

Set 1: point, mention, import, obvious, face, critic, situat, hand

Set 2: russian, putin, russia, nato, democraci, old, clear, cold

Set 3: thank, togeth, hope, trust, promis, futur, elect, opportun

Set 4: nuclear, iran, korea, north, weapon, sanction, threat, tabl

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JOHN MCCAIN Senator Obama twice said in debates he would sit down with Ahmadinejad, Chavez and Raul Castro without precondition. Without precondition. Here is Ahmadinejad (ph) , Ahmadinejad, who is, Ahmadinejad, who is now in New York, talking about the extermination of the State of Israel, of wiping Israel off the map, and were going to sit down, without precondition, across the table, to legitimize and give a propaganda platform to a person that is espousing the extermination of the state of Israel, and therefore then giving them more credence in the world arena and therefore saying, theyve probably been doing the right thing, because you will sit down across the table from them and that will legitimize their illegal behavior. The point is that throughout history, whether it be Ronald Reagan, who wouldnt sit down with Brezhnev, Andropov or Chernenko until Gorbachev was ready with glasnost and perestroika. Or whether it be Nixons trip to China, which was preceded by Henry Kissinger, many times before he went. Look, Ill sit down with anybody, but theres got to be pre- conditions. Those pre- conditions would apply that we wouldnt legitimize with a face to face meeting, a person like Ahmadinejad. Now, Senator Obama said, without preconditions.

BARACK OBAMA So lets talk about this. First of all, Ahmadinejad is not the most powerful person in Iran. So he may not be the right person to talk to. But I reserve the right, as president of the United States to meet with anybody at a time and place of my choosing if I think its going to keep America safe. And Im glad that Senator McCain brought up the history, the bipartisan history of us engaging in direct diplomacy. Senator McCain mentioned Henry Kissinger, whos one of his advisers, who, along with five recent secretaries of state, just said that we should meet with Iran — guess what — without precondition. This is one of your own advisers. Now, understand what this means “without preconditions.” It doesnt mean that you invite them over for tea one day. What it means is that we dont do what weve been doing, which is to say, “Until you agree to do exactly what we say, we wont have direct contacts with you.” Theres a difference between preconditions and preparation. Of course weve got to do preparations, starting with low- level diplomatic talks, and it may not work, because Iran is a rogue regime. But I will point out that I was called naive when I suggested that we need to look at exploring contacts with Iran. And you know what? President Bush recently sent a senior ambassador, Bill Burns, to participate in talks with the Europeans around the issue of nuclear weapons. Again, it may not work, but if it doesnt work, then we have strengthened our ability to form alliances to impose the tough sanctions that Senator McCain just mentioned. And when we havent done it, as in North Korea — let me just take one more example — in North Korea, we cut off talks. Theyre a member of the axis of evil. We cant deal with them. And you know what happened? They went — they quadrupled their nuclear capacity. They tested a nuke. They tested missiles. They pulled out of the nonproliferation agreement. And they sent nuclear secrets, potentially, to countries like Syria. When we re- engaged — because, again, the Bush administration

reversed course on this — then we have at least made some progress, although right now, because of the problems in North Korea, we are seeing it on shaky ground. And — and I just — so I just have to make this general point that the Bush administration, some of Senator McCains own advisers all think this is important, and Senator McCain appears resistant. He even said the other day that he would not meet potentially with the prime minister of Spain, because he — you know, he wasnt sure whether they were aligned with us. I mean, Spain? Spain is a NATO ally.

JOHN MCCAIN Of course.

BARACK OBAMA If we cant meet with our friends, I dont know how were going to lead the world in terms of dealing with critical issues like terrorism.

JOHN MCCAIN Im not going to set the White House visitors schedule before Im president of the United States. I dont even have a seal yet. Look, Dr. Kissinger did not say that he would approve of face- to- face meetings between the president of the United States and the president — and Ahmadinejad. He did not say that.

BARACK OBAMA Of course not.

JOHN MCCAIN He said that there could be secretary- level and lower level meetings. Ive always encouraged them. The Iranians have met with Ambassador Crocker in Baghdad. What Senator Obama doesnt seem to understand that if without precondition you sit down across the table from someone who has called Israel a “stinking corpse,” and wants to destroy that country and wipe it off the map, you legitimize those comments. This is dangerous. It isnt just naive; its dangerous. And so we just have a fundamental difference of opinion. As far as North Korea is concerned, our secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, went to North Korea. By the way, North Korea, most repressive and brutal regime probably on Earth. The average South Korean is three inches taller than the average North Korean, a huge gulag. We dont know what the status of the dear leaders health is today, but we know this, that the North Koreans have broken every agreement that theyve entered into. And we ought to go back to a little bit of Ronald Reagans “trust, but verify,” and certainly not sit down across the table from — without precondition, as Senator Obama said he did twice, I mean, its just dangerous.

BARACK OBAMA Look, I mean, Senator McCain keeps on using this example that suddenly the president would just meet with somebody without doing any preparation, without having low- level talks. Nobodys been talking about that, and Senator McCain knows it. This is a mischaracterization of my position. When we talk about preconditions — and Henry Kissinger did say we should have contacts without preconditions — the idea is that we do not expect to solve every problem before we initiate talks. And, you know, the Bush administration has come to recognize that it hasnt worked, this notion that we are simply silent when it comes to our enemies. And the notion that we would sit with Ahmadinejad and not say anything while hes spewing his nonsense and his vile comments is ridiculous. Nobody is even talking about that.

JOHN MCCAIN So let me get this right. We sit down with Ahmadinejad, and he says, “Were going to wipe Israel off the face of the Earth,” and we say, “No, youre not” ? Oh, please.

BARACK OBAMA No, let me tell... (CROSSTALK)

JOHN MCCAIN By the way, my friend, Dr. Kissinger, whos been my friend for 35 years, would be interested to hear this conversation and Senator Obamas depiction of his — of his positions on the issue. Ive known him for 35 years.

BARACK OBAMA We will take a look.

JOHN MCCAIN And I guarantee you he would not — he would not say that presidential top level.

BARACK OBAMA Nobodys talking about that.

JOHN MCCAIN Of course he encourages and other people encourage contacts, and negotiations, and all other things. We do that all the time.

MODERATOR Were going to go to a new... (CROSSTALK)

JOHN MCCAIN And Senator Obama is parsing words when he says precondition means preparation.

BARACK OBAMA I am not parsing words.

JOHN MCCAIN Hes parsing words, my friends.

BARACK OBAMA Im using the same words that your advisers use. Please, go ahead.

MODERATOR New lead question. Russia, goes to you, two minutes, Senator Obama. How do you see the relationship with Russia? Do you see them as a competitor? Do you see them as an enemy? Do you see them as a potential partner?

BARACK OBAMA Well, I think that, given whats happened over the last several weeks and months, our entire Russian approach has to be evaluated, because a resurgent and very aggressive Russia is a threat to the peace and stability of the region. Their actions in Georgia were unacceptable. They were unwarranted. And at this point, it is absolutely critical for the next president to make clear that we have to follow through on our six- party — or the six- point cease- fire. They have to remove themselves from South Ossetia and Abkhazia. It is absolutely important that we have a unified alliance and that we explain to the Russians that you cannot be a 21st- century superpower, or power, and act like a 20th- century dictatorship. And we also have to affirm all the fledgling democracies in that region, you know, the Estonians, the Lithuanians, the Latvians, the Poles, the Czechs, that we are, in fact, going to be supportive and in solidarity with them in their efforts. They are members of NATO. And to countries like Georgia and the Ukraine, I think we have to insist that they are free to join NATO if they meet the requirements, and they should have a membership action plan immediately to start bringing them in. Now, we also cant return to a Cold War posture with respect to Russia. Its important that we recognize there are going to be some areas of common interest. One is nuclear proliferation. They have not only 15, 000 nuclear warheads, but theyve got enough to make another 40, 000, and some of those loose nukes could fall into the hands of Al Qaida. This is an area where Ive led on in the Senate, working with a Republican ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Dick Lugar, to deal with the proliferation of loose nuclear weapons. Thats an area where were going to have to work with Russia. But we have to have a president who is clear that you dont deal with Russia based on staring into his eyes and seeing his soul. You deal with Russia based on, what are your — what are the national security interests of the

United States of America? And we have to recognize that the way theyve been behaving lately demands a sharp response from the international community and our allies.

MODERATOR Two minutes on Russia, Senator McCain.

JOHN MCCAIN Well, I was interested in Senator Obamas reaction to the Russian aggression against Georgia. His first statement was, “Both sides ought to show restraint.” Again, a little bit of naivete there. He doesnt understand that Russia committed serious aggression against Georgia. And Russia has now become a nation fueled by petro- dollars that is basically a KGB apparatchik- run government. I looked into Mr. Putins eyes, and I saw three letters, a “K,” a “G,” and a “B.” And their aggression in Georgia is not acceptable behavior. I dont believe were going to go back to the Cold War. I am sure that that will not happen. But I do believe that we need to bolster our friends and allies. And that wasnt just about a problem between Georgia and Russia. It had everything to do with energy. Theres a pipeline that runs from the Caspian through Georgia through Turkey. And, of course, we know that the Russians control other sources of energy into Europe, which they have used from time to time. Its not accidental that the presidents of Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine flew to Georgia, flew to Tbilisi, where I have spent significant amount of time with a great young president, Misha Saakashvili. And they showed solidarity with them, but, also, they are very concerned about the Russian threats to regain their status of the old Russian to regain their status of the old Russian empire. Now, I think the Russians ought to understand that we will support — we, the United States — will support the inclusion of Georgia and Ukraine in the natural process, inclusion into NATO. We also ought to make it very clear that the Russians are in violation of their cease- fire agreement. They have stationed additional troops in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. By the way, I went there once, and we went inside and drove in, and there was a huge poster. And this is — this is Georgian territory. And there was a huge poster of Vladimir Putin, and it said, “Vladimir Putin, our president.” It was very clear, the Russian intentions towards Georgia. They were just waiting to seize the opportunity. So, this is a very difficult situation. We want to work with the Russians. But we also have every right to expect the Russians to behave in a fashion and keeping with a — with a — with a country who respects international boundaries and the norms of international behavior. And watch Ukraine. This whole thing has got a lot to do with Ukraine, Crimea, the base of the Russian fleet in Sevastopol. And the breakdown of the political process in Ukraine between Tymoshenko and Yushchenko is a very serious problem. So watch Ukraine, and lets make sure that we — that the Ukrainians understand that we are their friend and ally.

MODERATOR You see any — do you have a major difference with what he just said?