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SAS man will negotiate for Brit hostages;Kidnap;Murder

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A FORMER SAS man is set to be made an official Government trouble-shooter to deal with kidnappings involving Britons.

The action-man will get a Pounds 100,000-a-year salary and fly around the world to mastermind the rescue or release of hostages.

He will also advise foreign governments on the safest course of action. Security forces in some countries are often inexperienced and put hostages in danger. The man who gets the job is also expected to be an experienced negotiator.

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook told the Commons yesterday: "We are anxious to share our experience of dealing with hostage situations with governments finding themselves in a situation with British hostages."

Mr Cook also said he had ordered travel agents to halt all trips into danger areas of countries like Uganda and the Yemen.

Three Britons died there in December during a shoot-out between government forces and tribal kidnappers.

Mr Cook said: "Travel companies must use their discretion and judgment to provide clear warnings and advice to those who travel with them."

Rwandan rebels warned Ugandan tourism chiefs TWO WEEKS ago they would target British and U.S. visitors, it was claimed last night. Wayne Moore, of London-based **Encounter Overland**, said the authorities failed to notify tour operators.

Each year at least 18,000 Britons travel to Uganda, around 300 on adventure holidays with Acacia Expeditions.

Acacia ran the trip for the 14 hostages. Each paid more than Pounds 2,500 for the 28-day trip, called The Gorillas, Gameparks and Chimps Expedition.

A spokesman for the firm yesterday expressed their deepest sympathy at the horror.

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