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**E&OE TRANSCRIPT  
TELEVISION INTERVIEW  
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PVO NEWSDAY  
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***SUBJECTS: North Korea; Citizenship***

**HOST:** Joining us now live is the Shadow Defence Minister, Richard Marles. Richard, what does the world need to do now? We keep being told the sanctions will work. Well, they haven't worked to date.

**RICHARD MARLES, SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE:** Well I think we need to give time for the most recent round of sanctions to work, but I also think it's important that we are exploring every diplomatic avenue possible: increased sanctions, potentially in relation to North Korea, and it is right to be focussing on China. They have a particular relationship with North Korea. They have moved in the right direction in the last few weeks. Their increased sanctions is something which we should applaud, as is their support, with Russia on UN Security Council in terms of its resolutions - but they can do more and that's what we need to be working on.

**HOST:** How is this going to play out though, in terms of the trade issue, because there's been a lot of people warning for a long time that we're heading into a realm where you can see essentially this trade war erupt. The United States is threatening things. China is obviously the biggest trading partner with North Korea. How should Australia and the US, do you think, manage that issue in terms of you know putting sanctions in place but not starting some sort of all-out trade war?

**MARLES:** Well, I think it is right to raise all the issues that you just have, because that is in essence the delicate balancing act that we have here. But we also ought to remember and be encouraging China to remember that they've got as big a stake in this as anyone and it doesn't serve China's interests to have a nuclear-empowered North Korea on their border, and so their interest is as strong as anyone in trying to shape North Korean behaviour so as to bring an end to this behaviour, and we've got to be working with China to make sure that's the case.

**HOST:** Has the Government offered you any briefings on the intelligence they've received, because frequently North Korea has made claims about the capacity it

have and people have thought it's been all talk. This time seems to be different. People are worried that the threat is real.

**MARLES:** Look we've had numerous briefings from the Government, to be fair, along the journey in relation to North Korea. We obviously haven't had one since the most recent nuclear test and we'll pursue that with the Government. I think what that highlights is that from an Australian point of view this is really above politics. We need to have a united voice - and we do - in condemning North Korea and the way they're behaving and making sure that our national interest is pursued in the way in which this evolves because it's very much something of our region and it has a huge impact on us.

**HOST:** And what about this ongoing question in relation to missile defence shields? The Government has seemed cool on that, you have seem cool on that, but there's also been this idea that what we need to do is take that idea that's in the Defence White Paper in terms of fast tracking the capacity of air warfare destroyers to intercept them in some way. How would that work and what do you think needs to happen, if anything, in that space?

**MARLES:** Look it is absolutely reasonable that we explore all the technical options possible in terms of anti-ballistic missile technology, but it's going to be limited by what's practical and possible.

The reality is right now our best protection is the nuclear deterrence which is provided by the United States, but it highlights a few things here: that a conflict with North Korea on the Korean peninsula would be an appalling situation; and it is very much in our national interest to see this resolved in a diplomatic way, as it is, of course, for the world. We should be doing everything we can to pursue every diplomatic avenue that there possibly is.

I think the other point to make about this is that the nuclearisation of North Korea obviously raises the possibility or the potential for miscalculation and therefore war emanating as a result of that, but quite apart from that if it becomes an accepted fact that North Korea is a rogue state has this capability it's going to put enormous pressure on countries like Japan, South Korea, Vietnam in the medium-term to walk down a similar path. This is a really bad result in terms of nuclear proliferation within our region.

**HOST:** But in terms of that defence system, I mean China made pretty clear when they addressed the United Nations in relation to this they weren't happy about that defence system being in place at all. Do you think they'd have a less of a problem if we if we pursue the alternative, presumably?

**MARLES:** What I ultimately think is I find it very hard to criticize any country for taking the steps it needs to in order to protect itself. If South Korea were to pursue a THADD system I'm not about to criticize that. How could you, really, when you look at what is happening across the border only a few kilometres away, really, from Seoul?

**HOST:** Why does China think that they shouldn't? I mean, why can't they defend themselves?

**MARLES:** I think ultimately that's a matter for China to explain that, but I think it's ultimately completely legitimate for any country to do what it needs to do in order to protect itself, and South Korea is obviously in a particularly invidious position given what is happening across its border.

**HOST:** Tony Abbott today held a press conference, just changing tack for a moment, saying that Bill Shorten needs to show it or shut up, which is one hell of a mental image. Do you think it's time for Bill Shorten to just release the documents?

**MARLES:** Well, now I'm really struggling to continue with this interview given the mental image you've just put on the table there.

**HOST:** We are talking about the documents.

**MARLES:** Of course you are, and I actually think it goes like this: the Government need to put up or shut up. What is it exactly that they're saying in relation to Bill Shorten? No-one has raised an issue about Bill Shorten's citizenship. I mean if there was the slightest hint of a problem out there in relation to Bill Shorten's citizenship whoever had that information would be absolutely putting it in the public domain.

**HOST:** But what's going on with Katy Gallagher? I'm interested there is a question about her. She's in witness protection. Have you got her hiding behind a pot plant? What have you done with her?

**MARLES:** I don't think that's fair, and in fact I think-

**HOST:** -Well, why doesn't she do an interview about it.

**MARLES:** Well, Katy Gallagher's situation actually speaks to the process that the Labor Party has in place. I mean it's a quite unusual situation in terms of her mother being born in Ecuador. That was something that she made clear in the vetting process that the Party undertook. Research was then done on the significance of that and what it meant, and as a result of that it was concluded that didn't have any bearing on, or create any possibility-

**HOST:** Alright, well if you see her later today maybe if you tell her to pop up we'd love to talk to her.

Now, your lovely friend was just putting his head through the window. I'm worried that those bells were something to do with you, so maybe we should wrap it up then, but thank you very much for your time today, Richard Marles.

**MARLES:** Thanks, Sam.

**HOST:** Thanks a lot.

**ENDS**