

The Cabinet have reaffirmed that it is the policy of the Government that it is for the company to decide what course to follow in the best interest of Westlands and its employees. Cabinet discussed how this decision should apply in practice to ensure that collective responsibility was upheld. It was agreed that during this period when sensitive commercial negotiations were in process, all statements by Government Ministers should be cleared inter-departmentally through the Cabinet Office to ensure that all answers given by the Government were consistent with the policy decided by Cabinet.

Mr. Heseltine found himself unable to accept this procedure and left the Cabinet. The Prime Minister expressed her regret at his decision.