

ANDREW MARR SHOW, 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY, 2016

PENNY MORDAUNT, Defence Minister

AM: Now you are on the front page of the Observer this morning warning that a million people may come here from Turkey in the next 8 years, which is strange because very few people expect Turkey to join the EU in the next 8 years.

PM: I think it's very likely that they will. In part because of the migrant crisis. It's escalating and speeding up, Turkey in particular, but other accession countries coming in. The Remain side and Vote Leave agree on much about Turkey and migrant numbers. The Home Secretary, herself a Remainer, made a speech earlier in the campaign that pointed to – or questioning the merits of the EU expanding and having a land border with Syria, Iraq and Iran.

AM: While your own colleague, Boris Johnson as you just heard is pro-Turkey joining the EU.

PM: Well I think you can't – what is dishonest is to say – is to have a policy of expansion and then at the same time deny member states what they need to mitigate the security risk that comes with it. Theresa May herself has pointed to the problems of terrorism and organised crime that is in these accession countries. Where we disagree is on two issues. It's the dishonesty about doing that and then denying us the tools to keep ourselves safe and secure. But it's also that this Referendum is going to be our last chance to have a say on that. We're not going to be consulted or asked to vote on whether we think those countries or others should –

AM: In five or ten years

PM: - should join. So it's – they are going to join, it's a matter of when.

AM: Except the British government does have a veto on Turkey joining so we don't have to let them join.

PM: No, it doesn't. We are not going to be able to have a say. The British people aren't going to be –

AM: I thought accession was something that each country could veto if it wanted to.

PM: No. I do not think that the EU is going to keep Turkey out. I think it is going to join, I think the migrant crisis is pushing it more that way.

AM: There's a lot of other EU countries – I'm sorry to interrupt.

PM: What is wrong- I mean well just to be – the expansion policy is one thing, but if you're going to pursue that policy, and this is where we disagree with the Remain camp, you have got to allow us the tools to protect our own interests, to protect our national security. That we do not have.

AM: Okay. When it comes to the raw numbers and the way this has been framed there's been talk from your side about the number of Turks who are criminals, the number of Turks who have guns and so on. It's sounding a bit dog whistle and I remember right at the beginning of this campaign there was a big fight between Conservatives and the Nigel Farage led campaign, because your lot said, you're just going to go on and on and on about immigration. Here we are, a few weeks before the vote, and you're going on and on about immigration.

PM: Well, those facts and figures are agreed on by both sides of this debate. What we are arguing is that we - if you're going to have these policies, if you're going to ever expand the EU you have to allow us to mitigate the security risk that comes with that. And I think it is quite wrong that the British people will not be asked their view on this in the future. The referendum is our only chance to say no, we disagree with that.

AM: There's been a lot of kind of rumblings and worry from government ministers about what happens to the Conservative Party after this. Even suggestions there's going to be a kind of spiteful reshuffle where people are going to be kicked out if they've been on the wrong side. Do you think this is just getting overheated on both sides? Are you worried about what's going to happen to the Conservative family after the referendum?

PM: I'm not. I think the party will come together and I'm not ashamed that there's passion on both sides in my party on this. I think it is a shame that there are a lot of people in the world that want us to be frightened right now, but being frightened is not a way to live your life and it's certainly not a basis on making a decision. What I would say to the public - and I fully understand how annoyed they are that there's all the scaremongering and all the false reports that have been coming from the Remain side. What I would say to them is look at what is actually happening. Look at the job figures this week. Look at the money that's pouring into the City. We're a month out from the referendum, there's no jitters on the economy and also trust their commonsense. The great British commonsense. Are France and Germany going to stop cooperating with us on trade, on security? No. Because it benefits them and it benefits us.

AM: Let me raise something else that you talked about this morning which is the effect on the NHS of staying inside the EU. Now we've had two former bosses of the NHS writing in the

papers today saying actually the NHS will be badly hit if we leave the EU. Why are they wrong? What's your message to Simon Stevens for instance who's going to be sitting in that chair shortly?

PM: Well I think the NHS to thrive needs two things. I think if we left the EU we will obviously have that 10 billion pound dividend. Extra money is always helpful. But I think it needs something else as well.

AM: And is that going to the NHS?

PM: Well it would be for future governments to decide but I certainly think that the British public would probably put the NHS and the social care that surrounds it pretty high up the top of their list of priorities, if not at the top. So money is important. We would have more chance of spending more money on the NHS with that dividend. But I think it needs something else as well and this has been a problem historically for the NHS. It needs the ability to plan better and the problem with uncontrolled immigration is that it is impossible for our public services to plan. Whether it's our hospitals and A&E particularly has been affected by this or whether it's school place provision. That is very difficult unless you can have control, unless you can control the numbers coming in and you can give our public services some chance of making the provision they need.

AM: Do you think it's wrong for senior civil servants who've been involved in the NHS, administrators to wade into a public debate like this? Do you think it should be left to politicians, or is it fair people like the Governor of the Bank of England, people like the Chief Executive of the NHS to become involved in this national debate?

PM: I think that the public have got tired of this constant stream of hysteria from the establishment. I think that we're going to get

more of this but I think it is not going to have traction with the public. They are fed up with it. I think there have been some quite exceptional interventions. My colleague Andrew Leadsom pointed to Mark Carney's intervention which I think was the tipping point, if you like, when people realised actually there is another agenda going on here.

AM: You think it's an establishment stitch up, to put it brutally.

PM: I think so. I think the public are seeing through this and I think that at moments in our history, 1939, you know, 1982, I'm from Portsmouth, you know, we have gone against the orthodoxy of the establishment. We have stood up and said no, we're not going to be a nation of followers, we're going to be a nation of leaders. And that's what we need to happen in this referendum.

AM: The Prime Minister would say we have led in the Europe on big security issues, standing up to Putin at the time of the Crimean invasion and so forth, we have been very, very important there. There is such a thing as 'the west' and as us leaving the EU does help to fragment the west at what is a very dangerous time. We do have enemies out there.

AM: Well without democracy at the heart of Europe's institutions the idea of a strong, secure, peaceful Europe is dead. We need democracy to be restored to the heart of Europe. The EU on its current trajectory is totally counter to that and by us voting to leave, by us voting to get the better deal for ourselves in what we need to thrive we will also be providing that leadership which gives other European nations the permission to say me too.

AM: But it is a coming together of democracies and I just want to return to this business because I'm pretty sure that we do have a veto over stopping Turkey joining if we want to. Are you sure that we don't?

PM: Well, we haven't - I think with the current situation, the migrant crisis and other issues that are going on in Europe at the moment that we will be unable to stop Turkey joining.

AM: You think we'd just be bullied into it?

PM: And I think the British public – this is a matter for the British people I think to decide and the only shot that they will get at expressing a view on this is in this referendum.

AM: But if we don't want Turkey in, we can stop Turkey from coming in?

PM: I don't think that the UK will be able to stop Turkey joining.

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