

***EMBARGOED UNTIL 1000AM, SUNDAY 21 JULY**

**(EXCEPT FOR INTERNET PORN SECTION, EMBARGOED UNTIL
0600AM, SUNDAY 21 JULY)**

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THE ANDREW MARR SHOW

INTERVIEW:

DAVID CAMERON, MP

PRIME MINISTER

JULY 21st 2013

[ANDREW MARR:

Prime Minister, there's a lot in the Sunday papers about your crusade on child pornography. There seem to be two big issues that worry people. One are the very extreme and vile images upon which certain numbers of predatory paedophiles prey and feed, and some of them then become violent. And then there's the separate issue of the availability of pornography, often legal pornography, to children - often quite young children. Now which of those are you particularly focused on?]

DAVID CAMERON:

Look, I'm concerned as a politician and as a parent about this issue and I think all of us have been a bit guilty of saying well it's the internet, it's lawless, there's nothing you can do about it. And that's wrong. I mean just because it's the internet doesn't mean there shouldn't be laws and rules, and also responsible behaviour. So if we start

with the first category, I mean it is possible today to get absolutely vile images of child abuse that are illegal on the internet, and we need to do much, much more to stop it. Now there's no one single silver bullet, but we need to make sure the police have got the resources, we need to make sure the Internet Watch Foundation can do more, and we're going to do that. We need to make sure there's one database that people can put those pictures into, so we know how to make them ... get them off the internet.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) To be specific ...

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) But there is something. We need to get the companies to do more too.

ANDREW MARR:

To be specific, somebody taps in some ghastly search. You need to stop the search engines giving results for that?

DAVID CAMERON:

Yes that is I think where the biggest argument is going to be. I mean let's be fair to the companies. There are some good things that they're doing. They're making public wifi safer. That's good. They're flashing up warnings (some of them) on the internet when people are searching for things that are wrong. That's good. But there is this problem, yes, that some people are putting simply appalling terms into the internet in order to find illegal images of child abuse. And, remember, every one of these pictures is a crime scene and they're getting results. I think it's wrong that they should get results and we need to have very, very strong conversations with those companies about saying no, you shouldn't provide results for some terms that are so depraved and disgusting, I can't even say them on your show. And that, I think there's going to be a big argument there, and if we don't get what we need we'll have to look at legislation.

ANDREW MARR:

So you haven't persuaded the Googles and the Yahoos yet to do what you want?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well we're on the case. This is going to be a big campaign. This speech is the start of something; it's not the end of it. There are some specific steps we can take right now: give the Internet Watch Foundation resources and ability to take down images; work with the companies to take down images that have been identified; make sure the police run a really tough campaign to find these images and find the people putting them up. But the final piece of the jigsaw, which is even more responsible behaviour by the companies - and, as I say, they're not doing nothing, but I want them to do more - we need to do more work on that.

ANDREW MARR:

They will cry freedom of information, liberty, and they'll also say it's very difficult to do it for one country. We are global companies and we can't just select people in Britain.

DAVID CAMERON:

Look, I believe in free speech, but free speech doesn't mean you have the right to incite murder, it doesn't mean you have the right to incite child abuse. So it's about companies wanting to act responsibly. If you think about it, there's really a triangle here. There are the people uploading the images. We've got to go after them. There are the people looking at the images. We've got to go after them. But there is also in this triangle the companies that are enabling it to happen, and they do need to do more to help us with this.

ANDREW MARR:

Okay, so if I'm running an internet company search engine based in California and I simply say to you, "Terribly sorry, I'm not interested, I'm not going to cooperate", what is the stick? What can you do? Apart from asking Google to pay their taxes, I suppose, what more can you do?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I think there are two forms of stick, if you like. First of all, there is the

international collaboration between countries that's going to be necessary. So, as I say, this is the start of a journey, but there is also the option of introducing stronger laws here in the UK and I don't rule that out. What we want is the companies to act responsibly, to exercise their responsibilities. I don't believe that is a restriction of free speech.

ANDREW MARR:

Because you see this is a power thing. It's the power of the global internet companies versus the power of national governments, and so far the companies have had it mostly their own way.

DAVID CAMERON:

I wouldn't paint a picture of companies that are simply refusing to collaborate or cooperate because we've already made a big breakthrough on the issue of public wifi. When you're sitting in Starbucks or sitting in a public space where there's free wifi, we now have agreement from all the phone companies and operators - and it's been a big exercise - but they behaved responsibly and they said yes, we want to make sure that your children when they're sitting there in a café accessing the internet, they can't access certain sites. So we have made progress. They are flashing up warnings now, some of the internet companies, when people search for inappropriate images. And also if we give them information about illegal images that are on the internet, they take them down. So I'm not saying ...

ANDREW MARR:

Right.

DAVID CAMERON:

... these companies are irresponsible. I'm not saying they're not doing anything. They are ...

ANDREW MARR:

But they have to do more?

DAVID CAMERON:

... but there's a further step that's required. And I think it might take a bit of an argument to get it, but it's an argument on behalf of Britain's parents and children I'm prepared to have.

ANDREW MARR:

I know you're making a speech on Monday about access to pornography for children. I'm talking about legal pornography, but nonetheless pornography that children in millions and millions of homes in Britain can get and are watching.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well we need to do more on this as well. And I speak as a parent ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Is that possible?

DAVID CAMERON:

I've got a nine year old ...

ANDREW MARR:

Yeah.

DAVID CAMERON:

... a seven year old and a soon-to-be three year old. I worry desperately about this and I know parents do because you know when we're offline, you know there are rules about what films you can see in a cinema, what age you have to be to buy alcohol or cigarettes or what have you.

ANDREW MARR:

Magazines, yeah.

DAVID CAMERON:

But on the internet, there aren't those rules, so we need to help parents with control. As I say, we've made some steps forward like the free public wifi. There are some extra steps that I think we can take. And you know, as I say, it's the start of a process, but I'm convinced we can make some real steps forward.

ANDREW MARR:

Okay, well let's turn to another of your favourite newspaper stories. Tell us about Lynton Crosby.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well he's a very talented political consultant who's worked with Boris Johnson. He worked with the Conservatives in the past. I've known him for some time and he's working for the Conservative Party now. But let me be clear. He's advising the Conservative Party on how to take on Labour, how to make a political argument, how to prepare for the next campaign. He's not advising us on policy or on issues ...

ANDREW MARR:

Right.

DAVID CAMERON:

... and he doesn't intervene in those. And I want to be clear about this because I think there's been a bit of a red herring running last week.

ANDREW MARR:

There certainly has. There's been a red herring, if I may say so, partly because when you're asked has he ... have you talked to him about tobacco advertising, you say "I haven't been lobbied by him." And that to people, there seems to be a distinction about that. So can I ask you again whether you've actually talked to him about this issue?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I think it is important, this issue of lobbying, because, well, look let me be clear - he has not intervened in any way on this or indeed on other issues. And the decision - it's very important people know this - you know we haven't actually changed our policy. I mean I think there are merits to plain paper packaging for cigarettes. We need more evidence, we need greater legal certainty. We're not going ahead with it right now, but I certainly don't rule it out for the future. So the whole thing actually

from start to finish has been something of a media invention. So, you know, he hasn't intervened. It would be wrong for him to intervene in any way. The decision was actually taken by me sitting up there at my kitchen table ...

ANDREW MARR:

Right.

DAVID CAMERON:

... let's not move ahead with this now. We don't have enough evidence. There's too much legal uncertainty. But let's be clear, this government has been very tough on tobacco. You know we have said we've got to cut down on these vending machines, we've got to stop big shops doing big promotions. We've carried on with the smoking ban, we've put up the *price* of cigarettes. And if we're too much in hoc to lobbyists as it were ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) I know.

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) ... why have we just published a lobbying bill.

ANDREW MARR:

You have told me absolutely everything except the question that I was asking, which is have you talked to Lynton Crosby about this?

DAVID CAMERON:

I think I have answered the question. He has not intervened ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) You haven't actually, Prime Minister.

DAVID CAMERON:

... in any single way.

ANDREW MARR:

But you won't tell me whether you've talked to him about it.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I think, as I've said, he hasn't intervened in any single way. I think you'll find that is an answer.

ANDREW MARR:

Yes, but it's not quite an answer to the question I asked.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well it's the answer you're getting. *(laughs)*

ANDREW MARR:

There we go, there we go. All right. Let's move onto the economy, which is one of the reasons that the Conservative Party has its tails up a bit at the moment - is the economic news has by and large been good except for the very, very worrying area of long-term unemployed. That number keeps going up. We're getting close to a million. Would you regard it as a personal failure if you don't get that number down as well?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I'll regard it as a failure if we don't get the Work Programme, which is there to help these people, if we don't really get that firing on all cylinders because, anyone who's been unemployed for longer than a year - and that number has sadly crept up - anyone in that category is in the work programme. So they're not sitting there not getting any help. They are being helped right now.

ANDREW MARR:

But something is going wrong clearly.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well we need to make the Work Programme ... It's doing well - it's got 320,000 people into work, it's taken huge amounts of people off benefit - but we've got to drive the performance even faster and even harder, so we see more of those long-term

unemployed people get work.

ANDREW MARR:

Almost everybody, including the IFS, says that although austerity continues, to make the books balance over time, you still have billions and billions and billions more of cuts or tax rises to do. Now, George Osborne said recently that there was no need for further tax rises. Can I invite you to go further and tell us whether or not a future Conservative, Conservative-only government would raise taxes of any kind?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well what George said and what he's absolutely right about is that our plans as set out and announced that show these further need for spending reductions in order to meet our deficit targets, they don't include any plans for tax rises. And you know I think that we've got the balance right between ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Is that ... Is that a kind of pledge?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I don't want to ... I'm a Conservative. I'm a low tax Conservative. I think as we start to see the economy healing - and it is healing; as we start to see the economy grow stronger - and it is growing stronger; as we start to see the country improve, actually I want to give people back some of their hard earned money and try to reduce their taxes. That is what drives me as a Conservative. I think your economy does better if you say to people you've worked hard, you've done the right thing, here is some of your own money back in a tax reduction.

ANDREW MARR:

If you were able to look at the camera and say, 'watch my lips, no new taxes', that would be a very, very powerful political message ...

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) But no ...

ANDREW MARR:

... but you can't quite do that.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well because no prime minister, no government can ever give a blanket assurance about every single thing under the sun. I've made very specific promises as Leader of the Opposition and as Prime Minister, and I've tried to keep those promises. I made promises about pensioner benefits. I've kept those promises. I made promises about the aid budget. I've kept that promise. So I've been very clear. And before the last election, I was very clear with people, we're going to have to make some difficult cuts, some difficult decisions ...

ANDREW MARR:

Yes.

DAVID CAMERON:

... and I think that's why people are so understanding.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Given the difficult decisions ahead, you surely can't say the same about universal benefits and pensioners' benefits this time round that you said last time round? It's just not possible.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well we'll set out our plans at the elections, but, as I say, I made a very clear promise, looking down a camera before the election, about the winter fuel allowance, about the free TV licences, about pensioner benefits ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) And you've kept that?

DAVID CAMERON:

And we've kept those promises.

ANDREW MARR:

What I'm asking you, you can't really do it again?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well we'll have to wait and see. We're going to make our pledges at manifesto time, as it were. We've actually given pensioners the biggest increase in the state pension that there's been since it was created: £5.30 a week last year. And I think that's a good promise to make and I will keep delivering on those promises to pensioners.

ANDREW MARR:

Let's turn to the biggest foreign crisis which you face at the moment, which is Syria. Sort of six months ago, you were warning the Assad regime was on its last legs and was beginning to be kind of flirting with the idea of supplying arms to the rebels. Now the Assad regime is fighting back. It seems to be stronger and stronger. We read that al-Qaeda has enclaves inside Syria which they are now ruling and General Sir David Richards has warned about the danger of arms that we put into Syria ending up in terrorists' hands. It looks a totally different picture.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well it's a very depressing picture and it's a picture that is I think on the wrong trajectory. As you say, there's too much extremism amongst some of the rebels. There's also still appalling behaviour from this dreadful regime using chemical weapons. There's an enormous overspill of problems into neighbouring countries. There are millions of refugees. So the question for us is well what can we do to help this process? Now of course we're in favour of the peace conference that I've worked hard to bring about, with flying off to see Putin in Sochi, and having the G8 in Northern Ireland, but frankly we do need to do more to help promote those parts of the opposition that want a free, pluralistic, democratic Syria. And so we're not arming the rebels. We have made no decision about that.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Lucky that we're not, given where the arms could be ending up now.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I think it is important though. It's no good complaining about the rebels if

you're not going to try and help those that want a free, democratic, pluralistic Syria. And that's why we're helping with non-military equipment, we're helping with technical assistance and training, we're working with other like-minded countries, including those in the region, to help those who want a democratic Syria. And that's the right thing to do.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) ... bluntly this is a war in which the bad guys are winning and the good guys, from your perspective, are losing, and there's no sign of that changing?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I think where you're right is that there are as it were ... you know you've got a lot of bad guys in Syria. You've got a very you know ...

ANDREW MARR:

And they're winning.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well you've got an evil president who's doing dreadful things to his people.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Who's getting stronger.

DAVID CAMERON:

I think he may be stronger than he was a few months ago, but I'd still describe the situation as a stalemate. And yes, you do have problems with part of the opposition that is extreme, that we should have nothing to do with. But that's not a reason for just pulling up the drawbridge, putting our head in the sand (to mix my metaphors) and doing nothing. What we should be doing is working with international partners to help the millions of Syrians who want to have a free democratic Syria, who want to see that country have some chance of success.

ANDREW MARR:

Now we know by the way that your wife is very concerned about this. There's been a kind of strange story bubbling around that Samantha Cameron is helping to run

government policy on Syria. Perhaps you can help us. Is this an urban myth or a grain of truth?

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) That is a total, it's a total urban myth.

ANDREW MARR:

No truth?

DAVID CAMERON:

I mean Samantha went to a refugee camp in Lebanon because she wanted to see for herself. She works, does some work for Save the Children. Wanted to see this for herself. And she was very moved by what she saw because you hear from people - and I've done this - you hear from people who are fleeing an appalling regime that is murdering their husbands, wives, children, wrecking their communities. And also the point that she's made and that I've made is also that the regime is fomenting the extremists, so they can say to the rest of the world look, the alternative to me, Assad, is these appalling extremists, and they don't want us to see that in the middle of Syria are millions of people who want what we have, which is the chance of democracy, prosperity and success.

ANDREW MARR:

When I spoke to David Miliband last week, he said pretty bluntly you know we've missed the boat on this; it's too late. It's too late to put in arms and this is a tragic situation, but we can't militarily intervene in any way

DAVID CAMERON:

Well we're not intervening by supplying weapons, but I think we can with partners ...

ANDREW MARR:

(speaks over/inaudible)

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) ... and help those ... Well we've made no decision about that. But what we can

do is work with partners to strengthen those parts of the Syrian opposition that really do represent the Syrian people. But I never really answered the question about my wife. (*laughing*) She does not influence my policy on this. I've been very passionate about this for a long time. But I would accept that we're on a depressing trajectory and we need to change that.

ANDREW MARR:

Okay, another foreign affairs subject. When are we going to see your list of demands from the EU on the basis of which you will go to the country eventually for a referendum and renegotiation?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well we've said, we've said some things already, but we need obviously to set out more.

ANDREW MARR:

We need to see the menu, don't we?

DAVID CAMERON:

Yes, I think we do. And ...

ANDREW MARR:

So when will we see that?

DAVID CAMERON:

I think it's going to be, it's going to be a menu that will be delivered as it were over time. I've set a decent time frame for the referendum, at the end of 2017. Obviously I'll be more liberated in a Conservative-only government that I hope to form after the next election ...

ANDREW MARR:

You do ...

DAVID CAMERON:

... to set out a negotiating stall and go and negotiate it. But I've already said some

quite important things about, for instance, saying look ever closer union, something that's in the Treaty of Rome, that shouldn't apply to the UK. We've never signed up to that, we've never liked that. Let's get Britain out of that ... (END INAUDIBLE)

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Borders, control of borders?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I think all of these issues ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) I'm not going to go through a long list ...

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) No, no ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) ... but nonetheless that's crucial.

DAVID CAMERON:

... what I'm saying is all of these issues should be on the table because what we're trying to achieve is a better settlement in the European Union for Britain - one that respects the fact that those members of the European Union that share the same currency, they're going to have to integrate more; and those countries that aren't in the single currency - and, like Britain, perhaps will never be in the single currency - need to find a settlement with which they are comfortable. Now what a lot of the *cognoscenti* sort of said is well you'll never get anywhere with this argument in Europe, Prime Minister. No-one agrees with you. Well actually what we've seen is the Italian Prime Minister here this week saying this reform agenda has merit and is necessary. The German Chancellor saying this is an agenda; we might not agree with all of it, but we can work with it. The Swedish Prime Minister making welcoming noises and the Dutch Prime Minister producing his own idea for more subsidiarity, more powers going back to nation states. So this is, this is an agenda that is achievable, it's doable. I wouldn't ...

ANDREW MARR:

... to be clear, you will go to the country before this process and say these are the things I want to get out of Europe, so you can then be judged on your success or failure in getting that list from the Europeans?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well the real judgement of success or failure will be for the British people in 2017 or before the end of 2017 when they get that choice - do you want to stay in this reformed organisation or do you want to come out of it.

ANDREW MARR:

Can you ...

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) I think that's right because in the end they will be the judge.

ANDREW MARR:

Can you envisage a situation where you've gone, you've tried to negotiate, you've failed on some key issues and you actually go into that referendum saying, 'let's vote to leave'?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well that's not my ... that's not where I start from. I believe ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) No, but could that happen?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well no, I go into negotiations wanting to succeed. And believe ... Look, I wouldn't be going down this path if I didn't think it was possible to get the result I want to achieve, you know, and I see this ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) But surely if you want to get movement from Angela Merkel or whoever it is, you have to look her in the eye and she has to think. But if she doesn't, if you don't get what you want, you will go to the British people and say leave the EU ...

DAVID CAMERON:

But I think they know that. You see that already. You've seen the reaction from the German Chancellor, the Italian Prime Minister, the Swedish Prime Minister, the Dutch Prime Minister. They know that Europe will be ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) So you could go into a referendum saying leave the EU because we haven't got ... You won't say that. It's interesting.

DAVID CAMERON:

Well what I'm saying is that I go into these negotiations optimistic and confident that I can get a better deal for Britain. That's the right way to go into a negotiation. And if I didn't think I could do that, I wouldn't have adopted this entire approach.

ANDREW MARR:

Now I spotted you just a moment ago saying that you intended and hoped to be leading a Conservative-only government after the election. Do you feel that's the way the opinion polls are going? David Miliband said the British people are going to choose one way or the other and we're unlikely to see another coalition government. Is that your instinct?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well the British people are, I always think, a tough but fair taskmaster. They set us this task of trying to turn the country round, sort out the deficit, get the economy moving again, build a country where hardworking people get rewarded. They'll judge us in 2015 and I hope to persuade them that a Conservative-only government will be able to do even more of that; that we'll be able to finish the job in a way that they ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Would you like the shackles of coalition off your back, to put it another way?

DAVID CAMERON:

Yes.

ANDREW MARR:

You would?

DAVID CAMERON:

I mean I want to govern as a Conservative-only government.

ANDREW MARR:

(over) A lot of Conservative ...

DAVID CAMERON:

(over) That doesn't mean though ... One thing I would say is you know I don't go round the country saying *(sighs)* oh I can't do this, I can't do ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) No, I know.

DAVID CAMERON:

Actually this has been an incredibly radical, reforming government. If you look what we're doing in education establishing ...

ANDREW MARR:

(over) Let's not go through a list ...

DAVID CAMERON:

... free schools, welfare. No-one can say this is a inactive or un-radical government.

ANDREW MARR:

Sure, but a very large proportion of Conservative activists and MPs when they're polled say we would prefer next time, if that's the way the cookie crumbles, to go into a minority Conservative government than another period of coalition. Do you agree

with that?

DAVID CAMERON:

I'm not ... Look, I'm aiming for victory and I'm going to fight all out for victory, and I think victory is achievable if we really roll up our sleeves and deliver. And I'm not going to speculate about anything else no matter how brilliantly you put the question.

ANDREW MARR:

I read in the papers over the weekend that you have surrendered your membership of the all-male White's club in the past - no doubt a sad thing for you to do. So what do you think yourself when you look at Muirfield, for instance, the golf club that's hosting the Open and is all-male?

DAVID CAMERON:

Well I thought Maria Miller made a good point, which is that, you know, if you're hosting a tournament like that, it really isn't appropriate to go on like that. Look, we live in a free country. This is an important point. We live in a free country where you're always going to have organisations that want to form themselves up, and you might have all women organisations or all male organisations. But if you've got a broader purpose ... Take the Carlton Club, you know which was associated with the Conservative Party. Because that's got a broader purpose to the Conservative Party, it would be quite wrong if that was men only, and leaders of the Conservative Party from before my time said we're not going to join it anymore until you sort yourself out. So I think Maria was making an important point.

ANDREW MARR:

But you're not saying that the age of men only clubs is over or that men only clubs are inappropriate to the modern age?

DAVID CAMERON:

What I'm saying is that in a free country, you'll always have groups of women who want to set up an organisation or groups of men who might want to set up an organisation. You can't stop that in a free country, but when there's a broader association, then clearly it's not right.

ANDREW MARR:

So your message to Muirfield would be sort yourselves out, would it?

DAVID CAMERON:

I think Maria put it pretty well.

ANDREW MARR:

So we're sitting here in the glorious sunshine. The holiday season beckons. Are you going to be on holiday in the UK or is the UK simply too hot now for holidaying in?

DAVID CAMERON:

(laughs) That's a lovely idea. I normally do a bit of really hot and a bit of less hot in the UK, and I'm going to be following that ...

ANDREW MARR:

So the really hot will be Cornwall, will it?

DAVID CAMERON:

(laughs) My children, they would like to go to Cornwall and nowhere else. They absolutely adore it. And as we've been going there for several years, we don't get too much grief. I'm probably now ... I'm probably now begging all sorts of problems, but somewhere like that would be a good idea.

ANDREW MARR:

There'll be an Italian count in Tuscany who will offer you a villa as well, I hope.

DAVID CAMERON:

No, I pay for my own holidays.

ANDREW MARR:

Alright, Prime Minister, thank you very much.

DAVID CAMERON:

Thank you.

INTERVIEW ENDS