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Hamm: Should the United States respect Pakistani sovereignty and not pursue al Qaeda terrorists who maintain bases there, or should we ignore their borders and pursue our enemies like we did in Cambodia during the Vietnam War?

Obama: Katie, it's a terrific question and we have a difficult situation in Pakistan I believe that part of the reason we have a difficult situation is because we made a bad judgment going into Iraq in the first place when we hadn't finished the job of hunting down bin Laden and crushing al Qaeda So what happened was we got distracted, we diverted resources, and ultimately bin Laden escaped, set up base camps in the mountains of Pakistan in the northwest provinces there They are now raiding our troops in Afghanistan, destabilizing the situation They're stronger now than at any time since 2001 And that's why I think it's so important for us to reverse course, because that's the central front on terrorism They are plotting to kill Americans right now As Secretary Gates, the defense secretary, said, the war against terrorism began in that region and that's where it will end So part of the reason I think it's so important for us to end the war in Iraq is to be able to get more troops into Afghanistan, put more pressure on the Afghan government to do what it needs to do, eliminate some of the drug trafficking that's funding terrorism But I do believe that we have to change our policies with Pakistan We can't coddle, as we did, a dictator, give him billions of dollars and then he's making peace treaties with the Taliban and militants What I've said is we're going to encourage democracy in Pakistan, expand our nonmilitary aid to Pakistan so that they have more of a stake in working with us, but insisting that they go after these militants And if we have Osama bin Laden in our sights and the Pakistani government is unable or unwilling to take them out, then I think that we have to act and we will take them out We will kill bin Laden; we will crush Al Qaeda That has to be our biggest national security priority

Brokaw: Sen McCain?

McCain: Well, Katie (ph), thank you You know, my hero is a guy named Teddy Roosevelt Teddy Roosevelt used to say walk softly – talk softly, but carry a big stick Sen Obama likes to talk loudly In fact, he said he wants to announce that he's going to attack Pakistan Remarkable You know, if you are a country and you're trying to gain the support of another country, then you want to do everything you can that they would act in a cooperative fashion When you announce that you're going to launch an attack into another country, it's pretty obvious that you have the effect that it had in Pakistan: It turns public opinion against us Now, let me just go back with you very briefly We drove the Russians out with – the Afghan freedom fighters drove the Russians out of Afghanistan, and then we made a most serious mistake We washed our hands of Afghanistan The Taliban came back in, Al Qaeda, we then had the situation that required us to conduct the Afghan war Now, our relations with Pakistan are critical, because the border areas are being used as safe havens by the Taliban and Al Qaeda and other extremist organizations, and we have to get their support Now, General Petraeus had a strategy, the same strategy – very, very different, because of the conditions and the situation – but the same fundamental strategy that succeeded in Iraq And that is to get the support of the people We need to help the Pakistani government go into Waziristan, where I visited, a very rough country, and – and get the support of the people, and get them to work with us and turn against the cruel Taliban and others And by working and coordinating our efforts together, not threatening to attack them, but working

with them, and where necessary use force, but talk softly, but carry a big stick

Obama: Tom, just a

Brokaw: Sen McCain

Obama: just a quick follow-up on this I think

McCain: If we're going to have follow-ups, then I will want follow-ups, as well

Brokaw: No, I know So but I think we get at it

McCain: It'd be fine with me It'd be fine with me

Brokaw: if I can, with this question

Obama: Then let's have one

Brokaw: All right, let's have a follow-up

McCain: It'd be fine with me

Obama: Just – just – just a quick follow-up, because I think – I think this is important

Brokaw: I'm just the hired help here, so, I mean