

ANDREW MARR SHOW, BORIS JOHNSON, PRIME MINISTER, 1ST DECEMBER, 2019

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BORIS JOHNSON, MP

PRIME MINISTER

AM: One simple question to start with. How could such a man be released onto the streets of Britain after serving only eight years? My final guest this morning is the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. How could it happen, Boris Johnson?

BJ: Well, I'm afraid that when you look at the case there are a number of conclusions that one can immediately draw and that is of course first of all, Andrew, that I pay tribute to the emergency services, the reaction of the police, the public. Our sympathies of course are with the victims and their families. But although it is very early I think it is legitimate to look at the case in the way that you just have and to ask ourselves exactly that question. How could he be out so early? The answer is, I'm afraid, that he was out because he was on automatic early release. When the judges reviewed his sentence in 2012, they had no option but to comply with the law that Labour brought in 2008 which meant effectively –

AM: You say Labour. You've been in power for a decade.

BJ: Effectively that he was out – he out – they had to comply with the law as it stood and he was out in eight years. And this was a guy, don't forget, Judge Wilkie said was a very serious Jihadi. And that's why, that's why when I've been in office for 120 days –

AM: Your party has been in power for ten years.

BJ: - and that's why when I stood on the steps of Downing Street I said we were putting more money into policing, but I also said in August that we would no longer allow the automatic early release of serious and violent offenders. And what we're doing now is there is a Bill which was in the Queen's Speech to prevent automatic early release and as you know –

AM: There is nothing in your manifesto that would have changed this case is there? Nothing in your manifesto.

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BJ: There's a Bill in the Queen's Speech to prevent automatic early release which I have campaigned against, and it was – to get to your question, Andrew, it was because of automatic early release that this individual was out on the streets.

AM: And that came about because –

BS: And had it not been – if he'd not been released – he would have been in until 2026.

AM: Sorry, this original sentence, his original sentence was an indeterminate sentence to protect IPP. To protect the public. That was abolished by the Conservatives under your colleague Ken Clarke when he was Justice Secretary. Was that a mistake?

BJ: No. What we were doing –

AM: Why not?

BJ: Because he was sentenced under Labour's system that allowed him to be released automatically having served only eight years and when the judges, Judge Levinson and others reviewed his case in 2012 they determined that he could come out effectively after only eight years. Even though - and so what we said –

AM: Your government got rid of the IPPs in 2012. You got rid of the IPPs in 2012 and here is what the Ministry of Justice said about that.

BJ: No.

AM: He said there was going to be 'new determinate sentences. This will see more dangerous criminals given life sentences and others spending longer periods in prison with tough conditions on release.'

BJ: Absolutely.

AM: It did not happen.

BJ: What we have said and what I have said since coming to office in the last three or four months is that I think this whole system of automatic early release, which was brought in by Labour, it was under – and it was under that system –

AM: You've been in power for ten years!

BJ: - it was under – I've only been in office for 120 days and by the way –

AM: I beg your pardon; you're Leader of the Conservative Party. The Conservative Party has been in power for ten years.

BJ: _ one of the reasons we're having this election is because we have a Queen's Speech that was blocked by parliament, amongst other things, not least Brexit and we need to get it done so that we can move forward. I think it's ridiculous, I think it's repulsive that individuals as dangerous as this man should be allowed out after serving only eight years. And that's why we are going to change the law.

AM: We were told that he was under strict conditions when he was let out. What strict conditions were they?

BJ: Well, there are a number of conditions attached to his

AM: Which ones?

BJ: - licence and I'm not going to go into all the details but he has very strict conditions.

AM: Do you know them?

BJ: I do, I've seen them, but let's be frank, they were not – nothing that was capable of being done could have really changed the way he behaved.

AM: You see you promised tough licence conditions on release.

BJ: The problem was that this individual should have been in prison and he – there was no question of probation –

AM: and under the Conservatives he was let out. Under the Conservatives he was let out. This is the Conservative decision. You've been in power for ten years.

BJ: Because of changes to the law..because of changes to the law that were brought in by the Labour Party, that I voted against –

AM: You're in power for ten years and you've done nothing about it in ten years.

BJ: - that Jeremy Corbyn, that Jeremy Corbyn voted in favour of.

AM: For ten years you've done nothing about it.

BJ: He voted in favour of automatic early release.

AM: In ten years you've done nothing about it.

BJ: You cannot retrospectively change

AM: For ten years you have done nothing about it.

BJ: Sorry, but you can't change the basis on which someone is sentenced. You're talking about Usman Khan, I'm talking about the future.

AM: For ten years you've done nothing to change the system or toughen it. Now you're saying, ah now I will.

BJ: I'm talking about what we are going to do. I've been in office for 120 days. We're going to bring in tougher sentences for serious sexual and violent offenders and for terrorists. We've put more money into counter terrorism.

AM: Well let's talk about your record.

BJ: That is what we're going to do. I absolutely deplore the fact that this man was out on the streets. I think it is absolutely repulsive and we are going to take action.

AM: That repulsive thing happened under the Conservatives. It was Conservative legislation and a Conservative regime under which –

BJ: I must respectfully –

AM: - would you like to apologise to people for the fact that that happened?

BJ: I respectfully repeat to you that he was –

AM: It happened under the Conservatives

BJ: - his release was necessary under the law because of the automatic early release scheme under which he was sentenced. That was the reality and that was brought in by Labour with the support of Jeremy Corbyn and the rest of the Labour Party. I opposed it. I opposed it both in 2003 – I opposed it both in 2003 and in 2008 and now that I am Prime Minister I am going to take steps to make sure that people are not released early when they've committed some serious sexual, violent or terrorist offences.

AM: I need to ask you some questions, that's the way it goes. In 2019 the Chief Inspectorate of Probation said this of the Probation Service, again, under the Conservatives he said: 'Probation is not working as it should, it's not delivering well enough for some of

the most troubled and sometimes troublesome people in society when they and the wider public deserve better.’ Again, would you like to apologise to people for what’s happened to the Probation Service under the Conservatives?

BJ: Obviously I think we should be investing more in the Criminal Justice system and I disagree by the way with –

AM: So you made a mistake

BJ: No, I think –

AM: As a government?

BJ: No. Look, let’s go back to the history of the last ten years or so. What Labour left the finances of this country in utter ribbons – and in ruins. And we were of course responsible for governing sensibly, I was Mayor of London for most of that period, but the Conservative government, yes of course it governed sensible and prudently. What we’re doing now under this new one nation Conservative administration and we are investing -

AM: It’s a new administration, is it?

BJ: - yes, it is. It’s new in our approach and it’s new in the way we will tackle the issues of public service. We’re investing massively in the NHS. We’re investing massively –

AM: You are asking for a fourth Conservative term.

BJ: Yes.

AM: You can’t shrug off the record of the Conservatives as you do that and say it’s not somebody else, not me gov. You can’t do that.

BJ: No of course not, but don’t forget Labour said there’s no money left in 2010. They had a letter saying that they’d effectively bankrupted the economy. Now after some prudent and sensible management of the economy we are putting huge sums into our NHS, into policing, into tackling terror by the way –

AM: Okay. I want to ask you about this.

BJ: I disagree with Shami Chakrabarti, and I disagree with Jeremy Corbyn about soft sentences for these people. I believe they deserve –

AM: Let me ask – she’s not talking about that at all.

BJ: - they deserve condign punishment and that is what they will get.

AM: Let me ask you about Mr Khan and what happened there. First of all again what are the conditions – people need to know what are the conditions that he was obliged to –

BJ: Well there were various conditions under which he was obliged to - he had mentors, he has restrictions on his mobile phone, he had restrictions on internet access and so on. But

AM: Not enough, clearly.

BJ: Absolutely not, but the key issue Andrew is that he was allowed out early –

AM: How many other people are in the same position?

BJ: - he was allowed out early. And there was no – this is very important, it was nothing to do with parole, it was nothing to do with the probation service.

AM: Exactly, so how many people are in the same position?

BJ: Legally, legally there was no way of stopping him coming out early on the basis on which he was sentenced. So as to your question about how many others there are, there are probably about 74.

AM: Okay, you're trying to avoid my question by carrying on talking. Let me just ask you again.

BJ: No I'm not. I want to answer your question. You said how many others?

AM: Okay

BJ: 74.

AM: 74 other people. What are you doing about them now?

BJ: What we're doing there is we've taken a lot of action as you can imagine in the last 48 hours to – I don't want to go into the operational details -

AM: Give people an indication.

BJ: Well we're doing – I'm sure people can imagine what we're doing to ensure that the 74 other individuals who've been let out early on the basis of this Labour change to the legislation, they

are being properly invigilated so as to making sure there is no threat to the public.

AM: When you heard this –

BJ: And we took that action immediately.

AM: So when you heard this you were concerned that this kind of thing could happen again and again and again, given the number of people who are getting out now?

BJ: Well I do think there is an issue, as I've said about automatic early release. I think it's wrong for serious sexual offenders. I think this wrong for violent offenders. I think it's wrong for terrorists. And so I disagree with Jeremy Corbyn and Shami Chakrabarti –

AM: You said that. You've said that but –

BJ: - when it comes to having shorter sentences for these people.

AM: - but it's only happened in the last 48 hours. It's not in the manifesto, it's not something you were talking about before this happened. You've had ten years in government to get this regime for violent criminal terrorists right and as a government you have patently failed that.

BJ: We've obviously invested a great deal in counter terrorism is in the spending review. We put another 160 million into counter terrorism, we support MI5 –

AM: Hasn't worked though, has it?

BJ: And by the way Jeremy Corbyn has said

AM: Hasn't worked.

BJ: Jeremy Corbyn has said he would disband MI5.

AM: Hasn't worked.

BJ: Well get back to my point. The reason this –

AM: Let's go back to the record. I'm sorry –

BJ: the reason this gentlemen – the reason this killer was out on the streets, the reason this killer was out on the streets was because of automatic early release which was brought in by a left wing government –

AM: You had ten years in office to do something about it and you didn't. Ten years.

BJ: But not in the case of this individual because after all he had been sentenced – he had been sentenced under the existing law in 2010. That was the reality and you should acknowledge that.

AM: Okay, let's look – okay well let's look at what happened to him.

BJ: You can't go back retrospectively.

AM: Let's look at what happened to him in the last ten years where he was in the last ten years which is in the prison system which has been -

BJ: Which he was.

AM: - pretty much disastrous under the Conservatives. Let's go through a few figures. Suicides under the Conservatives in the prison system up by 50%. Assaults on staff tripled in that period. Prisoner on prisoner assaults doubled, self harm more than doubled.

BJ: And that is why this new Conservative administration Andrew is putting £2.5 billion into our prison service –

AM: It's not a new Conservative administration; it is the Conservative Party which has been in power for ten years.

BJ: But we take a different approach.

AM; So it's not the Conservative Party that we look back at?

BJ: We take a different – I'm a new Prime Minister, we take a different approach. We're putting 2.5 billion into our prisons. We want to have – and unlike Shami Chakrabarti we want to have an extra –

AM: - Tories don't want to stuff the prison service then?

BJ: - can I tell you what we're doing? We want to have an extra 10 thousand places and the reason that we are confident in our ability to do that is because we have a strong economy, we can manage the economy sensibly and we will not rack up public debt so that was take a sledge hammer to the resilience of the UK economy.

AM: Okay, enough of all of that. Do you know how many

BJ: _ You know the disaster the Labour Party would be.

AM: - Do you know how many magistrates and crown courts you have closed as a party in the last ten years? Do you know how many have been closed in England and Wales?

BJ: We will be making investments to the Criminal Justice system

AM: Do you know?

BJ: - across the board. I can't give you a figure.

A: Okay, I'll tell you. It's nearly 300 magistrate the crown courts that you have closed as the Conservatives across this country. It's an astonishing record.

BJ: We of course understand now is the time to make investments not just in the NHS, not just in policing, as we are doing, not just in the education service, but also in our criminal justice system. We're putting more money into counter terror. Jeremy Corbyn wants to scrap MI5. MI5 –

AM: No don't talk about it, I'm not interested in Jeremy Corbyn, I'm interested in you.

BJ: MI5 is responsible for keeping us safe.

AM: I'm sorry. I'm interested

BJ: - MI5 monitor thousands of people such as Usman Khan.

AM: Okay, I'm interested in you and your record. The record on prisons is appalling. You mentioned the NHS. You have again a terrifyingly bad record on the NHS. The highest of number of patients on waiting lists ever. The worst performance on record for treating people within 18 weeks. The worst A&E performance since targets began. Missing targets again on cancer patients being seen. That is a terrible record.

BJ: The NHS is doing a fantastic job under terrific pressure and I do not for one minute deny the pressure.

AM: All of those things are true are they not?

BJ: I do not for one minute deny the pressure that the NHS is under, but that is why we are so determined to make huge investments in the NHS. The largest –

AM: But you haven't been telling the truth about those investments.

BJ: - in modern memory. £34 billion and I know what you're going to say –

AM: Nurses and hospitals. Not true what you said before, was it?

BJ: We're upgrading 20 hospitals and building 40 new ones. And you're going to say well it's only six. Actually that's not true.

AM: It's seed money for business plans –

BJ: We're putting in the seed money for 40 new hospitals and as a result of the decisions taken by this government

AM: One thing we can all – okay.

BJ: - there will be 40 more hospitals in ten years time. I'm immensely proud of that. This is a government embarked on a new direction for this country.

AM: I'm sorry, but in terms of the misuse of language one thing we can both agree on I'm sure is that seed money for a business plan is not a hospital. When you say I'm putting in seed money for a business plan it's not a hospital. Seed money for 36 business plans is not 36 new hospitals.

BJ: No of course not, Andrew, but you don't commit seed money unless you have a convincing case and a rationale for building that hospital unless you're determined to go on and do it. And that is what we are going to do. And you mentioned 50,000 nurses and again –

AM: Of which 19,000 as you know are not new. Agreed?

BJ: Absolutely.

AM: So it's a mistake to say 50,000 actually.

BJ: No because unless we put that investment in now there would not be 50,000 more nurses because the 19,000 that you correctly identify would not be retained in the system. Now all this we want to get on and do. We have a fantastic agenda for this country. I want to have tougher sentences for serious violent criminals

AM: Let me talk about your agenda.

BJ: I want to be investing in our NHS. I want to take this but we are a very ambitious government.

AM: You've said the NHS was under huge pressure and that's right.

BJ: It is.

AM: And one of the reasons is the huge pressure of social care. Here's what you said outside Downing Street, very, very soon after you first became Prime Minister. You said: 'My job is to protect you and your parents or grandparents from the fear of having to sell your home to pay for the costs of care.'

BJ: Yes.

AM: 'And so I am announcing now on the steps of Downing Street that we will fix the crisis in social care once and for all with a clear plan we have prepared.' Where is that plan?

BJ: Yes, well I'll tell you. And we will fix the crisis in social care and you're absolutely right, that the interface between the NHS who do an incredible job and the social services and local councils is one of the most difficult areas of care. So what we're doing is we're investing first of all this new government's put a 1.5 billion in to help local councils –

AM: Short term funding. That's not a plan.

BJ: Yes, but that's greatly, it does a lot in the short term.

AM: Short term funding isn't a plan, yes.

BJ: Then every year for the next five years we'll put an additional one billion in so that we can recruit the carers that we need so that local councils are helped and you know a billion pounds is useful. I accept that the full plan needs to be developed, Andrew

AM: So when you said you've got a plan you hadn't got a plan, had you?

BJ: Actually I think there is an emerging national consensus about this and that we are getting ready for, as it were, a Beveridge moment in our country when people understand that we do need as a nation to tackle this issue and what we want to do is to reach across politics to bring people together, to take the top ...

AM: So you want to go to the Labour Party you accuse of being wild Marxists and get them to agree something with you. You want to go to the Liberal Democrats who you don't agree with about tax and get them to agree?

BJ: There are plenty of things we don't agree about but I think on this

AM: On this particular issue they want to raise a penny on income tax.

BJ: I think on this issue there is a growing national consensus and it will be important to work on that issue together. And what we will do is we'll ensure we have no one who is forced to sell their home to pay for the cost of their care and everybody will have dignity and security in their old age. That is going to be our approach.

AM: Those are aspirations but they're not a plan. Those are great aspirations, they're not a plan, you said you had a plan, you don't have a plan. Let's move on. Let's move on to something entirely different.

BJ: None of those things are remotely achievable unless we get Brexit done and move this country forward. And forgive me for – repeating it but it is absolutely true.

AM: You are a man as everyone can hear right now. You're a man who enjoys using words. You're a very literate man. You had wonderful libraries when you were growing up. You had wonderful libraries at Eton and Oxford. Does the rest of the country deserve to have very good libraries as well?

BJ: It certainly does and if I look at the -

AM: So why have you closed 500 libraries around the country?

BJ: I'm afraid well very often local authorities and yes we want to be spending more and we want to be supporting local authorities, but some local authorities have been able to manage their finances so as to open libraries. I'll give you the example of my own borough of Hillingdon in west London where they've opened libraries in the last five years.

AM: But nonetheless around the country 500 have gone because of a halving of the budgets for local authorities. 500 and swimming pools and –

BJ: I love libraries and I want to see them properly used and they perform a fantastic variety of services for the community and

they're wonderful, wonderful places. I want to invest in libraries. But we can only do that when we get the economy really motoring and at the moment we have a huge drag anchor on this country which is why we're having this election which is ... to get Brexit –

AM: I'm going to come onto Brexit in just a minute. But you voted for the freeze in in work benefits. Now partly as a result of that there are more than four million children in this country living in poverty. Are you proud of that?

BJ: We're ending that freeze as you know.

AM: So you froze it for ten years now you say we should be grateful cos it's ending?

BJ: Actually there are 400,000 fewer children in poverty than there were in 2010. We are taking steps to alleviate poverty. The gap between rich and poor has actually diminished. Andrew, I'm not going to hide it from you but this is something that I care about and I want to see progress on. That's why –

AM: We need to see some progress don't we because after ten years there's been –

BJ: - that's why we're lifting the Living Wage by its biggest ever increase. That's why we're cutting taxes for people on low incomes – tax for 31 million people and I know you don't want me to talk about the risk but unless we have now 12 days, we have 12 days until a real risk. The risk is that you have a Corbyn/Sturgeon coalition that would put up taxes for everybody as they have admitted

AM: We're talking across. Please listen to my questions because we're talking about you and – okay.

BJ: - people on low incomes as £20,000 a year.

AM: Can you try and listen to my questions, I'm talking about you.

BJ: Of course, yes.

AM: And your government. On Brexit will there be tariffs and checks on goods moving from Northern Ireland into Great Britain?

BJ: Absolutely not. Absolutely not.

AM: That's not what your Brexit secretary says and he's looked at the law, as he said there will have to be checks.

BJ: No.

AM: So Stephen Barclay is wrong about that. Stephen Barclay's your Brexit secretary. He said the exit summery declarations will be required in terms of Northern Ireland and Great Britain.'

BJ: There will be no tariffs

AM: He's wrong about that?

BJ: Absolutely. There will be no tariffs and there will be no checks. And what we will ensure is that the whole of the UK, Northern Ireland and the rest of us can come out and –

AM: We're talking about paperwork which is going to affect Northern Ireland businesses both ways.

BJ: The advantage of the Conservative - this election is we have 635 candidates who all signed up. And they have been lobotomised, Andrew, they've all signed up perfectly freely from all spectrums – to a very, very good deal which enables us to come out on January 31st. It's a great deal for our country. We want to get it done. If we can get in with a working majority it will get done.

AM: Let me ask you if you don't mind another question, that'd be very kind of you.

BJ: Please.

AM: In your Withdrawal Agreement which you've negotiated how many EU directives and regulations are going to apply to the people of Northern Ireland that don't apply to the rest of us. How many?

BJ: That will be a matter for the people of Northern Ireland.

AM: no, it's not; it's in your Withdrawal declaration.

BJ: as you know there is a period –

AM: Annexe 2 and the number is 300 declarations and regulations applying to Northern Ireland and not to the rest of us.

BJ: No Andrew, you're missing the point.

AM: No I'm not. It's in your annexe. It's your documents not mine.

BJ: You're missing the point. The point is that Northern Ireland and the whole of the rest of the UK will be able to come out, do

free trade deals, do things differently. We'll have free ports in Northern Ireland, but able to cut VAT on sanitary products in Northern Ireland. All the advantages of Brexit will be there. Yes, for a period – for a period

AM: 300 more regulations.

BJ: Northern Ireland can remain in alignment with the rest of the EU if they choose

AM: Under all those regulations.

BJ: - to do so. If after four years the people of Northern Ireland decide that those regulations that you cite are not suitable for them they automatically fall away. That alignment will automatically – do you understand the point?

AM: No, I don't really because for the lifetime of the next parliament we're about to elect there will be 300 regulations and directives from the EU which apply to Northern Ireland which don't apply to the rest of us. And that is the truth and it's going to affect Northern Ireland business and –

BJ: But if they don't like it and if they don't want to be in alignment then they are perfectly – then they automatically fall it away...

AM: Let me ask – let me ask you about – let me ask you about the overarching financial problem you've got.

BJ: And the reason for doing that – the reason for doing that – the reason for doing that is so that we solve the problems of the Northern Irish border.

AM: I'm sorry, you just keeping going on and on and on. You're chuntering. I need to ask you about the money.

BJ: You're chuntering; you're interrupting, if I may say so.

AM: The money –

BJ: People might be interested in my answer as well as your question. But go on.

AM: The promise is that you've given – is there will be no rises in taxes for most people under the Conservatives and you're not going to increase borrowing under the Conservatives, but you are

going to spend money in specific areas such as policing and the NHS as you've described.

BJ: Yes.

AM: The problem is if there is any slight bump or hesitation in growth during the lifetime of the next Conservative government you are scuppered. You can't spend more plans, and therefore for an awful lot of people who are dependent on public services voting Conservative might be too much of a risk.

BJ: No, we've made it very clear that we're making record investments in the NHS, 34 billion pounds. You know, the NHS budget will go up by about a third between 2018 and 2023.

AM: What about making the sums add up.

BJ: And I think I've explained that the nurses – and of course the sums will add up. If you look at our budget, at our manifesto, it is fully costed. And I must draw –

AM: I'm sorry, let me look –

AM: Can I draw –

AM: No, you can't. I'm going to focus on – no, you can't. You absolutely can't. Because I need to ask about you and your views. You have said that it would be one bounce and you're out on Islamophobia in the Conservative Party. Your candidate Karl McCartney, election candidate, has had multiple re-tweets of Tommy Robinson. He's still inside the Conservative Party. Your candidate Anthony Brown has suggested Muslim leaders at the time of Iraq have divided loyalties. He's still inside. Not many bounces, they're still inside the Conservative party.

BJ: There is an independent process which needs to consider all such accusations of prejudice of any kind, and we're ruthless about that. And if people are convicted, then they're out. And we're very, very clear about that. What we are – what we are – what we are – what we are having -

AM: The reason that they may be feeling like this –

BJ: - we are also having is a general inquiry into prejudice of all kinds within the Conservative Party. And I must say I think there

is a very sharp distinction between what we're doing and what Labour has failed to in clamping down on anti-Semitism.

AM: There's a prominent Conservative – will you give me an answer. There's a prominent Conservative who said, 'to any non-Muslim reader of the Koran Islamophobia, fear of Islam, seems a natural reaction, and indeed exactly what that text is intended to provoke. Purely on its scripture, to say nothing of what is preached in the mosque it is the most viciously sectarian of all religions in its heartlessness towards unbelievers.' That was Boris Johnson. Do you stand by that?

BJ: Look, people are always going to drag out bits and pieces that I've written over the years in order to distract from the fundamental issues at this election. I have a record of campaigning for – against prejudice of all kinds. Indeed, I'm proud to say my great-grandfather knew the Koran off by heart. And I'm not going to – what we do in our Conservative Party is refuse to allow people to get away with prejudice and discrimination. What I think the people of this country want to know – if you'll let me answer – let me make some points.

AM: Quickly.

BJ: What people in this country what is our programme for government. Our programme for government is to get this country forward, get Brexit done and take this country forward.

AM: I am trying to avoid the speeches. Can I ask you about something else? Why are you avoiding being interviewed by Andrew Neil?

BJ: Because I think we've got a perfectly brilliant Andrew interviewing here.

AM: It's definitely.. you're absolutely right, but it's a different audience. I am doing on this programme interviews with all the party leaders including yourself. Andrew Neil is trying to do interviews with all the party leaders in an evening slot with a different audience. Everybody else has done it, why won't you?

BJ: You couldn't have a more brilliant agent, if I may say so, than you. But if you really want to – I think this what the people of this country want to know –

AM: It would be graceful and –

BJ: What is our programme for government.

AM: It would be graceful at least if you were able to say now I will do an Andrew Neil interview.

BJ: I'm perfectly happy to be interviewed by any interviewer called Andrew from the BBC.

AM: Are you going to be meeting Donald Trump this week?

BJ: And we will make sure that – and by the way, I've done interviews – I've done interviews with – I did a two-hour long phone interview. I've done TV debates. I've – no previous prime minister –

AM: Are you going to meet Donald Trump this week?

BJ: - has done one on one TV debates.

AM: Are you going to meet Donald Trump this week?

BJ: I am – of course I'm going to meet the President of the United States. He's coming to the NATO summit.

AM: Are you worried that he's going to say something embarrassing?

BJ: Look, I'm very pleased

AM: We're out of time.

BJ: I'm very pleased that we have great relations with the United States.

AM: We are out of time. Thanks for being my guest.

BJ: And unlike Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party who would abandon NATO, we want to strengthen our defences.

AM: Prime minister, we're out of time. Thank you so much for talking to us.

(ends)