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**E&EO TRANSCRIPT
TELEVISION INTERVIEW
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SUBJECT/S: Kevin Rudd's nomination for UN Secretary-General

DAVID SPEERS: We're going to wrap this up in a minute, but Richard Marles let me ask you, back on the domestic front, about Kevin Rudd, you're close with him, you've been mates with him over the years, he'll obviously be disappointed by this, what do you say in reaction to the Prime Ministers position not to back him for the UN Secretary General's job?

RICHARD MARLES, SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE: Well look the Coalition today may have a feeling of smugness about having punched Kevin Rudd on the nose, but in fact all they've really done is announce to the Australian people that the Coalition is a small minded Government which is incapable of seeing the national interest because it simply cannot get its head around the bigger picture here. What we've got is a Government which is harking back to small time partisanship and denying the opportunity for Australia to have a genuinely serious candidate for the most senior job in the UN, which would be a moment of history for our country. And I think it's breathtaking, they have got the politics of this all wrong and the fact again, in their very first Cabinet meeting, we have seen this issue act as a wrecking ball right through the middle of it demonstrates the fact that Malcolm Turnbull has no authority as the Leader of the Liberal Party, as the Prime Minister of Australian and he cannot get his own way. Today he is absolutely diminished by the decision he's taken.

DAVID SPEERS: Let me ask you finally, what about the view, I know that you didn't desert him, but plenty of your colleagues did, plenty of your colleagues on the record talking about all of his flaws as a person, this his temperament, his character, is not suited to this job and that if your colleagues in Labor see him or saw him that way, why should the Australian Government put him forward?

RICHARD MARLES: What you're referring to are comments that are made in the context of a cut and thrust domestic debate in the midst of partisan politics and frankly –

DAVID SPEERS: Yeah, but now whether he was the right personality to be the Prime Minister of Australia?

RICHARD MARLES: Well, ultimately the Labor Party made a decision to return Kevin Rudd to the Prime Ministership of Australia. We can go through the divisions of Labor back then and it's a sad time for us and we've absolutely paid the price for that but the real point here David is that all of that goes to the domestic space. We're talking about something much bigger here, we're talking about a serious Australian candidate, well credentialed being the Prime Minister of our country, our Foreign Minister, who has been deeply involved in the UN, having a real and genuine prospect of becoming the Secretary General of the United Nations and he deserves the support of the country. John Key gave that support for Helen Clark, now I'm sure that we could go through all the records in New Zealand, you'll find a whole lot of things said about Helen Clark in the context of a domestic debate but when it comes to New Zealand projecting globally there is no question that New Zealand comes first. I don't get why that simple proposition isn't there for Malcolm Turnbull.

DAVID SPEERS: We've got to go, Richard Marles, the new Shadow Defence Minister, Tom Switzer from the US Studies Centre, thank you both very much for hanging around this afternoon, enjoyed your analysis on all of that.

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