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Parkinson show

Contrary to the belief of amused Conservative delegates in Blackpool yesterday, the light aircraft trailing the banner "Don't sack Cecil" over the conference centre was not hired by the beleaguered Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. The Cessna 125, which flew for an hour over the area, was piloted by the eccentric Brian Bateson, the local man responsible for flying the message "The Kremlin sends congratulations" over the heads of the Greenham Common women earlier this year. Bateson, aged 43, director and chief flying instructor of Blackpool and Fylde Aeroclub, said: "Mr Parkinson needs support and it was about time someone did something about it."