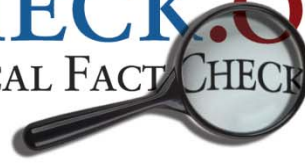




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JUST THE FACTS!

TITLE: "SPECIAL EDITION: THE FIRST DEBATE"

EPISODE #: 37

HOST

Welcome to this special edition of Just the Facts! I'm Emi Kolawole and I know, it's not Friday. But we figured the first presidential debate deserved a little special treatment. Besides, it'll be a while until Friday and we figure you should be armed with the facts well before the next debate:

VIDEO: PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE NO. 1

HOST

We begin with this: The candidates contradicting each other about what Henry Kissinger said about Iran:

OBAMA

Senator McCain mentioned Henry Kissinger, who's 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.

MCCAIN

By the way, my friend, Dr. Kissinger, who's been my friend for 35 years, would be interested to hear this conversation and Senator Obama's depiction of his -- of his positions on the issue. I've known him for 35 years.

OBAMA

We will take a look.

MCCAIN

And I guarantee you he would not -- he would not say that presidential top level.

OBAMA

Nobody's talking about that.

HOST

So what did Kissinger say? And who's right, Obama or McCain? Well here's what former secretary of state said just days before the debate:

VIDEO: HENRY KISSINGER "THE NEXT PRESIDENT: A WORLD OF CHANGES"**KISSINGER**

I am in favor of negotiating with Iran. And one utility of negotiation is to put before Iran our vision of a Middle East, of a stable Middle East, and our notion on nuclear proliferation at a high enough level so that they have to study it. And, therefore, I actually have preferred doing it at the secretary of state level so that we -- we know we're dealing with authentic...

CNN'S FRANK SESNO: Put at a very high level right out of the box?

KISSINGER: Initially, yes. But I do not believe that we can make conditions for the opening of negotiations.

HOST

So, Obama's right: Kissinger did call for high level negotiations without preconditions. But hold the phone! Moments after the debate, Kissinger released a statement saying: "Senator McCain is right. I would not recommend the next President of the United States engage in talks with Iran at the Presidential level." So McCain is right too, Kissinger wanted talks at the secretary of state level, not the next level up.

HOST

Next we have this short, but incorrect statement from Sen. McCain, when he said that one of the two letters Eisenhower wrote before the Normandy invasion:

VIDEO: PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE NO. 1**MCCAIN**

...was a letter of resignation from the United States Army for the failure of the landings at Normandy.

HOST

But Eisenhower's letter doesn't mention resigning. Instead, the letter that he drafted read: "Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based on the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone." As you can see, not a word about resignation. Next, we have this claim from Obama:

VIDEO: PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE NO. 1

OBAMA

Over 26 years, Senator McCain voted 23 times against alternative energy, like solar, and wind, and biodiesel.

HOST

Obama's overstating the case here. Only 11 of the 23 votes cited by the campaign involved reducing or eliminating incentives for renewable energy. And McCain wasn't about to let him get away with it:

VIDEO: PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE NO. 1

MCCAIN

I have voted for alternate fuel all of my time. ... No one can be opposed to alternate energy.

HOST

But, clearly, McCain's wrong here, since he has declined to support alternative energy initiatives at times. Next we turn back to Sen. Obama and his now stretched out 16-month timeline for getting "all" U.S. troops out of Iraq:

VIDEO: PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE NO. 1

OBAMA

Now, what I've said is we should end this war responsibly. We should do it in phases. But in 16 months we should be able to reduce our combat troops...

GRAPHIC: OBAMA-BIDEN PLAN DOCUMENT

HOST

Notice, Obama used the word "reduce," which would mean some combat troops would remain in Iraq. But that is a change from what Obama said in 2007, namely that he will "get *all* of our combat troops out of Iraq within 16 months."

VIDEO: PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE NO. 1

Be sure to check out our website at www.factcheck.org. I'm Emi Kolawole, thanks for watching and see you on Friday!