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URGENT - WESTLAND

MR MICHAEL HESELTINE, THE DEFENCE SECRETARY, HAS CANCELLED A FAMILY HOLIDAY TO NEPAL - DUE TO START NEXT SATURDAY - BECAUSE OF THE WESTLAND HELICOPTER CRISIS, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

A SPOKESMAN SAID MR HESELTINE DID NOT THINK IT RIGHT TO GO ON HOLIDAY AT THIS STAGE BECAUSE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES PLACED UPON HIM BY THE CABINET OVER THE AFFAIR.

MR HESELTINE BELIEVES THAT THE EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM RESCUE OPERATION FOR WESTLANDS, WHICH HE FAVOURS, MIGHT BE JEOPARDISED IF HE WERE ABSENT FROM THE COUNTRY OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

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