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Spain confirms first case of coronavirus, says Health Ministry

Madrid.—Spain has confirmed the country's first case of coronavirus after a man was diagnosed on the remote island of La Gomera in the Canaries, the Health Ministry said late on Friday.

The patient is part of a group of five people taken into observation on the island and isolated on Thursday after it was found some of them had come into contact with a German man diagnosed with the virus, the ministry said. The diagnosis from Spain's National Centre for Microbiology came shortly after a plane transporting a group of 27 EU nationals from the virus's epicentre in the Chinese city of Wuhan landed in Madrid.

None of the repatriated Spaniards exhibited

symptoms of the virus, but they will be quarantined at a military hospital in Madrid and held under observation for 14 days, the health ministry said. Four Danish citizens and one Norwegian who were also aboard the plane will be flown back to their home countries. Health Minister Salvador Illa will chair a ministerial meeting this weekend to discuss Spain's response to the outbreak, which has infected more than 9,000 people and killed more than 200 around the globe.

The World Health Organization declared the epidemic an international emergency on Thursday, with cases confirmed in nearly 20 countries, including the United States, Britain and Germany.



“My government and most of the citizens of Gibraltar have deep regrets about what is about to happen....”

Gibraltar.—The Chief Minister of Gibraltar Fabian Picardo presided over a ceremony on Friday night in which the European Union flag was lowered and replaced with the Commonwealth flag in an emotional ceremony. The peo-

ple of Gibraltar voted to stay in the European Union in the referendum and the British enclave on the southern tip of Spain has serious concerns over its future now that Britain is not a member of the European Union. “My gov-

ernment and most of the people of Gibraltar have deep regrets about what is going to happen,” said Picardo. The government of Gibraltar has been working hard to try and counterbalance the impact of Brexit.



Controls on EU imports

London.— British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is preparing to impose full customs and border checks on all European goods entering the United Kingdom after Brexit, in an attempt to ramp up pressure on the bloc in trade talks, the *Telegraph* newspaper reported.

“We are planning full checks on all EU imports - export declarations, security declarations, animal health checks and all supermarket goods to pass through Border Inspections Posts,” *The Telegraph* said.