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Many dead as migrant boat capsizes off Canary Islands, more missing

Madrid.—At least eight people were drowned after a boat carrying more than 35 migrants from the Maghreb region of North Africa and heading towards the Canary Islands capsized on Tuesday, emergency services said yesterday. Four people were found dead late on Tuesday and another four bodies were rescued yesterday morning. The emergency services said they were searching for any more missing persons.

One of the 28 migrants rescued had to be transferred to a hospital.

A Reuters reporter saw rescue workers carry bodies on stretchers over the jagged rocks of

Lanzarote's Orzola beach before placing them down and covering them with blankets. Hundreds of people have died this year making the perilous crossing to the Spanish islands in the Atlantic Ocean, often in rickety, overcrowded boats with unreliable engines, according to the International Organization for Migration.

Migrant arrivals in the Canary Islands have surged to 17,000 this year -- 10 times last year's total -- as north and sub-Saharan Africans grow desperate after losing incomes from tourism, among sectors hit worst by the coronavirus pandemic.



Spanish Prime Minister, Pedro Sanchez, right, with his Italian counterpart, Giuseppe Conte,

SPANISH PM MET WITH PROTESTS IN PALMA

- Pedro Sanchez presides over Spanish/Italian summit in Palma in which both countries agree to co-operate in the fight against the coronavirus.
- Spanish PM met with banners and protests in Palma over the lockdown.
- Balearic President holds talks with PM over PCR tests for all travellers: SEE INSIDE

Spain back Germany over U.S. defence

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez yesterday backed Germany's view that Europe would not be able to provide for its own security without U.S. and NATO help, distancing him from a call by France for an independent European de-

fence strategy. "I would say I am more with the German vision of international relations," Sanchez said during a video conference on foreign policy held by the Kroeber Foundation when asked whether he backed the German or French stance.