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THE ANDREW MARR SHOW

INTERVIEW:

DAVID CAMERON, MP

PRIME MINISTER

JANUARY 6th 2013

ANDREW MARR:

And so back to business in a big way in politics this week. The coalition's mid-term review comes out tomorrow. Child benefit changes come into force, the Commons vote on capping benefit increases on Tuesday, and in any spare moments the Prime Minister is presumably busy drafting that speech on Europe which is promised later this month and could redefine our relationship with the rest of the EU for the first time in a generation, we're told. All hugely important stuff and David Cameron is with me now. Good morning Prime Minister.

DAVID CAMERON:

Good morning.

ANDREW MARR:

Happy New Year.

DAVID CAMERON:

Happy New Year to you.

ANDREW MARR:

I say happy, but we're going to have another year probably of little or no growth.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well it's a tough economic environment that we're in. Obviously the last growth figures were encouraging. We were growing at one per cent in the third quarter of last year, but we've got a tough year ahead of us. I think the good aspect of what is happening is that there are more people in work. We've seen a really good picture on jobs, you know a million new private sector jobs over the last two years. And that means actually ...

ANDREW MARR:

And yet ...

DAVID CAMERON:

... even taking into account the decline in public sector employment, which would have happened whoever was in government because cuts had to be made, there are more people in work, more women in work, and unemployment has been falling.

ANDREW MARR:

Well unemployment still stubbornly high though. And youth unemployment in particular - around about a million - still very, very worrying.

DAVID CAMERON:

Yeah, still much too high, but recent figures have had youth unemployment coming down. The number of young people in work went up over the last year. We've got some serious programmes to address, both long-term unemployment and youth unemployment. We need to make sure they're working as well as they possibly can. But you know what needs to happen if we sort of stand back and look at the big picture of the British economy, we need a rebalancing. We need a rebalancing of bigger private sector, growth spread more evenly around the country, not so reliant on just finance but we need manufacturing, export, production, high tech industries. And there are good signs that that rebalancing is taking place. *(Marr tries to interject)* Last year, for instance, more new companies set up than in any time in recent history. So, as I say, with that part of the employment picture, there are some good signs, but it's

hard work, it's hard going. And look around Europe and you can see ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Sure.

DAVID CAMERON:

... we're not alone in facing these challenges.

ANDREW MARR:

And thinking of the hard pounding, top of your list of worries perhaps losing the triple A status this year? That would be a big blow to the coalition, wouldn't it?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well the top of the list of worries is making sure you continue to have credibility for the deficit reduction programme because we inherited a situation ...

ANDREW MARR:

So what would the lo... If you lose the triple A status, that suggests you've lost credibility for that.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I think what matters most of all is are you able to pay your debts, maintain your debts at a low rate of interest. That's the absolute key. And interest rates in Britain are at a record low. That is to me the key test ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Do I detect ... Do I hear you suggesting that the triple A rating isn't quite as important as you used to say it was?

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) No, no, the ratings you have are all hugely important. I wouldn't deny that for a minute. But in a way the real test is what are the interest rates the rest of the world is demanding in order to own your debt. And our interest rates are extremely low, the lowest they've been really for centuries. The key thing this year is to try and make

sure that those interest rates are passed on properly ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Actually produced ...

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) ... to the businesses and to the homeowners. I want to make sure that you know young couples who are working are able to get that first flat, that first house, to get going, and we need to build more houses to make that happen. We're squarely on the side of people who work hard, who want to do the right thing. Aspiration is what we want to back in Britain because that's how we're going to win in the global race.

ANDREW MARR:

And we may see inflation going up this year?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well obviously we have to see what happens. Inflation recently has been coming down. I think the rise in inflation post-2010 was one of the things that made the economic situation more difficult. We're trying to do our bit as a government by freezing the council tax for a third year in a row.

ANDREW MARR:

You haven't brought in a new Bank of England Governor to get inflation into the economy, as some people suggest?

DAVID CAMERON:

No, no, we brought in ... Well, first of all, Mervyn King, the existing Governor, has done an extremely good job. He's a great public servant.

ANDREW MARR:

Yeah.

DAVID CAMERON:

But I think in Mark Carney we've got the world's leading candidate as a central bank governor and I'm looking forward to working with him when he comes in this year.

ANDREW MARR:

But these absolutely rock bottom rates can't carry on, can they?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I think that we can ... You know it'll depend on the Bank of England. These rates are set independently. But you know right now Britain needs low interest rates because we need businesses to get out there and invest, we need people to get on the housing ladder.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Okay ... fine.

DAVID CAMERON:

So we want to maintain a situation where low interest rates are possible.

ANDREW MARR:

Alright.

DAVID CAMERON:

It is worth ...

ANDREW MARR:

No, no, I think ...

DAVID CAMERON:

... it's worth making one last point ...

ANDREW MARR:

Okay.

DAVID CAMERON:

... which is that you can only keep your interest rates low if you have a credible

strategy for getting on top of your deficit and getting on top of your debt ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Well I want to ...

DAVID CAMERON:

... and that's where the government's fiscal policy - what we do on tax and spending where we've taken some very difficult decisions ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Well let's ... Exactly.

DAVID CAMERON:

... that has enabled these low interest rates to continue.

ANDREW MARR:

Well let's come to a couple of those decisions then.

DAVID CAMERON:

Sure.

ANDREW MARR:

Let's come to the removal of child benefit for people over £50,000 a year, which comes in tonight.

DAVID CAMERON:

Yeah.

ANDREW MARR:

We heard Jane Moore earlier on saying what an incredibly complicated and mind-dazing series of forms people have to go through. But beyond that, a lot of your own supporters, a lot of Conservative MPs don't really understand the fairness of having two families where you've got one couple, the spouse is staying at home to look after the children, hold together a traditional family because the other person's

getting £50,000, they lose their child benefit. Serious ... a lot of money for that family.

DAVID CAMERON:

Yes.

ANDREW MARR:

And another family where they're both working, they may be earning £85,000 together, they don't. That just seems unfair.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well let's start with the overall point about fairness because the truth is here you cannot deal with the deficit ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Could we address it? Could we address these two?

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) I'll come to it, I promise you. But first of all, there's an overall point here. You cannot deal with the deficit just by taking more in tax from the very richest - although we are. Nor can you deal with the deficit just by combating welfare, fraud and evasion and excessive welfare at the bottom. You need to make sure that everyone is making their contribution. So taking away child benefit from people earning over £60,000 - that's only the top 15 per cent of the country - I'm not saying those people are rich, but you know I think it's right that they make a contribution. And this will raise ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) There are a lot of traditional families where they are far from rich.

DAVID CAMERON:

Absolutely, they're far ... I'm not saying they're rich, I made that point, but this will raise £2 billion a year. Now if we don't raise that £2 billion from that group of people - the better off 15 per cent in the country - we'd have to find somewhere else to take it from. So it is fair ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) So okay let's go back to our two families. Is there anything that can be done about that apparent injustice?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well the only way of addressing that would be to have a means testing system that means tested every family in the country, and I don't want to introduce that sort of complexity into our system and that is why we opted for the relatively straightforward approach of saying if you or your partner or husband or wife earns over £60,000, you shouldn't be getting child benefit anymore and so you lose that child benefit.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) So is there anything that can be done at all?

DAVID CAMERON:

So we ... Well the only way you could do that would be taking away effectively more child benefit from more people and I don't want to do that.

ANDREW MARR:

Do you accept that if it's justice at all, it's rough justice this?

DAVID CAMERON:

No, I think it is the right approach - saying that if there's someone in the household who earns over £60,000, then you shouldn't get child benefit. What we have addressed is the so-called cliff edge because originally the proposal was there was one cut-off point and there's now a cut-off point between £50,000 and £60,000, so if you earn between those levels you go into the self-assessment tax system and the child benefit is withdrawn in stages.

ANDREW MARR:

Let's then turn to another group of people. Erm ...

DAVID CAMERON:

But let me just make the point.

ANDREW MARR:

No, no, no ...

DAVID CAMERON:

Eighty-five per cent of families who get child benefit will receive it in exactly the same way they do now and that is very important. This is about making sure that it's fair. And to be frank it is interesting that you know ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) But a lot of ... a lot of people are still going to look at those two different families - one doing what many Conservatives would regard as the right thing, you know one member of the family staying home to look after the children while the other one goes out to work and they're being penalised; while another family where they're both going out to work and earning much more money aren't penalised - and a lot of people see all that as fundamentally unfair.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I think people will see it as fundamentally fair that if there is someone in the household earning over £60,000, you don't get child benefit.

ANDREW MARR:

So let's move on to another group of people. I suppose the most vivid piece of sort of economic rhetoric from the coalition over the last few months has been the business of somebody going out to work, a striver, looking around and seeing the curtains down in the next door house with a skiver, and that is how you have very much sold the welfare benefit cap that the Commons is going to vote on on Tuesday.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I don't accept that's how we sold it. What we're doing is three ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Well your Chancellor and most people in business have talked in that way.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well let me explain. We made three separate decisions that you can link if you like. That is that people in the public sector, there'll be a one per cent pay cap; that people on out of work benefits, there'll be a one per cent increase, no more than one per cent increase; and that for tax credits there'll be a one per cent increase. Now those are all in my view absolutely right decisions. We need to control public sector pay, to keep that under control. We need to limit the growth of welfare payments overall, and that must include the tax credit system. And then for those out of work, it's right that their incomes aren't going up faster than people in work. And it is ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) But you accept that this ... sorry, this one per cent cap, 60 per cent of the people that it affects are hardworking people whose blinds are up in the morning, whose curtains are open, and who are going out to do jobs that neither you or I would relish?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well, as I've said, you know the changes will affect never mind 60 per cent, will affect 100 per cent of people on tax credits. Now I don't like taking money away from anybody, but the fact is we inherited a massive budget deficit, one of the biggest in the world. We have to get on top of that in order to maintain the low interest rates that our economy needs. We've paid down a quarter of the deficit in the last two and a half years, so you know we are on the right track, we're on the right road. We've made progress down that road, but there's a lot further to go and we do need to control welfare spending. But it's absolutely true to say that it's also ...

ANDREW MARR:

But you ...

DAVID CAMERON:

I think this is very important.

ANDREW MARR:

So I just want to make absolutely clear - in your view, the vast majority of the people who are going to be hit by this are not in any sense scroungers or work-shy or

sleeping while other hardworking people are out at work?

DAVID CAMERON:

Of course, people affected by the one per cent public sector pay cap, those are people who work hard, who do absolutely vital jobs. But let me put it this way. I mean the Labour Party agree with the one per cent increase for public sector pay, but they don't agree with the one per cent cap on welfare. So they're effectively saying someone ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Yeah, well that's for them to ar... that's for them to argue about. I don't want to get into Labour policies.

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) Yeah, but it's very ironic because it's a very good argument to say people out of work, their incomes should be going up faster than people in work. We don't think that is right and that's why we put in place this one per cent cap, and everyone will have to think about how they vote for that on Tuesday.

ANDREW MARR:

Let me turn to another big promise this month, which is your speech on Europe. Would it be such a great disaster for us to leave the EU and simply have a trading relationship you know with it? Boris Johnson suggested it wouldn't be a terrible thing.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I don't think it would be right for Britain. I mean my policy and my approach here is just determined absolutely purely and simply by the national interest - what is right for Britain, what's right for people in work, what's right for British business, what's right for the future of our country. If we left the European Union altogether - and of course that is something ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) You could change all sorts of regulations and rules that you dislike ...

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) But actually the key ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) ... Britain could be free to grow and ...

DAVID CAMERON:

Yes. Of course the key point though is that you know 50 per cent of our trade is with the European Union. At the moment, because we're in this single market and we have a seat at the table in the single market, we help write those rules. If we were outside the EU altogether, we'd still be trading with all these European countries, of course we would, but we'd have no say over the rules of the market into which we sell. And so if you don't ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) But the trading itself would go on, wouldn't it? So that's not ...

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) Of course the trading would go on. Sometimes ... There's a lot of scaremongering on all sides of this debate. Of course the trading would go on. I mean Norway trades actively with all of the European Union, including Britain, but Norway has to obey all the rules of the single market and it actually pays a fee for trading into the single market, but it has no say over those rules.

ANDREW MARR:

So what you want to do instead is - as Mr Van Rompuy has said - cherry pick. You want to say we don't want this bit, we don't want that bit, we want to repatriate certain powers; and the problem that you've got is that you need unanimity, every other member of the EU to agree, and that's not going to happen.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well it's difficult, but it is possible. Let me give you two reasons why it's possible. First of all, already in Europe there are some things that different countries are involved in where others are not. We are not involved in the single currency, the euro,

and we're not going to join the euro. As long as I'm Prime Minister, we'll always have the pound, not the euro. We're not involved in the Schengen no borders agreement because we want to maintain our borders. We think that's good for immigration control. Second point, vital point: what's happening in Europe right now is massive change being driven by the existence of the euro. The countries of the euro, they've got to change to make their currency work. They need to integrate more, they need to make changes to all their systems more. As they do that ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Some of your critics, including Boris Johnson, say it is immoral to encourage them to do something which is politically going to be disastrous.

DAVID CAMERON:

I'm not encouraging them. The fact is this is something they recognise they have to do. There isn't a single currency in the world that doesn't have a banking union and forms of a fiscal union. I mean we have a single currency here.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) So that's inevitable, so that's inevitable?

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) So as they need to change, what that means is they are changing the nature of the organisation to which we belong and so I think we're perfectly entitled, and not just entitled but actually enabled because they need changes, to ask for changes ourselves.

ANDREW MARR:

So what you're saying is if you don't get some of the repatriation of powers that you want, you will stop them changing in the way that they need to change?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I'm very positive about the changes they need to make, but I think it's a perfectly acceptable argument to say that as you need to make your changes, there are changes that Britain would like to make too. We want to be members of the European

Union, particularly the single market, but there are changes we'd like to make.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) So let me ...

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) I'm not a fatalist, you know. People told me it was never ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Okay, let me test you ...

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) Hang on, hang on. People told me it was never possible to make changes in our relationship. I came in as Prime Minister. I've already managed to get us out of the bailout power that the last government opted us into where we were spending British taxpayers' money bailing out other European countries. We're out of that.

ANDREW MARR:

Let's try to get a sense of what you would like that new relationship to be.

DAVID CAMERON:

You want me to give you the whole speech.

ANDREW MARR:

I'm not going to ask that. I just want some sort of sense. So, for instance, we would be better off outside the working time directive?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well there are lots of things we'd be better off outside.

ANDREW MARR:

Is that one of them?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well the working time directive, already we've limited its impact.

ANDREW MARR:

I know, but would you like to be outside it is what I'm asking?

DAVID CAMERON:

The working time directive in my view should never have been introduced in the first place because it's actually affecting things like the way we run our hospitals rather than simply about business and trade and the single market. *(Marr tries to interject)* But in order to try and sort of put you off because I can see what we're going to do now - we're going to cherry pick through ...

ANDREW MARR:

We are. *(laughs)*

DAVID CAMERON:

... what we've got, what we've got ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Oh yes we are. *(laughter)* Let me try ... Let me just try too because you mentioned yourself Schengen and immigration. Is there any way in which the free movement of peoples inside the EU could be limited under some new relationship to give Britain a bit more control over its own borders?

DAVID CAMERON:

Let me answer it this way. We've got a process underway, a proper process called the Balance of Competences Review, where the government and the public can be as involved in this as they like, are going through competence after competence, area after area and saying what is the balance of argument, what is right at the European level, what's right at the national level? Now that Balance of Competences Review can run through the rest of this parliament ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) You're trying to send me to sleep.

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) No, I'm not going to send ... No, no, it means that if you want to make an argument that actually there are things we do better at the national level ...

ANDREW MARR:

I'm asking you whether you think there is any chance of limiting internal movement of peoples inside the EU under some renegotiated relationship that we have with the rest of the EU?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well clearly one of the key reasons for being a member of the European Union are what are called the key freedoms - the movement of services, the movement of goods, the movement of people. Now there are restrictions already on the movement of people. If you have for instance an emergency, should we look at arguments about should it be harder for people to come and live in Britain and claim benefits? Yes, frankly we should. So there are areas even in the free movement of people where we might want to make changes.

ANDREW MARR:

Common fisheries policy - my last, my last one.

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) Okay no - no, no.

ANDREW MARR:

Common fisheries policy ...

DAVID CAMERON:

I've done enough. I've got to make a speech.

ANDREW MARR:

Alright.

DAVID CAMERON:

We've got this Balance of Competences Review. But all of these areas should be

carefully looked at. If you take the issue of fish, already massive change has taken place. Are there further changes we could contemplate? Let's have a look at that. Let's look at all the arguments on either side.

ANDREW MARR:

Okay, alright, alright. Okay, let me turn to the process here because this is clearly going to be a complicated negotiation. Once you've got your competences, the things you want to repatriate, you then go into what is going to be a very, very complicated and long negotiation. Is your position that there should be no referendum for the British people until that process is complete?

DAVID CAMERON:

There you're going to have to wait for my speech, Andrew. But basically you know there is going to be a large negotiation in Europe. There is already.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) But it could go on for five years.

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) When I became Prime ... when I became Prime Minister people said to me don't worry, one thing you won't have is any treaty changes in Europe. Well I think we've already had three. I mean one we vetoed and so aren't involved in at all and it's outside the European Union ...

ANDREW MARR:

Yeah.

DAVID CAMERON:

... and we've had two others, both of which we have accepted.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) I'm just saying there's a huge appetite in the country, as you know, for a vote on Europe. A lot of people want a straightforward in-out vote. You've made clear

your problem with that as an idea. Nonetheless, if it's all going to have to wait for this kind of negotiation on competences, we could be talking about no vote for five years yet or possibly ten.

DAVID CAMERON:

No, no, that's not going to happen. I'll set all this out very clearly in the mid...

ANDREW MARR:

But we're going to ...

DAVID CAMERON:

... I'll set it all out very clearly in the middle of January, but people should be in no doubt that the Conservatives will be offering at the next election a real choice and a real way of giving consent to that choice. That's what we'll be offering.

ANDREW MARR:

And there will be actually a referendum option ...

DAVID CAMERON:

Right.

ANDREW MARR:

... in front of the British people in 2015?

DAVID CAMERON:

I want to leave something for my speech in the middle of January, but you'll have it all set out very clearly there.

ANDREW MARR:

Alright, well let's turn to other aspects of looking ahead because you're going to be standing shoulder to shoulder, arm in arm with Nick Clegg tomorrow talking about the second half of this government and you've got lots of things, I'm sure, that you want to talk about then. However, before too long you're going to have to be saying don't vote for this guy and his party, vote for me, because you want a Conservative

Government returned with a majority. And you've said this morning that you want to be Prime Minister still in 2020. Is that right?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I want to fight the next election as the Leader of the Conservative Party. I want to win a Conservative majority and I want to serve.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) And stay as Prime Minister for five years?

DAVID CAMERON:

That is exactly what I've said.

ANDREW MARR:

And stay as Prime Minister for five ...

DAVID CAMERON:

It's exactly what I've ...

ANDREW MARR@

So 2020?

DAVID CAMERON:

It's all set out in that very good interview in the Sunday Telegraph.

ANDREW MARR:

Right. Looking ahead at what you might do were you Prime Minister in another government, very interesting proposals from a group of Conservative MPs in the centre of the party, not in any particular wing, and they include for instance having lower benefits for the North of England where - and the Midlands - where perhaps the cost of living is lower. Is that the kind of thing that you look forward to with relish?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well that's not ... that is not government policy.

ANDREW MARR:

No, no, it's not. It's an interesting idea.

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) I encourage people ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) I'm just interested in your response to an interesting idea.

DAVID CAMERON:

First of all, before we even get to the 2015 election, we've got the second half of this parliament, and what you're going to see tomorrow is a coalition government with a full tank of gas full steam ahead. We've travelled a long way down the road we need to travel, but there's a lot more to do; and far from running out of ideas, we've got a packed agenda which concerns things like how do we build roads in Britain to make sure our economy keeps moving, how do we pay for care for the elderly, how do we have a pension system that encourages saving - big things that are going to equip our country for the next decade ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Yes and you're going to fund a new scheme for long-term care for the elderly, albeit perhaps not at the level that some people hope?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well the point that was being made earlier on the sofa by Nick Watt, this is a massive problem - that you know more and more people suffering from dementia and other conditions where they go into long-term care and there are catastrophic costs that lead them to have to sell their homes to pay for that care - it's right to try and put in place a cap which will then open up an enormous insurance market, so people can insure against that sort of catastrophic loss. That is ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) So you are going ...

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) You'll have to wait for the details.

ANDREW MARR:

But you can confirm that you're going to implement and fund Dilnot?

DAVID CAMERON:

We want to take action to deal with those costs. So there is a packed agenda. And we also have to continue with all of the things that we've been doing in the last two and a half years - getting the deficit down, controlling immigration, reforming welfare. I mean ...

ANDREW MARR:

Let me to turn to - because we're running out of time - let me turn just to a couple of issues at the top of the news headlines abroad. Argentina again sabre-rattling very, very aggressively at the moment over the Falklands. Back in 82, it was always said one of our mistakes was not to be clear enough that we would fight to keep these islands if we had to and that led to the invasion. You're clear that mistake is not going to happen again?

DAVID CAMERON:

Absolutely, absolutely clear about that. I get regular reports on this entire issue because I want to know that our defences are strong, our resolve is extremely strong in making sure ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) And we would fight to keep those islands?

DAVID CAMERON:

Of course we would and we have strong defences in place on the Falkland Islands. That is absolutely key - that we have fast jets stationed there, we have troops stationed

on the Falkland Islands.

ANDREW MARR:

And even with all our problems over a shrunken navy and aircraft carrier and so on, we have got the resources to ...?

DAVID CAMERON:

It gives me the opportunity to make the point that at £35 billion a year, we still have one of the top five defence budgets in the world; and we'll go on having that scale of defences and we're actually re-equipping our armed services in a very, very effective way.

ANDREW MARR:

There's been a lot in the papers today again about Abu Qatada and our complete inability to deport him. I think half a million pounds in legal fees so far he's wracked up.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well we have with Abu ...

ANDREW MARR:

Are you going to find a way of getting him out and changing the law?

DAVID CAMERON:

I am absolutely determined. Not just Abu ... We did get Abu Hamza deported to the US. I'm absolutely determined that Abu Qatada and other cases like that, we will be able to deport those people. And that's why we're examining this idea, which would apply in quite a few cases, of actually being able to deport people. And they can carry out their appeal against deportation, but after they've been deported ...

ANDREW MARR:

From overseas.

DAVID CAMERON:

... and I think that will be ... Some other countries in Europe do that. We should be looking at this very, very closely to see what more we can do.

ANDREW MARR:

And, finally, President Assad is going to make a speech, we're told, later on today. It's been suggested by Mike Jackson that we could actually be involved in some sort of military action round the borders in a humanitarian sense in Syria. What's your message to President Assad?

DAVID CAMERON:

My message to Assad is go. He has the most phenomenal amount of blood on his hands. We now see 60,000 people have been killed in Syria. I met some of the victims when I went to the refugee camp on the Jordanian border and the stories they told me were completely shocking about how they'd been bombed and shot, in some cases even stabbed out of their homes, their villages and their towns. And this is a stain on the world's conscience. We've got ... On the humanitarian side ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Six hundred thousand people. I mean ...

DAVID CAMERON:

Sixty thousand people. On the humanitarian side Britain is the second largest donor in terms of humanitarian help.

ANDREW MARR:

Alright.

DAVID CAMERON:

But we've got to do more and I'm working with partners to do more to help shape and work with the opposition within Syria and outside Syria to help speed up the transition, to get rid of this illegitimate regime and give Syria a fresh chance.

ANDREW MARR:

Prime Minister, for now many thanks.

DAVID CAMERON:

Thank you.

INTERVIEW ENDS