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**E&OE TRANSCRIPT
SKY NEWS LIVE
PYNE & MARLES
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SUBJECTS: Invictus Games, Australia's Embassy in Israel, Victorian Election, Foreign Policy Speeches by the Leaders, Cricket Australia Review.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Well good afternoon and welcome to Pyne and Marles here on Sky News Live. It's 1 o'clock, Australian Eastern Daylight Time. I'm Christopher Pyne, I'm here in Adelaide and my co-presenter is Richard Marles and he's in Geelong today. Good afternoon Richard.

RICHARD MARLES: Good afternoon Christopher. And it's been a couple of weeks since we've been on air, duties have prevented us doing the show, but it's great to be back today. And in that period that we've been off, we've had the Invictus Games which both you and I went to. It was a genuinely remarkable event. What did you think?

PYNE: Well I went there on the Saturday, the final day of the Invictus Games, before the closing ceremony with the Prime Minister. And David Beckham was sitting in front of me and Prince Harry and the Duchess of Sussex were sitting on the other side of the stadium, and it was a tremendous event, it was quite inspirational. We watched the basketball finals for the bronze, silver and gold medals. And what struck me is that Prince Harry's engagement as a member of the Royal Family – even as a Republican – I have to say that if he wasn't as engaged in the Invictus games it wouldn't get nearly the attention that it gets, and it really deserves that attention. Sydney embraced it and I think it's one of the great things that the Royal family can do is shine a light on something as important as the Invictus Games.

MARLES: I mean he is a genuinely impressive person. I went to the closing ceremony of the games and he spoke at that, and really was the kind of climax of the closing ceremony. And he spoke without notes, it was not a written, prepared speech, I suspect it's a speech he's given before, but it was fantastic. And it obviously talked about what veterans have to go through, the journey that these people have been on, the achievement of participating in the games. But he then went beyond that and talked about how that's a lesson for everyone else; dealing with mental health, his own struggles with mental health, it was actually a genuinely impressive speech. And you know you're right, without Prince Harry this wouldn't happen and it is a remarkable event. There was a moment during the games when, it was wheelchair tennis – there was a British tennis player who – a helicopter flew over and it triggered his PTSD – and his a competitor who is from the Netherlands came over, sang to him the theme song from Frozen – Let it Go – gave him a hug, in order to get through that moment. And they showed that at the closing ceremony –

PYNE: That's amazing.

MARLES: - I mean it was it was sensational and it said anything about the sort of unique spirit of Invictus. I was really taken with it.

PYNE: And that's giving me goose bumps. I didn't know that story. I mean you and I are lucky in Defence, as Minister and Shadow, we get to meet a lot of servicemen and women and I know that you've been to Afghanistan, as have I, and we've seen our servicemen and women putting themselves in danger. So when they are injured, as the people are the Invictus Games, you know it really is important to note their service and acknowledge their contribution. But we should move on. Tell us, Richard, what we're doing with the rest of the show.

MARLES: Well look it's been a big week in politics Christopher, as it always is, so this week the debate around where the Australian Embassy to Israel should reside, whether it should move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, was back in the news again with Malcolm Turnbull making a contribution to that debate, so we're going to talk about that. Last Sunday we had the campaign launches in the Victorian State election of both the Labor Party and the Liberal Party so we'll talk a bit about the Victorian election. And during the week both the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister have made keynote speeches on foreign policy, which doesn't always happen so we'll be having a chat about that. There's been a big report released into the culture in Australian cricket which led to David Peever, the Chair of Cricket Australia, resigning. We'll be talking with Fox Sports presenter, Jim Callinan, about what's going on in the world of cricket and what this all means.

But let's start with the first topic of the day and that is the whole issue around where Australia's Embassy in Israel should be located. Have a look at this.

MALCOLM TURNBULL [CLIP]: There's no question that were that move to occur it would be met with a very negative reaction.

BARNABY JOYCE [CLIP]: Mr Turnbull's gone over there and rather than put the fire out he's thrown petrol on it, now we've got to try and manage that.

BILL SHORTEN [CLIP]: Imagine what the Indonesians think. Here's Malcolm Turnbull who they last met as Prime Minister, is now no longer Prime Minister, going up to explain that the current Prime Minister didn't mean what he said.

SCOTT MORRISON [CLIP]: I will always act in Australia's national interests. My views haven't changed. We will follow a proper process before making any decision on this matter.

MARLES: So Christopher, this is a really simple question, what on earth is going on here? This was foreign policy on the run in the lead up to a by-election in order to try and win a handful of votes in that. Indonesia weren't told what we were going to do. It was announced when the Palestinian Foreign Minister was in Indonesia. To be doing that kind of foreign policy statement in the context of a by-election it's a disgrace isn't it?

PYNE: Well Richard you probably agree with the Government considering moving our Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It's the only country in the world where our Embassy is not in that nation's capital city. Now clearly Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and this is an entirely even handed policy. If we were to move our embassy from Tel Aviv to West Jerusalem, as the capital of Israel, and when there is a Palestinian state, and we both support a two state solution, we would then open an embassy in East Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state. So it's an entirely even-handed approach and why shouldn't we consider the very simple matter of whether our Embassy should be in Israel's capital city which is Jerusalem. There's far too much hyperventilating going on over this issue. When I was in Singapore recently at the ADMM Conference not one Defence Minister in Southeast Asia and beyond raised it with me.

MARLES: So just, did I hear you right, that what you're saying is that a move of the Embassy to Jerusalem would be done hand-in-hand with the recognition of Palestine? Is that what you just said?

PYNE: Exactly. It's a perfectly even-handed approach. We're considering moving our Embassy from Tel Aviv to Israel's capital in West Jerusalem. If there is a Palestinian state, and we both support a two state solution, so we'd like to have a second state for Palestine, their capital would inevitably be East Jerusalem and we would put an Embassy there for Australia as well to

recognise that they are an independent state and their capital is East Jerusalem. So we are not taking sides between Israel and Palestine. We're simply reflecting the reality of the situation which is where their capital is. But as I said, we're considering that, the decision has not been made and we're right to do so.

MARLES: Okay. So a decision hasn't been made, but this whole topic – and you know it as well as anyone else – was raised in the week leading up to the Wentworth by-election for obvious reason. And foreign policy being done on those terms is an absolute disgrace. I actually think in the Prime Ministership of Scott Morrison this is a moment to be remembered because the cynicism involved in doing foreign policy on the basis of a by-election was seen by the whole of Australia – this isn't about foreign policy but winning a by-election. And so any authenticity which Scott Morrison might claim went right out of the window with that announcement.

PYNE: Well we've got to move on. But if you want to debate authenticity, I'm more than happy to debate Bill Shorten's untrustworthiness against Scott Morrison's authenticity. I know who's is going to win that debate.

But we've got to move on, the second topic is Victoria Decides, there's a Victorian State election coming up. Let's look and see how that unfolded this week.

DANIEL ANDERWS [CLIP]: From day one we chose to be a Government that builds. And across our city and across our state there are cranes in the sky and shovels in the ground.

MATTHEW GUY [CLIP]: We will get back in control of crime. We'll get back in control of their cost of living, we'll end the traffic chaos and create a better public transport system.

ANDREWS [CLIP]: This contest isn't just about defending the status quo. Instead it's about everything still to be done.

GUY [CLIP]: Not only will there be no new taxes, but a Liberal-National government will cut taxes.

PYNE: Well Richard, clearly Matthew Guy starts the underdog in this Victorian election campaign. The government has changed there twice in the last eight years and he would be really doing a very good job to win in the election coming up. But there's every reason why he should win. I don't understand why Daniel Andrews isn't requiring his Ministers and backbenchers to co-operate with the police in a police investigation about the misuse of taxpayers' funds. I

mean what kind of arrogance is that?

MARLES: Well, look Christopher, those issues have been raked over for years since the last election and I –

PYNE: But it's not resolved.

MARLES: They've been resolved. There is not a voter out in the streets who gives a tinker's toss about those issues because it doesn't go to people's lives. But what you heard from Daniel Andrews there –

PYNE: So you're relying on that.

MARLES: Well what you heard from Daniel Andrews is the fact that there is a whole lot of work being done on infrastructure, I mean in some ways to the frustration of driving around there is a lot of roadworks going on, but it does speak to the fact this is a Government which is doing stuff and everyone can see that. So I think that Daniel Andrews is a good government and deserves to be re-elected. No surprise that you hear that from me. But here's the federal implication Christopher. It says everything about where things are at federally, that at those campaign launches back on Sunday, Bill Shorten was there speaking right next to Daniel Andrews. We want him around because he is actually somebody who helps win votes in elections here. Scott Morrison, who does not speak Victorian at all, was nowhere to be seen at that Liberal launch.

PYNE: Well if you think that the Victorian public are going to be simply dismissed about their concerns about the Red Shirts it amazes me. Labor is just relying on the idea that they can create enough issues in the election that nobody will focus on the fact that the Victorian Premier doesn't think his Government should cooperate with the Victorian Police Force in an investigation. It's a shameful, shameful act by the Daniel Andrews Government and I hope they get punished on Election Day. We've got to move on though.

MARLES: Well we do need to move on. So this week there were foreign policy speeches made by both Bill Shorten and Scott Morrison. Have a look at this.

MORRISON [CLIP]: We support the strongest possible US political security and economic management in the Indo-Pacific in tangible ways including by lifting our defence spending.

SHORTEN [CLIP]: A Labor Government will put the Pacific front and centre in our regional foreign policy. We are not going to forfeit the Pacific because we didn't turn up.

MORRISON [CLIP]: In short I want us to do better. I want to set right how we engage with our Pacific family.

SHORTEN [CLIP]: Our goal will not be the strategic denial of others but rather the economic benefit of 10 million people of the Pacific.

MARLES: Well I was at Bill's speech on Monday, and this was Bill's first major foreign policy speech, and I got to say it went down very well. And it was so satisfying to be honest, to see that in Bill's speech about his sense of Australia's view of the world, that the Pacific is completely up from the centre, and if given the opportunity, if we were lucky enough to be elected at the next election you can see that under a Shorten Government the Pacific would be dealt with in a transformational way. This would be very, very central to the way in which we went about our foreign policy and frankly it's been a long time coming to get that kind of message out of a leader of the major political parties in Australia.

PYNE: Well it's incredible to me that you've admitted that this is Bill Shorten his first foreign policy speech in five years. He's been the Leader of the Opposition for five years and he's never given a foreign policy speech before. That's an amazing fact -

MARLES: I'm not saying he's never given one. But this is a major one.

PYNE: Well this is apparently his first major speech on foreign affairs; I think that says a lot about Bill Shorten's focus on the big issues. The good thing about this week though from our point of view Richard, because we're both interested in foreign and defence policy, is that both leaders are talking about important matters. There's no doubt we face significant challenges in our region in the Indo-Pacific, the great power competition between China and the United States being pre-eminent amongst them, and we've got to take responsibility for the South West Pacific. It's the area where we have a tremendous influence through great relationships and partnerships. And both leaders are building on that.

I'm very pleased to hear this morning, well announced this morning, but in the conversation with Peter O'Neill last night, the Prime Minister of PNG, that we will co-build a new naval base at Lombrum in Manus Island with PNG, where we will base Australian offshore patrol vessels. That's a very significant development in the Pacific, in the south west Pacific, building on the Black Rock announcement in Fiji where we will build the new peacekeeping and police training centre there in Fiji. Australia is putting a lot of emphasis on the south west Pacific. It's very important to us and I'm sure you, I know your passion for the Pacific, I'm sure you support that emphasis.

MARLES: I definitely do and developments at Manus and Blackrock in Fiji are definitely positive developments. I'd make the observation that the person who was most active in diplomacy in the Pacific on your side was Julie Bishop and she's no longer there. But you're right it is a very good thing that we are seeing both leaders put an emphasis on this part of world because it is badly needed.

We've run out of time for this side of program. Join us after the break when we're going to have a chat with Jim Callinan.

PYNE: Well welcome back to Pyne and Marles here on Sky News Live. Our guest this afternoon is going to be talking cricket. He is Jim Callinan, our leading Fox Sports News presenter. Welcome to the show Jim.

JIM CALLINAN: Pleasure to be with you, team.

PYNE: The last time we talked was about the Winter Olympics so this is a big jump to summer cricket. But the whole country is talking about Australian cricket. It's our national game. I remember with great shame when Michael Parkinson was asked years ago what he what he thought about the Australian cricket team, and we all know that he is a great, avid cricket fan, and he said he just wished the Australian team could win with grace. Now what is it about the Australian cricket team that their culture has become so toxic, and don't tell me it's the last few years, this has been going on for years and years.

CALLINAN: Well, certainly we have enjoyed watching a team that has had so much success for so long, led by some pretty tough and challenging captains you'd have to say, probably born in the days of Ian Chappell in the late 70s early 80s and certainly taken on board by Allan Border at a time where Australian cricket had to have a bit of a rebirth if you like after a few lean years. Steve Waugh we know actually coined the term mental disintegration and from there, I tend to agree, there has certainly been a drop in standards when it comes to how we do present ourselves on the cricket field, when there are the, pretty much, the gentleman rules of sport where you cover off the spirit of cricket. Well that seems to have been lost and lost in the fog of wanting to win at all costs and that has been basically the nature of the review handed down on Monday. Now had the states of the Australian cricket been able to view that report in full, I fancy we might not have been in the position we hear today we we're talking about the chairman, David Peever, being forced to fall on his sword because he pulled off quite the political manoeuvre by getting reinstated days before it was made public. But yes to your point, yes I think everyone agrees the standards have dropped to a point where we saw them take sandpaper onto a cricket field in South Africa and now they have to live with that.

MARLES: So Jim, the Australian cricket team I think is bigger than cricket. This is one of the most important ways in which Australia is represented to the world. I mean if you go back to the great tour of 1948 in the aftermath of the Second World War, Don Bradman leading that team I mean his role was not just on the cricket field. He was such a great ambassador for the country at a critical moment. Do you think that players understand the significance of their role in representing our country in our national sport abroad and the way in which it portrays Australia more generally?

CALLINAN: Well if they didn't before, they certainly do now. There is no doubt about what has happened in South Africa and what's happened since. The unprecedented sanctions handed down to the then captain, his deputy and a rookie for a year, a year, and nine months respectively certainly must ramp home what that is like. Yes it's about living in this bubble that everyone's has been reflecting upon now, unfortunately as a professional cricketer you literally going from event to event, living on the road and you tend to lose touch with reality and unfortunately when that happens and you don't have anyone to pull yourself back into line and get a real sense of purpose and a sense of understanding of just what it means to be playing for your country, and with the famous baggy green, and you can find yourselves lost and unfortunately that's exactly what we saw at Newlands in March of this year.

PYNE: And Jim it's as simple as the issue about sledging. So I've got four children, two of them are boys, and both of them have played AFL and cricket and rugby and rowing and so on, and I couldn't believe it when James Sutherland said when there were the complaints in South Africa about the level of sledging, that sledging was part of the game. But our coaches of our boys, if they heard those boys sledging other players in the way that our players had been doing at the senior level, they would be hauled off the field and they'd be stood down for a week or two to give them a chance to pull themselves together. And yet the head of Cricket Australia was saying this is part of the game. How could it go so wrong that the game of gentlemen, supposedly, has been turned into where sledging is encouraged in the very team that's supposed to set the example for the rest of the Australian cricket fraternity?

CALLINAN: Yeah there's almost a sense of parliamentary privilege of what you say on the cricket field doesn't come back to haunt you isn't it? But yes it does because they have gone through the imaginary line if you like. But this is real nub here, everyone's got their own line of what is too far in Australia in the heat of battle here it's always been seemingly about can you handle the pressure of what we're about to put you through and if you can okay, then you're man enough to play this sport, but that doesn't carry over in the world game. In Australia there may be this feeling that yes we can do it and get away with it but it just doesn't pass muster now on the world stage and I agree with

you, too much is being said it's gone beyond the pale and unfortunately had the players been actually drawn back into line earlier by their own officials, and I'm talking about those at administrative levels, as well as coaching, then we just might not have been in this position. But yes sledging has long been part of the Australian game and I still fancy there is room for it. There's nothing like a good quick line to get a bit of a mental edge over a player. But yes there is that line. What is it? Well you've got to use your common sense and you don't cross it.

MARLES: Well I reckon we can do without sledging, I mean surely in terms of professional cricketers I cannot imagine that sledging makes the slightest bit of difference in terms of the way in which a batter faces up to any given ball and decides their shot. But Jim it's been great talking with you again today. Thank you for coming and joining us here. Cricket always gets the nation talking and we are very much looking forward to, I hope, a summer of cricket where we can be really proud of a team giving of its best.

CALLINAN: 100 percent. It all starts in Perth on Sunday of course for us domestically. We play the South Africans in three one dayers. The team of course we played against when it all came undone in March.

MARLES: Well we will be avidly watching. Thanks for joining us again Jim.

And that brings us to the question of the week, which has been brought about by the Wentworth by-election and the election of Kerryn Phelps. So the simple question is Christopher, what does the election of Kerryn Phelps mean in terms of the numbers in the House of Representatives. As the as the Leader of the House, explain it to us.

PYNE: Well from my perspective Richard, nothing much has changed, I know that everybody is focused and obsessed about this idea that we're in minority government. But the Morrison Government has always been a minority government, because the moment he became the PM Malcolm Turnbull resigned from Wentworth and the House became 148 members and I needed 75 to win every vote. And now there's 149 members, with Kerryn Phelps coming into Wentworth, we still need 75 votes to win votes. So yes it's been a little bit harder and a bit easier for Labor to get - to beat us on the raw numbers, but honestly for me I still need 75. I needed 75 before. The Morrison Government is going to remain a minority government until the election when we'll get re-elected in a majority of our own.

MARLES: So just to explain to viewers, obviously the gap to 150 is made up by the Speaker. But it does mean this, doesn't it, that if all the crossbenches agree on a particular proposition then for the first time now with Kerryn Phelps in the Parliament, in the House, the Government would lose a vote.

PYNE: That's true, but that could happen before when we had 148 as well, because if Bob Katter or Cathy McGowan who've sometimes voted with us, or Rebekha Sharkie, all voted together yes it would be a tied vote before and now we would lose, that's true. But I've still got to get 75. So my job hasn't changed that much and we're focusing on the economy. We're focusing on the good outcomes for the Australian public and the votes in the House of Representatives is not going to change that much.

MARLES: Well I suppose the critical point there is that the moment that Malcolm Turnbull resigned the Morrison Government went into a minority there. But we've run out of time. Christopher, great to have a chat with you again this week. Look forward to doing it again next week on Sky News at 1 o'clock on Pyne and Marles. We will see you then.

ENDS

Authorised by Noah Carroll, ALP, Canberra.