Headlines:

- Said the case of the three schoolgirls believed to have travelled to Turkey to join up with IS provides ‘an example of why it is necessary’ for the government to have greater powers of surveillance
- Called on parents and religious leaders to do more to prevent radicalisation
- Warned the Russian government that ‘sanctions will get worse if they don’t change their behaviour’

ANDREW MARR:
Now whatever happens at the election, one figure missing from the new House of Commons will be William Hague who is standing down. His main responsibility at the moment is navigating a way between the competing demands of the Scots and the English for more control over their own affairs inside a United Kingdom and we’ll be talking about that in a moment. But first, he spent most of this parliament as Foreign Secretary, so let us start talking about our increasingly troubled relationship with Russia. Welcome Mr Hague.

WILLIAM HAGUE:
Good morning.
ANDREW MARR:
Now we’ve had some very, very scary moves by Putin recently and some very alarmed statements by your colleagues – Michael Fallon, the Defence Secretary, talking about being very close to something like a hotter war in the Baltics; we’ve had generals talking about it being an existential threat. Do you think that we dropped the ball … you dropped the ball on Putin?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
No I don’t think so. I think what’s clear here is there is a huge long-term price for Russia in what it is doing, for President Putin and for his country, and you can see that developing pace even quicker than some of us predicted a year ago. Most of Ukraine voted for pro-Western parties in the recent election, so most of the population of Ukraine are being turned the other way. Russia is paying an increasing economic price. Sanctions will get worse if they don’t change their behaviour. And NATO has … As you know at the summit we held in September, many NATO nations have pledged to increase their defence expenditure. So the costs to Russia of this behaviour are mounting and they will get even higher.

ANDREW MARR:
What happens if they try to seize Mariupol?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
Well there are reports this morning - the first reports really of a belated enforcement on what we might call the pro-Russian side of the ceasefire. We will see whether that happens. But if Russia continues to destabilise Ukraine, there will be a continuing price. There will be higher sanctions and that economic price is pretty considerable already.

ANDREW MARR:
But that’s paid by the Russian people, not by President Putin himself. Should there be armed help for the Ukrainian government as Liam Fox is suggesting this morning?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
Well we are sending some help. You know we are sending non-lethal equipment and training such as light armoured personnel carriers. We are not planning as the UK to send arms to Ukraine. It hasn’t been our approach in any recent conflict in recent years …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Why not?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
… to send arms into those conflicts, so …

ANDREW MARR:
Why not? Because it’s too dangerous, too inflammatory?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
Well because we want to see a diplomatic solution and we believe that that long-term economic price to Russia, and all of those other consequences, are the right penalties for Russia to pay. You have to think very carefully before you send additional arms into a conflict. We are supporting the Kurdish Peshmerga against ISIS, but you have to think very, very carefully before you do that.

ANDREW MARR:
What about … What do you think Putin is actually up to by sending jets to buzz our coast? Is this a kind of prodding in the chest to try and see how we react? What’s going on, do you think?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
I think it is a form of that. I think a lot of the behaviour we’ve seen over the last year is a kind of defensive reaction, funnily enough, to what happened in Ukraine. Russia was taken enormously by surprise by the collapse of the Yanukovych government in Ukraine a year ago. It was Russia that suffered the enormous strategic shock of suddenly not having its ally there in charge of Ukraine. And President Putin after that has lashed out in taking control, invading Crimea.

ANDREW MARR:
Over) We now read reports they’re preparing a further coup in Kiev to go the other way and to get rid of the current prime minister, the current regime.

William Hague:
Well I think the destabilisation of Ukraine beyond military means, using every possible means to make it impossible for Ukraine to function as a normal country, that seems to be the Russian strategy. But the response of the West to that has I think got to be to continue to raise the cost to Russia. And that ultimately is a cost to President Putin as well as to the Russian people. Be in no doubt about that.

Andrew Marr:
Now 2011, you alongside David Cameron were in Libya proclaiming victory, saying it was all going terribly well. We now have a country in civil war, ISIS moving along the coast of the Mediterranean beheading Christians. We have a real crisis building up in North Africa and we have to change policy. We have to come up with something new to do about that, don’t we?

William Hague:
Well we have to do our utmost to bring stability to Libya. And by the way, I don’t think that had we acted differently in 2011 that Libya would be today a more stable place. It was Colonel Gaddafi’s long rule that made it unstable in the first place.

Andrew Marr:
Well he kept the clamp down on people like ISIS.

William Hague:
But he had clearly lost control of that by 2011 and he was heading for massacring thousands of people. And what Britain did, along with other NATO countries, was to save many thousands of lives and give Libya the chance for greater stability. Now Libyans have not been able to take that chance so far. We’ve been working hard behind the scenes to try to create the stability. We have to go on doing that of course.

Andrew Marr:
Do we not need to militarily intervene in Libya to stop ISIS taking Libya?
WILLIAM HAGUE:
Well, look, we have intervened militarily now in Iraq in air strikes against ISIS. Again I think the lessons of Iraq and Afghanistan is we have to be very, very careful about sending Western armies, British troops onto African or Asian soil in order to think we can settle a civil conflict.

ANDREW MARR:
Even if the price for not doing that is to have ISIS looking across at Europe on the other side of the Mediterranean, not very far away from Italy?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
I think the lesson of reason is that the best way to deal with these things is to work with people in the region, such as we are doing now – I mentioned the Kurds earlier and the Iraqi government in Iraq – such as we’ve done in Somalia with a modest degree of success. Work with the countries in the region rather than send our own armies to those places. Give them necessary support, finance, logistical support …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) But the result of all of this is ISIS growing stronger and stronger and stronger.

WILLIAM HAGUE:
Well that is not actually what is happening now in Iraq, for instance, where progress has been made. We always said at the beginning this would take a long time. But the right way to have lasting success, I think, is to work with people in the region. That is what is happening. France has been busy, as you know, in Mali and Central African Republic with our … with British logistical support. Work with local and regional nations and leaders to deal with these problems and give them the necessary support, otherwise Western intervention, outright Western intervention brings a new rallying cry.

ANDREW MARR:
Part of the trouble is we’ve had years and years and years of military cuts. Is it not now the time to start to reverse that and build up our military spending again?
WILLIAM HAGUE:
There are increases going on now in defence spending across NATO. I mentioned that a moment ago. That was one of the results of the NATO Summit that we held in Wales in September, so many more NATO nations are now heading towards spending 2 per cent of their national income on defence. We do that anyway. We had to bring the defence budget into balance. It was one of the most mismanaged areas of finance under the last government, £38 billion overcommitted. We were horrified when we came into government. We have now brought the defence budget into balance, which means Britain is now purchasing the most modern submarines and frigates and aircraft and we will have, continue to have formidable armed forces in this country.

ANDREW MARR:
There’s been a lot of talk this morning about these three girls who’ve gone off to join the Islamic State so-called. Can more be done, should more be done to stop very vulnerable young kids getting involved in this kind of horror?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
More has to be done by all of us all the time.

ANDREW MARR:
What would that be in your view?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
Well it means from families, from mosques, from religious leaders, and of course by the government and we’ve all been very busy in trying to communicate the dangers of travelling to Syria.

ANDREW MARR:
Do you think parents should take away the passports of children that they worry might be being radicalised?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
It’s entirely open to parents to do that. So parents, families have a big responsibility. I
think that the family who’ve spoken out this morning saying that this is not what Islam is about and that doing that is a disgrace to their family are quite right.

ANDREW MARR:
But also a lot of this was clearly plotted on open social media, Facebook – not exactly hidden – and yet we didn’t seem to pick it up there. Presumably the security services have to do more to monitor what’s going on on social media where people are talking to each other from ISIS saying come over, we’ll make it easy for you, here’s how you get the money, here are the routes?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
Well, as you know, we don’t … we can’t talk in any detail about surveillance and what we do and what we don’t. There’s been a lot …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) No except that in this case it clearly hasn’t worked.

WILLIAM HAGUE:
Yeah but there’s been a lot of criticism over the last year of the government doing too much surveillance and it’s been difficult of course to get agreement on powers to update the government’s powers to intercept communications. So bear that in mind. This can be an example of why it is necessary to be able to do that in some cases.

ANDREW MARR:
Let’s move to English Votes for English Laws – EVEL so-called. Now your compromise ensures that English only committees and debates would happen on the detail of a proposed England only law, but right at the end of the process the whole House of Commons can still vote, which suggests to me that Scottish MPs would still have a veto over English laws under your proposals. Why is that just?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
Well the whole House would be able to vote because we want to keep the United Kingdom Parliament together and I think that is crucial. I think we must not feed a nationalist agenda of saying there isn’t a United Kingdom Parliament anymore.
ANDREW MARR:
So after the election SNP MPs could vote down a proposal to cut income tax in England, for instance?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
Well really the problem is the other way round – of a majority in the United Kingdom imposing a particular view on England – and what my proposals mean is that the English members have a veto over anything that affects only England. So to take an example. If the Scottish Parliament decided to reduce air passenger duty in Scotland in the future - which it can do under the increased devolution - but then Scottish members came to Westminster and voted for increased air passenger duty in England, the English members would be able to stop that. So the English members on English only matters would have control of the detail in their committees …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Except in the end it’s the House of Commons in total, which includes the Scottish members. That’s what a lot of them …

WILLIAM HAGUE:
(over) Well the House of Commons would not be able to vote for that without the consent of the English members. That is the crucial point and so that is the introduction of English Votes on English Laws while keeping the United Kingdom Parliament together. Nothing that affected only England or only England and Wales could be passed without the consent of the English members or the English and Welsh members as appropriate, and I think that is a fair settlement for the United Kingdom.

ANDREW MARR:
Now we’ve had another example today of yet another programme with yet another UKIP person appearing to sound racist and so on. I haven’t seen the programme. I’m sure you haven’t either.

WILLIAM HAGUE:
I haven’t either, no.
ANDREW MARR:
Nonetheless, how do you regard UKIP as a potential partner for your party after the election?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
The only way for stability for this country and for competence in handling the economy in the next few years is to have a Conservative majority. This chaotic picture of a Labour minority government propped up by Scottish Nationalists or UKIP or whoever else would be a disaster for this country. So whatever the policies, whatever the statements of UKIP …

ANDREW MARR:
(over) Do you feel the view in your party in its bowels is for no more coalitions under any circumstances and much better to be a minority government rather than to form another coalition? Is that how Tory MPs are now thinking?

WILLIAM HAGUE:
Well I don’t want to … I think it’s premature to go into all the hypothetical outcomes of the election, fascinating though it is for commentators. The Conservative Party in its bowels and every part of its anatomy is out to get a majority. We are only twenty seats short of a majority from the results of the last General Election. We have delivered a complete economic turnaround in this country. And I know Alastair Campbell was saying earlier people don’t believe statistics, but one million eight-hundred and fifty thousand more people in work is a statistic yes, but it means that all those people tomorrow morning, Monday morning are getting up, going to work, having a job, looking after their families. That is a tremendous change. Don’t put it all at risk.

ANDREW MARR:
William Hague, don’t go very far because we’ll talk to you again.

WILLIAM HAGUE:
Thank you.
INTERVIEW ENDS