

P3 interview transcript (13th November 2019, at his house)

1. JC: Hello P3.
2. P3: Hello Jacopo.
3. JC: Thank you very much for agreeing to do this viewing experience for me.
4. P3: You are very welcome.
5. JC: And, just to briefly say what the conversation will be like. There will be kind of three
6. parts, if you like. In the first one we will just go over some of the things that you have
7. written in the questionnaire, so that you can expand, or clarify or just add more if you
8. want to and then we will just talk about, generally, your kind of travelling and cultural
9. experience, because I understand you are very well-travelled [BOTH LAUGH] and also a
10. bit about maybe your... you know, the way you see your country, Britain, nationally,
11. internationally, that kind of thing. Hopefully it won't last more than an hour, that's kind
12. of my maximum, but it may be less than that, depending on how it goes.
13. P3: OK, let's see how it pans out.
14. JC: Brilliant. OK, so if we start with the questionnaire, I won't really cover much the first
15. section, because that's kind of more descriptive of your viewing habits, but obviously I'm
16. more interested in what you thought before and after watching the programme, which I
17. found quite enjoyable, by the way. I thought it was a nice watch. OK, so, I guess, first of
18. all, just tell me about why this programme in particular. Just because it was there or
19. because you had an interest in the place.
20. P3: Yeah, I watched several of Michael Portillo's railway journeys in the past and it wasn't
21. particularly because it was about Australia, I would have watched it with any country. I
22. enjoy his nice style, travel and dealing... talking to people, bringing people out... getting
23. them to talk about interesting things.
24. JC: He's very, sort of, affable.
25. P3: Yeah.
26. JC: Nice kind of guy.
27. P3: Yes, that's right.
28. JC: So, I don't actually know much about him. Has he been doing this for long?
29. P3: Michael Portillo is an ex-politician.
30. JC: Right, OK.
31. P3: He was a member of Margaret Thatcher's government and as far as I remember, he
32. started this TV work five, ten years ago.
33. JC: And always kind of to do with travelling somewhere.
34. P3: Erm, yes. I think he might have done some political programmes as well, but it's the
35. travel aspect that I like.

Commented [CJ(1): Motivation for choosing the programme and connection with the *epistemic vigilance* towards the source

Commented [CJ(2): This comment may imply that P3 doesn't like MP's politics

36. JC: Yes, I bet. So, you said you watched some other programmes that he's done before.

37. P3: Yes, that's in the UK. Most of his journeys seem to be... he's done quite a number

38. going around the UK.

39. JC: Is it always by train?

40. P3: Yes, it is about railway journeys around the UK mostly. It is only more recently that

41. he's started to do the journeys abroad. [CAT WALKS ON THE TABLE] I'm sorry, we've got

42. an intruder [LAUGHS].

43. JC: [LAUGHS] No problem at all, a beautiful intruder. And, so this Australia one is the first

44. that you watched abroad with him or has he done other stuff abroad?

45. P3: This was the third in a series. I've watched some of the first one, but I missed the

46. second one, so... I intend to watch the rest. I think there's another three programmes.

47. JC: OK, so it's a bit of a longer series, and it's all about Australia.

48. P3: Yes, all about Australia.

49. JC: Just by the title being "Australian railway". And did the episode that you watched

50. compare favourably with previous ones? Was it a very similar format?

51. P3: Yes. There was a lot of chat with Australians on a train journey, very affable. And they

52. had a good laugh. But yes, similar, very similar.

53. JC: And I noticed he's kind of working off this Bradshaw guidebook. I was surprised.

54. P3: [LAUGHS] Bradshaw was... goes back to the Victorian times. Bradshaw was the railway

55. guy. The timetable, all train times and a bit of a description about the places.

56. JC: So, it's all connected with trains and railways.

57. P3: All to do... all connected with railways, yeah.

58. JC: So, is that a means of transport that you particularly like when travelling?

59. P3: Erm, I do. I'm not a very experienced train traveller, but I do enjoy a train journey,

60. usually when we are on holiday. If there is like a small railway, I do take notes and I take

61. [NAME OF WIFE], we go and have a trip on the railway. But one of our best travel

62. experiences actually was when we had a trip to Canada and from Vancouver we took the

63. train to the Rocky Mountains.

64. JC: Nice! Actually, I think you mentioned this at some point around [NAMES OF COMMON

65. FRIENDS].

66. P3: Yes, I may have. And that was a fantastic journey.

67. JC: Was it a very long train journey?

68. P3: It was two days, but we didn't sleep on the train. We stopped at a place called

69. Kamloops and carried on with the journey the next day.

70. JC: Brilliant. Right, OK. So, we kind of talked about the programme and you have already

71. watched some of the episodes in this series.

72. P3: Yeah.

Commented [CJ(3): Indication that the choice of the programme was a genuine one and that he would have watched the programme regardless of my research.

Commented [CJ(4): Again, connection with *epistemic vigilance towards the source*

Commented [CJ(5): Previous knowledge? These details about the guidebook are not given in the episode we watched and I don't remember hearing that in the first episode either (TO CHECK)

Commented [CJ(6): Connection with motivation for watching this programme.

73. JC: And was that what you were expecting before watching it. Obviously, you knew that
74. it was going to be from Adelaide to Perth, because that's kind of in the title, wasn't it, of
75. the actual programme.
76. P3: Yeah, that's it.
77. JC: [READING FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE] Erm, and "the presenter will interview a wide
78. range of people met on the journey". OK, very good.
79. P3: Erm, can I say?
80. JC: Sure, please.
81. P3: I was surprised. Australia has never really been a country that attracted me very
82. much. I've always thought of it as not being that exciting or interesting place to go, but
83. this programme has... and I would quite like to go there now [LAUGHS].
84. JC: So, why... why was that so, before?
85. P3: It's just an image you get of places and I'd always thought it was very barren and...
86. yeah, between the cities there's no much to see in the way of countryside, but there was
87. some interesting things, like the goldmine on the way, and...
88. JC: That was very interesting.
89. P3: Yeah, it opened up a new view of Australia for me, in a way. Gave me more of an
90. interest.
91. JC: So, given the opportunity, would you go now?
92. P3: [LAUGHS] I would, but I know [NAME OF WIFE] wouldn't go, so it's not likely that we
93. will go. It's too far.
94. JC: It's a long flight, isn't it? Quite far to get to. Indeed.
95. P3: Yeah.
96. JC: And then other things that you sort of associated with, or thought that would come
97. up, you mention, obviously, this "vast area of underdeveloped land"
98. P3: Yes [BOTH LAUGH AS THE CAT WALKS AROUND THE TABLE]. Come on you! [TO
99. THE CAT] This is Rosie. Come on you. Very friendly girl, aren't you?
100. JC: She is! [BOTH LAUGH]
101. P3: Yes, that's what I was saying, the undeveloped land and not anything very attractive
102. to look at. That's the thoughts that I had.
103. JC: And did you see much of that? I mean there was...
104. P3: Yeah, there was quite a lot. But, there were places in between that made it
105. worthwhile. You know, places of interest.
106. JC: True. So, you put down "Australians have the image of being tough, outgoing and
107. friendly".
108. P3: Yeah.
109. JC: Was that matched by... where did you get this idea from?

Commented [CJ(7): I guess this partly goes towards showing one of the purposes of this kind of programmes being fulfilled, i.e. the promotion of the places as travel destinations.

Commented [CJ(8): Previous knowledge and evidence of *evidential effects* having taken place.

Commented [CJ(9): Evidence of *modifying ideological effects* having taken place, i.e. a change in opinions regarding Australia as a travel destination.

Commented [CJ(10): Previous knowledge / opinion.

Commented [CJ(11): *Evidential and modifying ideological effects*

110. P3: I thought... it's just a stereotype. Through your life you build up pictures of things. It's

111. like stereotype, isn't it?

112. JC: Have you known any? Have you worked with any Australians? Or met them on

113. holiday?

114. P3: Not to a very large... I have worked with Australians. Not to get to know them very

115. well. But television... Australian sportsmen, cricket isn't... rugby players [LAUGHS]

116. JC: Of course, yes.

117. P3: You get images, don't you that form an impression of people.

118. JC: And these two or three episodes that you have watched with Michael Portillo are the

119. first ones about Australia? So, as a kind of longer documentary, if you like, or programme

120. about the country. Or had you seen before...

121. P3: No, it was... oh goodness... I can't remember what... where they were. But a lot of it

122. was actually on the train, talking to Australians and they were having a good laugh,

123. joshing.

124. JC: So, would you stick with this definition after watching these couple of episodes?

125. P3: [LAUGHS]

126. JC: "Tough, outgoing and friendly"?

127. P3: Yes, I would actually [BOTH LAUGH]

128. JC: Fair enough.

129. P3: Definitely, yeah.

130. JC: Yes, definitely from the people he was chatting to on the train and when they were

131. playing that...

132. P3: Gambling game, yeah.

133. JC: They seemed a nice bunch of people.

134. P3: Yes, outgoing and ready to join in.

135. JC: Yeah, fair enough. And then you also mentioned that "Aboriginal people may retain a

136. separate culture".

137. P3: Yes, but that didn't really come up. There wasn't... I don't remember seeing any

138. reference to the Aborigines or...

139. JC: Was there anything in the previous episode, perhaps?

140. P3: No.

141. JC: There may be something in the following ones.

142. P3: Yeah.

143. JC: There is three more to go, isn't there?

144. P3: Yes. There was no... In fact, I don't remember seeing any variety of ethnicity at all.

145. They were all white people.

146. JC: So, just because you mentioned Aboriginal people, what kind of, or how you got to

Commented [CJ(12): Evidence of critical awareness of stereotypes and how they possibly work

Commented [CJ(13): Evidence that previous *opinions* about Australians were largely formed on media representation rather than through direct experience.

Commented [CJ(14): Evidence of *improving ideological effects*

Commented [CJ(15): Previous opinions

Commented [CJ(16): It is interesting that he noticed that.

147. form an idea about, you know, them having a separate culture?

148. P3: Yes, again, it's through the reading, through the TV. They always seem to be a

149. separate... they have a separate way of life from the white Australians.

150. JC: Do they... yes, they're also part of sporting teams?

151. P3: Yes.

152. JC: Rugby for sure, I don't watch cricket unfortunately, but rugby I do and there seem to

153. be quite a mix of ethnicities in that sort of context.

154. P3: Yeah, that's true.

155. JC: OK, so, then after watching the programme, in terms of what kind of impressed you,

156. "Admiration for the people who built the infrastructure and industries of the country.

157. Their resilience, bravery and courage. Sadness for the Fairbridge orphans".

158. JC: OK. Well, let's talk a bit the building of the infrastructures. What did you find

159. particularly...

160. P3: Building the railways over a huge tract of land in very stark conditions. It must have

161. taken... you must have been very tough to undergo that and survive.

162. JC: I mean, they were talking about one thousand miles or something? It took them five

163. years just for the bit that was missing between Kar...

164. P3: Kalgoorlie

165. JC: That's it! [BOTH LAUGH] And Adelaide. That definitely takes a bit of work, doesn't it?

166. P3: Yes, it certainly does.

167. JC: And is that something that you had heard or learnt about before, these kind of

168. engineering marvels in Australia or in other countries?

169. P3: I've read a lot about Brunel and building the Great Western Railway, how they drove

170. through tunnels and building bridges. Yeah, it is something that is of interest. I enjoy

171. museums and seeing how that is done.

172. JC: I guess you share that with [NAME OF COMMON FRIEND] as well?

173. P3: Yes.

174. JC: I know he's quite into his trains and engineering, kind of broadly speaking.

175. P3: Yes, [NAME OF COMMON FRIEND] likes to know how things work, how they're put

176. together.

177. JC: Definitely. And with regard to your second point "Sadness for the Fairbridge orphans",

178. is that, again, something that you knew about already, or heard before?

179. P3: Yeah, I'd heard a little bit about it before, but I didn't realise it was such vast numbers

180. of people involved in it and it went on over a long period of time. I thought it was just

181. something from the '50s and it was just a few years, but it didn't, it went on for... it started

182. a lot earlier than that and went on a lot longer. And it's... I don't know, it got to me that

183. there were those poor people, the way they were treated. And we talk a lot about human

Commented [CJ(17): Again, evidence that the previously held opinions are based on media representations rather than direct experience.

Commented [CJ(18): Very much in line with the *preferred reading*. *Dominant code* applied

Commented [CJ(19): In line with the *preferred reading*. No questions asked regarding who was it that actually built (and possibly died) the railway, or the impact that this had on the first nation people

Commented [CJ(20): Again, previous knowledge and interest in the subject matter of the programme / series.

184. rights today, but they had none.

185. JC: I guess, yeah. Different times in many ways, but yeah, nonetheless, you're right, that
186. kind of concept seemed to come out of the programme too, about human rights not
187. being totally adhered to. And again, just out of curiosity, when you... how did you hear
188. before about this Fairbridge...

189. P3: Probably from the newspapers. I didn't know it was called the Fairbridge Project, but

190. I knew that orphans had been sent to Australia and lived in spartan conditions. I didn't
191. know it was to such a great extent.

192. JC: But was it about twenty years ago that you first heard about it, or thirty years ago?

193. P3: I don't know, it's just something I'm aware of. Probably in the last ten years or
194. something I read about it somewhere.

195. JC: OK, so, you enjoyed the programme in general "it was interesting and amusing /
196. entertaining". Anything you want to add in that sense? I mean, you have mentioned quite
197. a few reasons why you thought it was interesting and amusing. Can you recall any bits
198. that were particularly amusing?

199. P3: I remember the dancing bit, that was quite funny. The lady hugged him and said,

200. "That could be a bit intimidating". And he said "I quite enjoy it" [BOTH LAUGH]

201. JC: I remember that as well, actually. And what did you make of him trying to... he was
202. very hands-on, wasn't it? He helped refilling the train with water, he went into the
203. kitchen and helped carving the lamb.

204. P3: Oh yes, that's right.

205. JC: What did you make of that? Were you surprised he was getting his hands dirty, so to
206. speak, or...

207. P3: No, not really. I think that's the type of guy he is. He gets involved with things, as he
208. has on the previous programmes.

209. JC: Right, OK.

210. P3: Yeah, it just adds a little bit of extra interesting things, doesn't it?

211. JC: Sure. And you think he really had two heads on his spin or was that staged? What did
212. you make of that?

213. P3: You know, I thought the same thing. I think they might have... it might have come up
214. lucky the first time, but probably, quite likely they would have staged... waited, kept

215. throwing until they got the right... you know these things are manipulated sometimes.

216. JC: It was just funny that at the first attempt... [BOTH LAUGH] It is possible, though. It is

217. possible of course. OK, so, one thing that you found interesting was "the wine producer

218. and how it was started by a man from Kent".

219. P3: Yeah, that's right, from Dover. A smuggler, I think. They said he was a smuggler

220. [LAUGHS]. Which is not...

Commented [CJ(21): Evidence of *Evidential and improving ideological effects* together with reception of the *preferred reading through a dominant code*.

Commented [CJ(22): It is interesting that the *evidential effects* P3 refers to are to do with the number of children and how long it had been going on for as well as living conditions, rather than what the scandal was actually about, i.e. sexual abuse and lying to children / parents regarding the actual state of things. As well as providing evidence of manipulation through bypassing *epistemic vigilance towards the content*, this gives some indications as to why this 'stop' was included in the programme, that is to appear as covering this issue (completely non-train related) and thus fulfilling some form of moral or ethical mission as public service, but in fact manipulating access to the available contextual information (of which MP would have been aware of as he was a member of the Tory government when the scandal first came up) in order to minimise the scale of the issue and the responsibilities of those who were involved.

Commented [CJ(23): Contribution to lowering *epistemic vigilance towards the source*

Commented [CJ(24): Again, interesting that when the *context* is fully accessible to the viewer, i.e. in this case it is known to the viewer that there are chances and probabilities in gambling and the chances of winning on one attempt are not very high, the *epistemic vigilance* is well alert.

221. JC: A smuggler at night, wasn't it?

222. P3: Yeah, and he used to bring things over from France, land them a night. I think there

223. are some tunnels in [NAME OF HIS TOWN] where smugglers had... going back to two

224. hundred years or so, they were bringing in stuff.

225. JC: What did you think about his sort of achievements, if you like, once in Australia?

226. P3: Fantastic, wasn't it, really. If you think about it, they went to Australia with... spent all

227. their money to invest in land and it was a gamble. They... I think, the type of people that

228. went were that type of people that would work hard and make a success of that.

229. JC: Yeah, I think they made it quite clear that the Western part of Australia was the one

230. where people kind of voluntarily went, rather than...

231. P3: Rather than the convicts.

232. JC: Rather than the convicts, if you like, yeah. Do you know anyone who has actually gone

233. to Australia? Acquaintances?

234. P3: No. I know [NAME OF COMMON FRIEND]'s mum and dad went there when they were

235. younger.

236. JC: Sure, you're right.

237. P3: I know [NAME OF COMMON FRIEND] always wanted to go.

238. JC: Is that where they went, Western Australia?

239. P3: I'm not sure where in Australia they went. But my brother was in the civil service and

240. worked for the Foreign Office and he was posted to Darwin, in the north of Australia.

241. JC: Was he? Alright, OK.

242. P3: Two periods of three years.

243. JC: What did he make of it?

244. P3: We could have gone to visit, but we were put off by the reporting back that it's very

245. hot and humid all the time up that way. [NAME OF WIFE] wasn't keen to go and I didn't...

246. JC: How long ago was that?

247. P3: How long... uh, erm... it must have... I think they probably came back twenty years

248. ago. They did two tours out there. But their sons were brought up out there and they had

249. the time of their lives.

250. JC: Did they stay there?

251. P3: No, they weren't old enough, they had to come back. Yeah, they came back. I think

252. they were still too young to make their own lives.

253. JC: Fair enough.

254. P3: But I know they enjoyed the sport particularly. Rugby, swimming. It was a good life

255. for children, apparently. So they said.

256. JC: That sounds pretty good, actually.

257. P3: [NAME OF WIFE] has got a cousin out in Australia as well. She's got... two, two cousins.

Commented [CJ(25): Again, complete adherence to the preferred reading through a dominant code. Again, no questions asked with regard to how that land was acquired, whether it was already lived on, etc.

Commented [CJ(26): Evidence of more direct knowledge of some aspects of living in Australia.

258. One, [NAME]. Have you... have you met [NAME], [NAME OF WIFE]'s cousin, in [NAME OF
259. NEARBY TOWN]? They're associated with [NAME OF COMMON FRIEND]

260. JC: Were they at [NAME OF COMMON FRIEND]'s wedding?

261. P3: Thinking now, no, I don't think they were. But, it's her sister and brother, they went
262. when they were much younger [INAUDIBLE], but they've come back and visited a couple
263. of times. And she's enjoyed the life, she's very happy that she went. The other one, I can't
264. remember his name, a bit of a criminal [LAUGHS], unfortunately, has not done so well.

265. JC: OK. And they're both still there?

266. P3: They are still there, but they're both getting on in years now, so. They stayed out
267. there.

268. JC: And the other thing you were surprised about, going back to this, is "how much gold
269. and other minerals are still being produced".

270. P3: Yes. Yeah, I knew there was gold. There has been a gold rush in Australia, but looking
271. at that, they were still producing at that mine. It's quite...

272. JC: It's quite an impressive site as well

273. P3: Yes, the operation there is very good and they're producing a lot of gold. I thought it
274. would have all dried up years ago, the gold, but they are still producing a lot there. I was
275. surprised. And they mentioned another mineral, I don't remember which one it was.

276. JC: Oh, yeah.

277. P3: They are quite rich in minerals there.

278. JC: Yeah, I wasn't aware of that either. It was a surprising bit of news. And "interested to
279. hear the views of the group of Australians towards the end. They were mainly expressing
280. pride in their global and diverse society but were ambiguous about their British heritage
281. and ties to the monarchy."

282. P3: Yeah.

283. JC: Were you... oh "I expected that the younger people would be keen for the country to
284. become a republic". So, first of all, were you surprised that the kind of ties... I mean they
285. had a show of hands about who is a royalist and it was kind of 50/50 at least, wasn't it?

286. P3: Yes, but even though some weren't royalists, I don't think they were fiercely anti-
287. royal and yet I... again, it's just an impression, I thought the younger Australians would
288. prefer to have a republic, would want to repudiate the British heritage. Independent
289. people... would want to be independent and not tied to another country.

290. JC: Yeah, they didn't seem to be too bothered, did they?

291. P3: No.

292. JC: In fact, 'cos then they talked about the visit from Prince... I don't know if it was...

293. P3: Harry, was it?

294. JC: Harry or Alfred? Some... it was a young person describing the whole thing, wasn't she?

Commented [CJ(27)]: Evidence of evidential effects

Commented [CJ(28)]: Preferred reading through dominant code. Again, no questions about land ownership and so on, probably because no such questions were asked in the programme.

Commented [CJ(29)]: Evidence of modifying ideological effects.

295. P3: Yeah, they are still... there is still interest in the royal family.

Commented [CJ(30)]: Again, preferred reading through dominant code

296. JC: I guess I'm actually not too sure what the institutional organisation is like. I mean,
297. obviously, they have a Prime Minister, I know that. And they must have, well, chambers,
298. as we do in England. But then is it the same as in England, where the Queen is actually
299. the Head of State?

300. P3: The Queen is the Head of State.

Commented [CJ(31)]: Prior knowledge

301. JC: It's the same exactly as Britain, as in the constitutional structure, if you like.

302. P3: Yes

303. JC: Would she still have, kind of... I mean, she hasn't got a lot of power here either, but

304. would she have some veto powers over there? I don't know actually.

305. P3: No, I think it's more a ceremonial role out there. As it is here, really.

306. JC: Yeah, fair enough.

307. P3: Where they go through the motions of her signing off laws. If she was to rebel and

308. say "No, I'm not signing that.", then they would have to change the constitution.

309. JC: I wonder if they refer to the Australian government as 'Her Majesty's Government' as

310. well. That's interesting.

311. P3: I'm not sure, but they're all part of the Commonwealth, that's another thing that

312. comes into this.

Commented [CJ(32)]: Prior knowledge

313. JC: Of course. OK, before we kind of move on, is there anything else about the programme

314. that we haven't spoken about and that you would like to mention?

315. P3: Erm, just that I was surprised at the size of the city, Perth. It's amazing in such a short

316. time that it's grown to such a size, in a relatively short time. I suppose that's something

317. we see all over the world now, growth in population and therefore the urban centres are

318. getting bigger.

Commented [CJ(33)]: Again, preferred reading through dominant code, although it is not clear whether P3 also thinks Perth is a great city.

319. JC: Certainly. OK, brilliant. So, travelling seems to have been one of the instigators

320. for watching this programme. Can you tell me a bit how many different countries you've

321. visited? Which ones have left an impression on you and for what reason?

322. P3: We've been to a lot of countries in Europe and a lot of countries in the Americas. But

323. we haven't really travelled any further than that. So, the US, Canada, a lot of the

324. Caribbean countries. We've visited Panama and Costa Rica, on a cruise. And Colombia,

325. we had a stop in Colombia. But, you know, all the usual countries in Europe. We've been

326. in France, Germany, Luxemburg, Belgium, Italy

327. JC: Good you mentioned that [BOTH LAUGH]

328. P3: Several times! [BOTH LAUGH] And, joking aside, it is one of my favourite places, Italy.

329. So, I suppose, overall, at a rough estimate, I have probably been to between forty and

330. fifty different countries.

331. JC: And what would, kind of, drive your choices. In the past, what made you want to go

332. to, say, Canada instead of, I don't know, Mexico for example, or Italy instead of Greece?

333. I don't, know, just to say a couple of names.

334. P3: Well, Canada was really one of the favourite holidays. We wanted to go there

335. particularly for the scenery, wildlife. We'd like to see bears and the such. It was the train

336. journey as well, one of the drivers that, you know, it was a two-week holiday. Going back

337. to what I was saying about Australia, you build an image of somewhere over the years

338. and some places are, you know, more attractive than others. For the US, we first went to

339. Florida. That was about twenty years ago, and that was [NAME OF WIFE]'s choice. We

340. went on a tour of Florida, including three days at Disney [LAUGHS], and that's what

341. attracted [NAME OF WIFE] more than anything.

342. JC: Is she into rides and theme parks?

343. P3: No, more... yes, theme parks, certainly. But, she's a bit delicate because of her

344. arthritis, so she can't go on anything too... you know, that's gonna jerk her about too

345. much. But, that holiday, also, included a visit to the Kennedy Space Centre and you go

346. down into the Everglades. And that's... they appeal to me more than the Disney thing.

347. Having said that, I did thoroughly enjoy the Disney thing when I got there [BOTH LAUGH].

348. The rides. I was more on the rides than [NAME OF WIFE] was.

349. JC: Did you find these places, like, around the US which supposedly are quite similar, you

350. know in terms of way of living, to the UK, quite different culturally? Or were they pretty

351. much like being here?

352. P3: Canada, I think they are more an outdoor, what you would call an outdoor-oriented

353. country. They get stuck indoors during the winter quite a lot. Yeah, but it's definitely the

354. outdoors that attracted us to Canada. Their culture is pretty much very similar to ours.

355. There's obviously big differences... some differences in the US, their gun laws and

356. attitudes.

357. JC: How did you get on with the Americans?

358. P3: Not bad, really. I think they were generally courteous, willing to engage with us. Good

359. to have a conversation with.

360. JC: Same in Europe?

361. P3: Yes, yes, pretty much the same. Most European people speak English [LAUGHS].

362. JC: Which helps, I guess.

363. P3: It does, yes. I'm afraid I don't speak any other language. I know some words in other

364. languages, but not a very big vocabulary. I mean, this is something that we found from

365. the beginning: almost everywhere you go in Europe there are some people who speak

366. good English. It makes us lazy [LAUGH]

367. JC: Maybe [LAUGH]. Have you ever ventured, sort of East of Europe or South of Europe?

368. You know, Asia or Africa?

369. P3: The only African... Egypt, which is the most we've... we went on a trip on the Nile.

370. Well, first we were on a cruise, a Mediterranean cruise and we went on a trip to visit the

371. pyramids of Giza, just a little taste of it and then we went on a bit of a cruise on the Nile.

372. Yes, that was very good, very interesting. Saw lots of temples, antiquities.

373. JC: Yeah, I guess it is one of the oldest places...

374. P3: Yeah.

375. JC: We are yet to go to Egypt, but it's on...

376. P3: It's on the list.

377. JC: It's just a bit of a dangerous place at the moment. Well, not a dangerous place, but

378. there is quite a lot going on at the moment, to be fair.

379. P3: Yes, that's it. I think they've started again going... flights back to the Red Sea holiday

380. resorts. But, yes, you do have concern about terrorist bombings. I would recommend... I

381. don't know what kind of thing you're into, but that was one of the best river cruises that

382. we've done, on the Nile. It's not just the antiquities and the things that we visited, but on

383. the ship they seem to make every effort on the entertainment side. Very courteous and

384. helpful.

385. JC: Did you get much of a chance on that cruise to stop at towns and see, as well as

386. shopping, or not?

387. P3: Not a lot, but we did stop in Luxor and had a walk around.

388. JC: What did you make of that?

389. P3: It's... it was interesting, but a lot of beggars. You get constantly [LAUGHS] a lot of

390. people trying to...

391. JC: We had a similar experience in India, especially in the big cities like Kolkata, Varanasi.

392. Similar sort of thing.

393. P3: Yeah. That reminds me now, when we visited the pyramids, people tried to sell you

394. things. It's not just begging, but they are very intrusive [LAUGHS]

395. JC: It's hardcore, kind of, hard sales, isn't it? [BOTH LAUGH]

396. P3: Yes.

397. JC: True.

398. P3: Yes, in your face. [BOTH LAUGH]

399. JC: Literally!

400. P3: Yeah [BOTH LAUGH]. On the ship we had an Egyptian evening and everyone had to

401. dress up. So... I can't remember where we were exactly, but we went around these

402. bazaars, and I was intending to buy a robe, an Egyptian robe. [LAUGHS] And I was walking

403. along and I was almost dragged into [BOTH LAUGH] "You try this on, you try this on". And

404. I ended up buying this...

405. JC: Of course you did! [BOTH LAUGH]

406. P3: [NAME OF WIFE] said... [NAME OF WIFE] was not pleased. She'd walked on a bit and
407. turn around and found I wasn't there [LAUGHS]
408. JC: Alright!
409. P3: They are rather [INAUDIBLE] "Oh, you could have got one cheaper somewhere else!"
410. [BOTH LAUGH]
411. JC: But did it do the job? Was it appreciated?
412. P3: Yes, yes that's right. And I had a little fez as well. [LAUGHS]
413. JC: Have you still got it? Did you keep it, as a souvenir?
414. P3: I think it's still upstairs in the wardrobe, yeah [LAUGHS]
415. JC: Brilliant! [LAUGHS]
416. P3: I've got a picture of [NAME OF COMMON FRIEND] wearing in actually, on the night
417. before he married [NAME OF COMMON FRIEND]
418. JC: Right, on his stag do! OK! [BOTH LAUGH]
419. P3: I'll have to get it out one time. [BOTH LAUGH]
420. JC: Definitely! And, yeah, so you obviously had experiences of cultures abroad. What
421. about in this country? Anyone in your social circle or work? Did you have many
422. opportunities to talk or deal with people from different cultures or countries?
423. P3: I have in the past, mostly. I've always lived in [NAME OF LOCAL AREA] and I have
424. worked in London. I worked in what was call an 'unemployment benefit office' and
425. almost everybody, every member of staff, was from a different place.
426. JC: Right.
427. P3: So, it was very interesting. We used to socialise quite a lot then. This is going back
428. some years, twenty, twenty-five, thirty years. But, yeah we used to have some good time.
429. JC: And was it easier or more difficult to work in a multicultural environment, as opposed
430. to, you know, one where you were mainly surrounded by Brits?
431. P3: No, we got on fine. And they spoke English. [LAUGHS]
432. JC: Sure, sure.
433. P3: There was no problem with any discrimination or anything. The management treated
434. everybody the same. No evidence of any discrimination. And I always... never had any
435. feelings of them being different to me.
436. JC: Sure
437. P3: They were just people to me and we got on... I got on with Indians. There was an
438. Afghan chap. I remember an Afghan chap and he was very... he was a bit different, but,
439. you know, we got on. I think that's [LAUGHS]... that's me. I'm quite happy to talk to
440. anybody and don't treat any... the only time I felt as if somebody was not the same as me
441. is when I was at school. I went to school in a Medway town, in Rochester, and there were
442. a lot of Indians and, in those days it was normal to racially... not hatred, but feeling that

Commented [CJ(34)]: Interestingly the reply to my fairly open question was a defence of the institution he was working for

443. perhaps they're a bit inferior. That's the way people were brought up. And I remember
444. some of the Indian and the Pakistani kids at school and they were not treated very nicely.

Commented [CJ(35)]: Very interesting introspection of own intercultural attitudes.

445. JC: What, by teachers or by peers?

446. P3: No, mostly by peers. I think the teachers were, generally anyway, decent enough to
447. all kids. As kids, we were not always nice to them. Yeah, I feel quite ashamed of it in some
448. ways now, but I think that's past. I lot of that is past. Probably there is still racial
449. discrimination in this country, but not to the same extent as there was then. We've been
450. educated and we understand now about diversity.

451. JC: So, do you feel like, in general, that nowadays the country is more... I mean, you
452. mentioned, not hatred, applies to those times. Do you think there is a lot less of that
453. nowadays?

454. P3: Oh, definitely, yeah. I know there is. I know there is a lot less of that. There are... there
455. probably still is some of it, but not to the same extent that there was in those days.

456. JC: Do you think it's gone from being acceptable to unacceptable, effectively?

457. P3: Yes.

458. JC: So, it still happens, but people don't accept it anymore.

459. P3: That's right. People stand up and don't accept it now. [3] I was... first... as a very young
460. kid I was a member... my dad was in the air force. We lived in a lot of different... we lived
461. around quite a lot. And I always remember walking across, I think it was at [NAME OF
462. LOCAL AIRPORT], and my mum was taking myself and my two brothers somewhere and
463. she saw a black man approach and she said [LOWERS HIS VOICE TO MAKE AN
464. IMPRESSION OF HER] "Don't you say anything to that black man!"

465. JC: Right.

466. P3: [NERVOUS LUGHTER] And that's what it was. I wasn't... They just thought of them as
467. different. But I'm sure it's much better now.

468. JC: Fair enough, fair enough. OK, that's very good. And since we've kind of moved on this
469. kind of social and political aspects, if you like. I mean, if you look at society nowadays,
470. and, you know, let's say the way it's kind of changed since those times. Do you think that
471. we are now in a better position than we were, you know, forty years ago, fifty years ago.
472. What kind of things do you value as being very positive or positive at the moment and
473. what kind of things do you value as being perhaps not so good about how things are going
474. in the country or, you know, amongst society as you've experienced it yourself?

475. P3: I'm not quite sure what you...

476. JC: I guess, what do you feel as being good about Britain today and what do you feel as
477. being maybe not so good, if anything?

478. P3: Humm. Well, what we've already talked about. I think it's good that we can all get on
479. a lot better without any, or with very little feeling of animosity towards other people.

480. Erm [4] now what I feel about this country now, we've got... erm, I don't like all the
481. expansion and the building everywhere and a lot of it it's due to overpopulation. Now, I
482. don't dislike anybody coming into the country, but I think we've got too many immigrants
483. coming and it weighs down all our system. It is not the same. You used to get an
484. appointment at the doctor with no trouble, but with so many people the population has
485. grown so much and a lot of that is through immigration. But that's, in a way that's... the
486. quality of life has gone down in things like, just driving your car. The roads are packed.
487. Lots of people trying to get to work. So that's not good. Now, I hate to see the English
488. countryside being all built on. And it seems, particularly in Kent, that we are losing a lot
489. of countryside.

Commented [CJ(36): I think this gives away some conservative views.

490. JC: Yeah, you must have seen quite a few changes in this area. I mean, I have seen some
491. and I've only been here ten years.

492. P3: Yes, that's right [BOTH LAUGH]. That's it then. Well, it seems to have accelerated in
493. the last fifteen, twenty years, these building. I mean, I don't blame people for coming
494. here or... but the fact that they are here, it sorts of overcrowd it.

495. JC: I guess it puts a strain on [the infrastructures. That's definitely, like a fair comment.

496. P3: [Puts a strain on resources, yeah.

497. JC: So what would you say, like [

498. P3: [and let me just say, so, about people coming here

499. illegally. [(NERVOUS?) LAUGHTER] I can't understand why everybody who want to... not

500. everybody, but a large number of people want to come specifically to the UK. Is that

501. because of the benefits? I don't know really.

502. JC: Mind you, in theory they wouldn't be able to access the system if they were illegal.

503. P3: Yeah, yeah, no [BOTH LAUGH], but... that's true, but they have ways and means. But

504. I do sometimes feel resentful of people who come here not contributing, not contributing

505. to society.

506. JC: Sure. Because it's a collective effort, isn't it?

507. P3: Most of the immigrants that come here are working and contributing. That's fine,

508. there's no problem with them. But it's the overcrowding that is the problem.

509. JC: So, would the solution be along the lines of what Australia does, or Canada does, or

510. the US? Where you have to have a sponsor, if you like, to work, effectively.

511. P3: I don't know how we would sort it out, but yeah perhaps something like that would

512. help, but we know for certain that we need more people working in the NHS. It's like the

513. fruit picking: people come mostly from Europe to do that. It's... I don't know why but

514. British people don't seem to want to do that type of job now. In the previous generations

515. it used to be mostly women that would... housewives and that, then they would have a

516. job in the summer picking fruit.

Commented [CJ(37): This argument seems to come straight of a newspaper like the Daily Mail, rather than from BBC or ITV News

517. JC: Yes? Right, OK. I didn't know that, for example.

518. P3: Yes, it was very much a seasonal work. Sometimes they would take the kids out in the
519. fields with them.

520. JC: So they had a day out! [BOTH LAUGH]. Day out in the fields.

521. P3: Eating fruit [BOTH LAUGH]

522. JC: That's one way of entertaining them!

523. P3: I don't know if you know about hop-picking and that. Do you know? From years ago,
524. it was the annual thing, that Londoners use to come down to Kent and pick hops.

525. JC: Oh, alright, OK.

526. P3: Yeah, for a few weeks and they would stay in rough accommodation supplied by the
527. farmers.

528. JC: OK. And when did that sort of die out? Because I've never seen it in my time here.

529. P3: I suppose, probably in the sixties and seventies. Because there was a lot of hop
530. growing in Kent. I think there's still some, but not nearly as much as there was. And, it
531. was. It was the annual holiday for Londoners, coming to earn some money picking hops
532. in Kent.

533. JC: And in terms of what goes on here, how do you find out? You know, how do you make
534. your opinions or learn about things that are going on in the country?

535. P3: Through the newspapers and the TV news. I'm an avid watcher of the BBC news and
536. ITV. No quite so keen these days, it seems to be all the... what with Brexit and it's dragging
537. on and it's starting [LAUGHS]

538. JC: Fair enough.

539. P3: I'm not... I do use an iPad and sometimes I look at the BBC website and the news from
540. there as well, but that's my main thing. And I do... I like to talk to people. My job is visiting
541. people at home and I like to converse and get people tell me things about the past and
542. they talk about all sorts of things, football [LAUGH]

543. JC: And when talking to people, do you see like, differences in the perception of what
544. goes on as compared to what the news show or do you think they are pretty much the
545. same ideas and [INAUDIBLE]. I mean, for example, just to give you an example, if the TV
546. says like "things are going very bad with the economy", and so on and so forth, people
547. seem to think "well, actually no. I don't think see as much of a difference as they say" or
548. do they seem to think [

549. P3: [that's a good example. Generally, I think people don't take a lot
550. of notice of news, politics, and they just get on with their lives not knowing even much
551. about what's going on in the... not everybody, but a lot of people.

552. JC: And why would you say that is? Is that because they are content with their lives or
553. because they don't care or because they don't see any difference [P3 LAUGHS] in the

554. future anyway?

555. P3: I don't know, they just don't want to necessarily want to engage. They're happy with
556. their own lives, or not necessarily happy with their own lives, but they just get on with
557. their own affairs. On the other hand, there is other people that do like to keep up with
558. what's happening.

559. JC: And are you also interested a bit in international affairs and politics or is it less of an
560. interest for you?

561. P3: Yeah, I do keep an eye on what's going on throughout the country. I'm interested to
562. know what's happening with the elections, although that can get a bit overbearing at
563. times, a bit too much.

564. JC: And are there any other countries that you're interested, for whatever reason, to
565. know about?

566. P3: I am interested generally in the world and what's going on elsewhere, but not another
567. country particularly.

568. JC: And do you see this kind of programmes as a way of learning about the world or other
569. countries?

570. P3: Yes, certainly. I'm very interested in finding out about other places and that's a good
571. way of finding out.

572. JC: It is a way to go somewhere without going somewhere.

573. P3: Yeah, it is. Things like Michael Palin. Have you ever seen Michael Palin?

574. JC: Yes, I have seen some. Is he still doing any of that sort of [
575. P3: [I don't think there is
576. anything going currently?

577. JC: So, did you use to watch his stuff as well?

578. P3: Yes, I've watched some of his things in the past. And that Joanna Lumley, she did
579. something on Egypt.

580. JC: Oh yeah, yes. She also did the silk road. She went through [Georgia and all the 'stan'
581. P3: [That's right, yeah. I
582. didn't watch all of that. I saw bits and pieces of it.

583. JC: And kind of based on your experiences abroad, in Europe, or when you go to Europe
584. or somewhere else, I mean, how do you think Britain is seen abroad? What kind of
585. image do you think people have of Britain?

586. P3: You can tell me a bit more about that [BOTH LAUGH]

587. JC: I have been here for too long! I don't know anymore, sorry, I would be too biased
588. [BOTH LAUGH]

589. P3: I think, generally, as far as I can tell, we are sort of well-accepted and liked. There is
590. sometimes, perhaps, a perception of us, of the old empire that perhaps some people

591. may not appreciate. Our role in the world previously. But I think, generally, Britain is
592. quite accepted as a reasonable place (4) multicultural society, adhere to the rules. I
593. think people see us as being fair, the old thing about queuing for buses.

594. JC: That's definitely one of the things that strikes the most when you first visit the
595. country: queues everywhere [BOTH LAUGH]. And when you say that some people say
596. things about the imperial past, do you mean people here in this country or people in
597. different countries that may still have a bit of, not a problem, but have some sort of
598. animosity, if you like.

599. P3: Yeah, maybe, not animosity. I don't know how to express it. They still retain a
600. memory of it and it colours their view of us.

601. JC: Have you actually ever come across such... you know, someone who had those kinds
602. of thoughts? Or have you seen it somewhere?

603. P3: No, I suppose, really, it's my perception of what people might think. I can't really
604. think of an example.

605. JC: Fair enough, it's hard, isn't it?

606. P3: Yeah.

607. JC: Absolutely. Brilliant, OK. Right. Unless you want to add anything else off your own
608. back, either about the programme or what we've talked about, you know, your cultural
609. and social experiences, perceptions and opinions.

610. P3: I can't really think of anything further. I don't know if I told you, when my dad was
611. in the RAF I spent a couple of years in Cyprus, when we were kids. That was our first
612. experience of abroad.

613. JC: Right.

614. P3: So, I did actually live outside of the country.

615. JC: What kind of memories do you keep of that?

616. P3: Sorry?

617. JC: What kind of memories do you have from that time?

618. P3: I was seven when we went to Cyprus. I remember getting off the aeroplane and
619. how hot it was [BOTH LAUGH]. But thinking back then, I don't think British people
620. generally had a lot of respect for the local people there. (6) Adults then didn't have a lot
621. of respect for the local people.

622. JC: Mind you, it was a different time, wasn't it?

623. P3: It was. Yeah, very different.

624. JC: I mean, if you're talking about when you were seven years old.

625. P3: Yeah, the early 1960s. So, it was a long time ago. But again, it's testimony of how
626. things have changed. I don't think British people would treat or would have the same
627. attitude, in general anyway.

Commented [CJ(38)]: It is interesting how on the topic of the empire there doesn't seem to be any clear knowledge, not even media-induced (as for example was the case for the Aboriginal people or Australians). Perhaps this is because this issue is never directly addressed by popular British media?

628. JC: Yeah, of course.

629. P3: But it was good. It was a nice couple of years. [We lived...

630. JC: [Did you go to school there?

631. P3: Yes, we did. We used to get... it was actually an RAF school, so we didn't have a lot

632. of interaction with the local people, really. We used to get up and go to school quite

633. early in the morning and finish at lunch time. And it was all fun and games, swimming

634. and [INAUDIBLE] in the afternoons. Like a long holiday [LAUGHS]

635. JC: So, your father was in the RAF?

636. P3: Yes.

637. JC: All of his working life?

638. P3: He joined up in the Second World War.

639. JC: So, he fought in the Second World War?

640. P3: Yes. He was a radio operator on a flying boats and he used to [

641. JC: [on a flying boats?

642. P3: Well, an aircraft, but they used to call them flying boats. Yeah, it was a great big

643. thing with hulls and they could land in the water.

644. JC: OK, right.

645. P3: They're submarine hunting. German submarine hunting. I don't think he saw much

646. in the way of actual fighting. They docked a few bombs and depth charges and things

647. like that. But very rarely came to contact with another... with a German aircraft. Yeah,

648. that was his thing. They used to make these boats... Sunderland flying boats they were

649. called and they used to make them in the Medway. My dad worked in a factory there

650. before he was old enough to join the forces. And, of course, when he joined up that was

651. his... had his training on radios and was put into flying boats, the Sunderlands that he'd

652. helped building. And then he came out after the war, [was demoted?], didn't get on

653. very well in civilian life and so he joined up again. He had a long career and finished in

654. 1968, I think it was.

655. JC: And that was the only time he was deployed abroad, when he went to Cyprus.

656. P3: No, mostly in the UK, but he flew a lot over... they used to go down to Africa on...

657. they called it 'Transport Command'. He used to fly down to Malta, stay the night in

658. Malta and then down into Africa, different countries in Africa.

659. JC: Right. That's quite a life.

660. P3: It was. Yes, it was. He enjoyed it.

661. JC: Did he talk much about it with you?

662. P3: He didn't tell us much about the war time until... not at all really, but a bit more as

663. he got older. Yes, he told us about... I mean, our own interest was his... they were

664. issued... when they were night flying, they'd been issued with rations of things like

665. boxes of Kit Kat. Of course, we used to “Got any flight rations, dad?” [BOTH LAUGH]

666. JC: That’s funny.

667. P3: He’d bring home a Kit Kat or two. But it was interesting because we lived on RAF

668. camps and used to see the various aircrafts, the air shows and things like that.

669. JC: So, I was quite interested because you said that the aircrafts and stuff were made in

670. Medway.

671. P3: In the Medway, yes, in Chatham, Rochester.

672. JC: And how do you see... I see like a very a big change in the British economy, not

673. producing much anymore.

674. P3: Yeah.

675. JC: What did you make of that, was that a shock as it was happening?

676. P3: Not a shock as such, but it’s really quite sad all these great British companies, you

677. know, car makers and that, went to the wall, didn’t they? And then they were

678. overtaken by foreign companies coming in and the foreign companies managed to run

679. the factories better. It was a strange... because if you think about the ‘70s the unions

680. were to the fore and management couldn’t... management didn’t seem strong enough

681. to keep these... you know, the workers had control almost. And that’s why a lot of

682. British industries went to the wall. But then other things come along and we’ve got

683. much more of a tourist industry now, haven’t we? Financial... the City, and such like.

684. JC: And was that in any way...

685. P3: I think probably the North was more effected.

686. JC: Fair enough, places like Leeds and Sheffield. And do you think that made any

687. different in how communities gel together? Say like, in a town people were working in

688. the same factor.

689. P3: Oh yeah, obviously that’s fractured communities to a certain extent. When I left

690. school, I worked in the Royal Navy Dockyard in Chatham and that was the biggest

691. employer in that town. I’d left, but then in 1982 that got closed down. I think that made

692. everyone in the Medway towns think, “Oh, it’s gonna be very bad. It’s gonna be hard to

693. get a job”. Other things take over.

694. JC: Although Medway towns are a bit like Thanet in a way. There is not a hell of a lot of

695. work around, is there?

696. P3: No, but there is still some industry. Hospitals are the biggest employers in the

697. country at the moment. People travel up to London from the Medway towns.

698. JC: True, it’s not far, is it?

699. P3: No. I did it myself.

700. JC: Right.

701. P3: But as I said, I think the North was more affected by the closing down of the

Commented [CJ(39)]: Interesting opinion that the companies went to the wall because of the trade unions. I think this, together with the views on immigration and the fairly conservative upbringing, gives away P3’s preference for conservative politics.

702. traditional industries and you hear about the North/South divide. You get the
703. perception that the Northerners have got a bit of animosity towards the Southerners.
704. JC: Do you think that's still the case, then, to this day?
705. P3: Erm, yeah to a certain extent. But not really generally. I've got... my sister lives in
706. Yorkshire and to the Yorkshire people Yorkshire is the greatest place on earth [BOTH
707. LAUGH]
708. JC: And do you think the animosity is reciprocated? Are Southerners fine with
709. Northerners?
710. P3: Yeah, I think so, generally.
711. JC: Because in Italy it's the same, but they're both as bad as each other [BOTH LAUGH]
712. P3: I've heard this before. Someone I spoke to, one of my customers... quite recently I
713. think it was. He was from the South and you talk to people about... I talk about holidays
714. and things to people, the lakes and that and they're "Oh, I've never been up there".
715. [BOTH LAUGH]
716. JC: There is a bit of that, I think. It goes both ways. I'm not saying that we don't like
717. them and they don't like us in general, but, you know, as you hear some Northerners
718. complain about the Southerners, so you hear the Southerners slagging off the
719. Northerners, for whatever reason.
720. P3: Is it almost a snobbery thing, then? Is it the same as British? Do the Northerners
721. think that they are better than the Southerners?
722. JC: I think, it's kind of the opposite than here, in that the North of Italy has always been
723. the most kind of productive, richest part of the country. So, they may have a bit that
724. sort of snobbish... not all of them, of course, but, you know, some of them may have
725. that snobbish ideal. Whereas the Southerners, I guess, resent that, because they think
726. that that is not true, that they're not less worthy, if you like, than the Northerners and
727. some resent that and then bite back by saying, you know "you're all work and no life"
728. kind of thing. [BOTH LAUGH] That's the sort of idea. "You're all sad, all you do is work,
729. work, work". I don't know, there's some of that. And there's a big food divide as well,
730. like, in the South they think that the food is much, much better. There you go [BOTH
731. LAUGH]
732. P3: Is there still a big thing... does the mafia come into people consciousness a lot in
733. Italy?
734. JC: Yeah, yeah. The thing is that, historically, this kind of criminal organisations have
735. always provided when the State couldn't.
736. P3: Ah.
737. JC: So, let's say that you had a situation like here in Thanet or in places like Chatham or
738. Gillingham, where you have loads of unemployment and the State could not manage to

739. basically provide wages and things, the criminal organisation would come in and,
740. effectively, employ them and pay their wages and pay wages to their families if they
741. went to prison. So, they were seen, unfortunately, because there was a weak State,
742. they were seen as a replacement effectively.
743. P3: Yeah.
744. JC: That's how they've thrived effectively. They provided the economic... not social or
745. physical security because they could get killed or imprisoned any time, but at least the
746. financial support for lots of families who didn't have any. I mean in this country, you've
747. got [
748. P3: [So, a lot of people see them as friend, rather than...
749. JC: Well, I mean, I wouldn't say that most people like what they're doing. They probably
750. hate what they're doing. They just can't see a viable alternative, basically. I think that's
751. the way most people see that. Because obviously in this country you've got a fairly
752. strong welfare system: even if you're not working or you can't find work, you can still
753. have a roof over your head and some food in your fridge and everything. In Italy,
754. unfortunately, there isn't such a thing. There is very good basic services, you know,
755. everyone gets schooling and NHS equivalent, and so on and so forth, but in terms of
756. actual living means, as in like having a roof over your head and food in your fridge,
757. there isn't as good a welfare system as there is in this country. So, people are really...
758. P3: They fall through the net [
759. JC: [and that's one of the answers they find. Not a pleasant
760. state of affairs, to be honest, but...
761. P3: Yeah. I think to a certain extent the IRA were like that. You know, in previous times,
762. not now, people looked at them for protection and help if they'd fallen on hard times.
763. JC: Yeah. Well, thanks K., this is very good, brilliant. We've gone over the hour and I'm
764. sorry about that.
765. P3: No, no. It's been very interesting.
766. JC: And I hope [
767. P3: [Have I got the job? [BOTH LAUGH]
768. JC: Yes, indeed. You're hired. But yeah, I hope that wasn't too dire.
769. P3: No, not all.
770. JC: I thought we had a nice chat about a number of things, which is good.
771. P3: I hope it's useful.
772. JC: Yeah, I'm sure.