carles Puigdemont yesterday called for peaceful "democratic opposition" to the central government's take-over of the region following its unilateral declaration of independence from Spain.

Puigdemont, whose regional government was dismissed by Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy on Friday, accused Madrid of "premeditated aggression" against the will of the Catalans.

Rajoy removed Puigde-



Puigdemont was playing it cool yesterday.

mont, took over the administration of the autonomous region and set a new election after Catalonia's parliament declared itself an independent nation on Friday.

The bold if futile action brought Spain's worst political crisis in the four decades since the return of democracy to a new and possibly dangerous level.

"It's very clear that the best form of defending the gains made up until now is democratic opposition to Article 155," Puigdemont said in a brief statement.

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Did you remember? Clocks went back this morning

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL INSIDE



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British navy sacks nuclear submariners over cocaine use, commander investigated

London.—Britain's navy has fired nine sailors serving on a nuclear-armed submarine after they tested positive for using cocaine, the country's defence ministry said yesterday. The crew were from HMS *Vigilant*, one of four Royal Navy submarines which operate the Trident nuclear missile system. "We do not tolerate drugs misuse by service personnel. Those found to have fallen short of our high standards face being discharged from service," a Royal Navy spokesman said.

The *Daily Mail* newspaper reported that

the sailors had failed drugs tests while the submarine was docked in the United States to pick up nuclear warheads and undergo work, and the sailors had been accommodated in hotels on shore.

A defence ministry spokesman declined to comment on the location of the incident but said: "There is no evidence to suggest any individual was under the influence while performing their duties."

The ministry also confirmed the submarine's commander had been relieved of his command pending investigation.

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