

SIX DAY WAR - PBS VERSION - April 10th - Kalina

TC: 10:00:06:--

NARRATION

Forty years ago in June of 1967, the Sinai desert, between Egypt and Israel, would become a grave yard for an army.

It would also become the final resting place for shattered dreams.

10:00:30:--

NARRATION

In Egypt, Gamal Abdel Nasser: the charismatic leader of the Arabs envisioned a new Arab world, a great pan Arab nation: strong, secular, socialist. Led by Nasser it would stretch across the Middle East. **But to him - there was one major obstacle that stood in his way: Israel. ( A statement that does not exist in all other versions since I feel it is simplistic and does not try to accurately portray the Arab perspective but perpetuate a stereotype)**

10:01:01:--

NARRATION

In six short days of war Nasser will lose not only his dream, but his army, his air force and much of his prestige. Three years later, he will die of a heart attack. His friends will say he died of a broken heart.

10:01:34:--

NARRATION

New dreams were born in a victorious Israel as the architects of war entered ancient Jerusalem.

10:01:41:--

NARRATION

Missing from this glorious moment is an important character, Levi Eshkol, prime minister of Israel.

Eshkol was the opposite of Nasser: a manager, a man without charisma. Someone devoted to the nuts and bolts of developing Israel's economy. A man who yearned above all for a nation living in peace.

10:02:13:--

NARRATION

But Eshkol, like Nasser, failed.

Failed to hold back those who wanted war; failed to lead his own generals; failed to find peace.

10:02:30:--

NARRATION

Eshkol will barely survive the war. When he dies, 18 months later, his wife will say that he, too, died of a broken heart.

10:02:46:--

NARRATION

The Six Day war of 1967 is a brilliant military success for Israel but it has a troubled legacy. It mires the country in years of occupation and violence. And leaves an Arab world so traumatized that more and more will turn to militant Islam.

10:03:09:--

NARRATION

The 1967 war will turn out to be not a war at all. Just one battle in a war that has never ended.

10:03:34:--

NARRATION

It is in Syria, Israel's neighbor to the north, where the countdown to the Six Day war begins. **Syria is at the center of a militant Arab Nationalism which is strongly anti-Israeli.**

**( This Narration is being used to perpetuate a stereotype rather than trying to understand the Arab World motivation (without of course condoning it)**

10:03:50:

MUTAWI (already in english)

**The then head of the Syrian state General Amir Chafez is accusing Arab Leaders of cowardice because they didn't want to attack Israel. And he said that given the command of all Arab forces in the countries surrounding Israel he would be able to wipe out Israel in six hours.**

**This has been taken intentionally out of context in order to illustrate Syria's evil design and threat. It is part of a long clip in which Mutawi tells how as a young journalist He was covering the first Arab League summit in 1964 . In red is the part used in PBS , in Black is the entire clip which of course puts the Syria's threat in a very different context.**

*"The then head of the Syrian state General Amir Chafez is accusing Arab Leaders of cowardice because they didn't want to attack Israel. And he said that given the command of all Arab forces in the countries surrounding Israel he would be able to wipe out Israel in six hours. I was a young journalist at the time I did not have any military expertise what so ever but I thought to myself this is ridiculous. This is a grave misperception , how can he thinks of wiping off Israel who all of us knew was backed and supported by the US and all the great powers...even driving a car from the North of Palestine to the south will take two days. How can he dream of wiping a state in six hours. For me this was the key that opened the door for me in this chapter. I began to follow every detail every interview that had to do with that conference....I was following all of that with interest , firstly I was a young Arab journalist I wanted to learn more but all the indications were making me more and more worried that the Arabs were not on the right track and they were not perceiving Israel in particularly on the military side as they should. They were underestimating Israel and its military power"*

10:04:16:--

NARRATION

**Syria harbors and trains Palestinian commandos who aim to destroy the Jewish state.** (The text is intentionally worded :

- a. not to explain the motivation of Palestinians (whether one agrees with their historical narrative or not.
- b. To intentionally exaggerate their real power in the era.

NARRATION

Both countries settle disputes over land and water with artillery.

10:04:34:--

NARRATION

In April of 1967 tensions between Israel and Syria reach a new high. Fighter jets clash in the skies over Damascus and Israeli pilots down six of Syria's Soviet made MIGS. Israeli Prime minister Eshkol issues a warning.

10:04:58:--

ESHKOL

I hope that our northern neighbours will think twice before they entangle themselves in a nasty adventure, which we will not be able to ignore.

10:05:24:--

NARRATION

The Kremlin takes Eshkol's statement as a threat - and they take it seriously. Syria is a Soviet outpost in the Middle East: a valuable piece in the chess game of the Cold War. The Soviet official in charge of the Middle East, Victor Semionov, notes:

**(There was much more than Eshkol benign speech. There were overt Israeli pronouncements talking about "regime change" in Syria.**

**Here is how Israel's head of Research dept. in Military intelligence put it:**

*It is true that there was a basis to the theoretical threat to Damascus. Not that we intended to or had any kind of program to operate against the Syrians, but there was a threat, if it was, as far as I remember – in one of the interviews by the Chief of Staff Yitzhaq Rabin in that same period, which he gave publicly, I believe in an interview with ba-Mahane [the IDF's newspaper], there was a threat against the Syrians that said that if the Syrians did not cease their operations along the border, there would be no choice but act against Damascus. But no one expected that what happened would happen as a result of that.*

**Because of the above complexities and need to contextualize text and support it with interviews I decided to eliminate this scene ( which we tried in a rough cut.) from the other versions. It was a back story that as you see need lots of time and efforts to properly discuss. The alternative was to do a biased one dimensional job as was the decision in the PBS version. Our decision was to open the story**

**with Sadat bringing to Nasser the false Soviet “intelligence report”**

10:04:29:--

10:05:44:--

Viktor simionov (Voice of an actor)

Israel stages provocations on the border with Syria. Vietnam and the 6th US Fleet in the Mediterranean loom behind all this.

10:05:58:--

OLEG GRENYVESKI

I should tell you honestly that we had detailed, factual information from KGB and military intelligence about Israeli forces concentrating on the border with Syria. Our friends Egypt and Syria, were the first to be informed about it.

10:06:23:--

NARRATION

Egypt is also in the Soviet camp. In the spring of 1967 Anwar Sadat, the speaker of Egypt's parliament, heads a delegation to the Soviet Union. Just before Sadat returns home Simionov delivers some startling news: In one week's time, he says, Israel is poised to attack Syria with 12 brigades. Simionov's information will prove to be wrong. But it sets in motion a disaster.

10:07:07:--

NARRATION

Back in Cairo on the 14th of May Sadat speeds the news to Egypt's president, Gamal Abdel Nasser. He finds Nasser with Field Marshal Amer, the head of the armed forces. They are already poring over maps: The Soviet ambassador has given them the same warning about Israel.

10:07:29:--

NARRATION

Egypt and Syria have a mutual defense pact. If Israel is threatening Syria then Egypt must react. But sixty thousand Egyptian soldiers are off fighting for a socialist revolution in Yemen. Without them Nasser doubts the readiness of his army to fight an all-out war with Israel.

10:07:53:--

ABDEL FARID

Nasser asked if our military forces were ready to face Israel, Amer said, "Yes, and be assured Mr. President that we are ready to meet our enemies and we are going to attack them inside Israel, on all levels, in the air, and on the ground.

10:08:13:--

NARRATION

Nasser and Amer immediately order four Egyptian divisions to the Sinai border with Israel. And they call up reserves.

10:08:27:--

NARRATION

The Egyptian reserves mostly come from Nasser's power base: the hundreds of villages of the Nile delta.

10:08:35:--

Fathy Abu El rish

We didn't know anyone else but Nasser. Because the farmer was very poor, Nasser gave him lands. Nasser was supporting poor people. All of us loved Nasser.

10:08:56:--

NARRATION

The mobilization orders go out to thousands of peasants.

10:09:04:--

NARRATION

Four divisions cross into the Sinai in the first 48 hours. Forty thousand soldiers, with three hundred state-of-the-art soviet made -tanks, 450 armored personnel carriers and several types of heavy Soviet artillery. All on the move to the Israeli border.

10:09:24:--

RICHARD PARKER (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

The surprising thing about the buildup is how public it had been. The sending of the troops into the Sinai was done like a parade ground maneuver. Units that people had never heard of before suddenly appeared on the street.

10:09:44:--

NARRATION

The send off of the troops is broadcast on radio and TV all over the Middle East. There is both widespread excitement and support for Nasser's move.

10:09:56:--

EL SAYED ELGHADBAN

We were telling people there was a military build up on the Syrian front, that Israel intended to attack Syria, that we couldn't be spectators, that we had to be ready, if Syria is attacked to enter the war and to attack Israel, to reduce the pressure on Syria.

10:10:19:--

NARRATION

Twelve hours into mobilizing his troops Nasser finds out the Soviet intelligence warning about Israel's attack is wrong.

At this moment Nasser could move back from war. But he doesn't dare dampen the excitement he's created throughout the Arab world.

10:10:56:--

NARRATION

On the same day that the Egyptians enter the Sinai, Israel is celebrating the 19th anniversary of its founding. A country of only 2 and a half million people.

10:11:14:--

NARRATION

And although the public is unaware of it, Israeli intelligence has just learned of the massive Egyptian buildup in the Sinai.

10:11:40:--

NARRATION

At the Independence Day parade Prime Minister Eshkol, who is also defense minister, reviews his troops and gets an update on the Egyptian buildup.

10:11:51:--

LIOVA ELIAV

I am sitting near Levi Eshkol. On the dais in the stadium the parade begins to move and an officer comes and whispers in Eshkol's ear. Eshkol raises an eyebrow looked worried.

10:12:11:--

NARRATION

With Eshkol is General Yitzhak Rabin, the army chief of staff. This is his first big test. With only a small standing army he argues for calling up some reserves.

10:12:25:--

NARRATION

Eshkol authorizes Rabin to mobilize only one tank brigade. Just 3000 men. He fears a bigger mobilization could be perceived as a provocation.

10:12:40:--

NARRATION

The first Israeli reservists are called up that night.

10:12:50:--

NARRATION

Among them is a twenty-seven year old office worker Yehoshua Bar Dayan. He starts a diary.

10:13:05:--

Bar DAYAN

"11 PM at night. A telephone rings. I have to leave in ten minutes and help mobilize my unit. Gila is shaking. I am nervous too."

10:13:18:

NARRATION

As he distributes draft notices the radio is playing the new hit song, Jerusalem of Gold, about a yearning for the ancient capital of Judaism.

10:13:33:--

BAR DAYAN

"It takes all night to mobilize everybody. You climb stairways. Knock on doors. There are frightened faces husbands enter the children's room to kiss the kids. Trying to call everyone, to reassure them. At 6 AM I am back at home. I kiss Gila and Yariv goodbye. They wave to me from the balcony."

10:14:08:--

NARRATION

The next morning the first Israeli reserve units speed south towards the Israeli Sinai border.

10:14:16:--

NARRATION

The Israeli and Egyptian Forces are now separated by a narrow buffer zone manned by UN peacekeepers. Some 4500 troops from India, Yugoslavia, Brazil and Scandinavia are all that separate the enemies.

10:14:35:--

Narration

The UN mans observation posts and patrols the border from the Mediterranean to the straits of Tiran maintaining peace for more than ten years.

10:14:49:--

NARRATION

But two days after moving his troops into the Sinai Nasser makes another bold move. On May 16, UN force commander General Indarjit Rikhye receives a distressing message.

10:15:06:--

INDARJIT RIKHYE (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

This was the first time in my life that I was really, really, absolutely staggered. Why? Because of the enormity of what was going to happen,

10:15:24:--

NARRATION

Nasser's chief of staff General Sharquawi orders the UN commander to evacuate the UN force within forty-eight hours.

10:15:34:--

INDAR JIT RIKHYE (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

My reaction was very cool.

And so I said I will send this to the Secretary General and ask for his instructions. Then Sharquawi said, 'But sir, what do you think about it? So I thought very rapidly and said, 'have you thought through what the consequences of this problem are going to be? Have you worked it out how you are going to deal with Israel after you move your troops in the frontier and UNEF moves away what response the Israelis are going to have? 'Oh sir, I will meet you for lunch in Tel-Aviv next.'

10:16:26:--

NARRATION

UN secretary-general U Thant receives Egypt request. Without consulting the Security Council he acquiesces to Nasser's demand for the removal of the UN force.

10:16:47:--

NARRATION

The first UN peacekeeping mission ever to be deployed is being terminated just when it seems to be most needed. Without the UN Egypt and Israel are left to their own devices.

10:17:00:--

INDAR JIT RIKHYE (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

A lot of my other colleagues, we were debating this question, said to me, "The Arabs are going to attack first." (shakes head) I said, "No. (pause) The Israelis will attack first." "What basis?" "I said the Arabs will provide them with a basis.

10:17:34:--

NARRATION

In the American Embassy in Tel Aviv John Hadden, the CIA Station chief in Israel, reports to his superiors in Langley Virginia : Nasser is raising the stakes.

10:17:47:--

JOHN HADDEN (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

For me it was just like a little boy who is being held by his father and the little boy is shouting "let me at 'em, let me at 'em" and he doesn't want to be let at 'em at all, but all of sudden the father lets go of him and then they were off and running weren't they? Nasser, was being held by his shirt tails by having this UN front and when he demanded it disappear, it disappeared and no one was more surprised than he. I think.

10:18:23:--

NARRATION

With the UN gone, Eshkol hopes the super powers will keep the situation in check. In a world divided by the Cold War, the US is Israel's major supporter. President Lyndon Johnson advises Eshkol to refrain from taking any step that might increase tension. But

while the US is holding Israel back, the Soviets appear to give Egypt a freer reign which they will soon exploit.

10:18:54:--

NARRATION

The departure of the UN forces puts Egypt in control of the Straits of Tiran, the strategically important narrows of the gulf of Aqaba. It's a potential flash-point.

10:19:08:--

BRITISH JOURNALIST IN BOAT (ARCHIVE)

The job of keeping the straits open and so giving Israeli shipping access to this gulf was taken on by the United Nations Emergency force. Now of course that force is gone so on the question of war or peace, the Israelis say here in the Gulf of Aqaba, the choice is president Nasser's."

10:19:32:--

NARRATION

In Cairo Nasser and Field Marshal Amer face a strategic decision. Closing the straits could ignite a war.

But allowing Israeli shipping through the straits could be seen in the rest of the Arab world as a sign of Egyptian weakness.

Amer argues that Egyptian soldiers simply could not stand idle and watch Israeli ships pass. He convinces Nasser that the army can face any Israeli retaliation.

10:20:02:--

ABDEL FARID

Amer said we should take a firm stand. He told Nasser:

My forces are ready 100 percent. They are strong enough to defend us and to push the Israelis back to their borders.

10:20:21:--

NARRATION

Nasser and Field Marshal Amer have a complicated relationship. They rose to power together fifteen years earlier when they led a military coup that overthrew the king.

Nasser assumed the top political job but Amer was put in charge of military matters. And he is ready for war.

10:20:43:--

AMIN HOWEIDY

No one from the military leadership objected. It was the opposite. They all believed they were strong. General Mortagui, commander of the ground forces, said: we are the strongest power in the Middle East. The commander of the Air Force said: we have the strongest air force in the Middle East.

10:21:13:--

NARRATION

May 22nd. Amer and Nasser visit their troops in the Sinai. It is now a formidable force of

one hundred thousand men. They have a secret plan to strike at Israel in five days. But they have a more immediate tactic: they announce they are closing the Straits of Tiran to Israel. It is virtually a declaration of war.

10:21:41:--

NARRATION (CONT'D)

Nasser says, "If the Jews want war we say welcome, we are ready."

NASSER

'Ahalan Vesahalan'

10 :22 :35 :--

NaRRATION

That night, Prime Minister Eshkol's military advisor, Colonel Lior, is awakened with the news of the closing of the straits of Tiran. He rushes to the ministry of defense, and is asked to report to its underground bunker: the army war room.

10:22:55:--

LIOR (VOICE OF AN aCTOR)

I thought war was going to break out the same day. We cannot give the Egyptian army more time to organize.

I woke up Eshkol on the direct line: Sir, The Egyptians closed the Straits.

10:23:14:--

NARRATION

At 8 AM Eshkol meets with several generals in the War Room including Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin and the head of Intelligence, Aharon Yariv.

10:23:26:--

AHARON YARIV (voicE OF AN ACTOR)

If Israel does not respond to the closing of the Straits it will lose its power of deterrence.

10:23:34:--

RABIN (voice OF AN ACTOR)

Israel's credibility, determination and capacity to exercise its right to self-defense are being tested. Israel must respond.

10:23:46:--

NARRATION

**Eshkol listens to the generals carefully but he tells them that President Johnson has advised Israel not to shoot first. As he has done in the past Eshkol is cautious. He decides to sound out international opinion and he postpones the decision to go to war for forty-eight hours.**

**( This description of the meeting is intentionally partial and misleading (I have the full record) . The scene that followed in all the versions was whether the Straits were really closed ( a new revelation in the film) That discussion was**

omitted from the PBS version. It is a crucial one since the closing of the Straits of Tiran was ostensibly the reason for war.

**OMMITTED SCENE- DISCUSSION ( through conflicting interviews only ) WHETHER THE STRAITS WERE CLOSED OR NOT AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IT**

10:24:15:--

NARRATION

Meanwhile the closing of the straits of Tiran electrifies the Arab world and Radio Cairo beats the drums of war.

10:24:24:--

EL GHADBAN (V.O. TRANSLATION)

The masses were very excited, sure that their army can win. Feelings were very high among all Egyptians, including us in the media.

10:24:49:--

Nabil maleh

It was obvious that Gamal Abdel Nasser had a very advanced Arab vision. From the Persian Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean, Nasser was the man we were all waiting for.

10:25:13:--

Nasser

Were the Arab people responsible for the war in palestine?

10:25:17:--

NABIL MALEH

It is true some people say that Nasser was all talk. But actually the Arab world was ready to follow him. The Arab world was ready to sacrifice for a successful project.

10:25:42:--

NARRATION

Nowhere in the Arab World is Nasser more admired than in east Jerusalem. Here the Palestinians, many of the refugees from the 48 war, look to him for salvation.

10:25:59:--

ABDULLAH SCHLEIFER (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

So the people were, um, um, they were looking towards Abdul Nasser. I mean if you took a popularity poll there were probably more Palestinians who supported Nasser than Egyptians. You know, I mean, he was incredibly ... I remember seeing his face on prayer rugs, I was shocked by that, "What are you doing with the face of Abdul Nasser on a prayer rug?". I mean, he was such an extraordinary hero, as if he could do no wrong.

10:26:23:--

NARRATION

Nasser's preparation for war makes it possible for hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees, displaced twenty years earlier, to dream of returning to their villages and farms that are now part of Israel.

10:26:38:--

NASSER

The case of the Arabs of Palestine. You know here in this part of the world, the Arab countries, no one accepts this idea about forgetting all the past, all the twenty years, and close our eyes and leave everything as it is, We insist about the rights of the Arabs of Palestine.

10:26:58:--

NARRATION

Nasser has dramatically revised his agenda. The looming conflict is no longer about deterring Israel from attacking Syria, or controlling the straits of Tiran. Now he talks about turning the clock back twenty years to before the state of Israel was created. Radio Cairo conveys this message to Israelis in their own language.

10:27:26:--

ON SCREEN SUBTITLES

Nasser, Nasser, we will follow you to Palestine we will kill them, we will torch them, we will grind them to dust.

10:27:37:--

NARRATION

And because there is no Israeli television in 1967, Israelis watch Egyptian Television in Arabic.

10:27:46:--

MICHAEL BAR ZOHAR

You turn on the television and you watch Egyptian television. And you see the celebration on the streets. You see Nasser sitting down in the air base in Sinai with the MIG 21 pilots with their G-suits ready for combat smiling from ear to ear. You saw the massive amount of tanks entering Sinai. We had the feeling that we are being suffocated, that they are going to destroy us all.

10:28:12:--

NARRATION

The Arab press is contributing to the frenzy with its anti-Semitic caricatures of Jews. Israel is shown crushed, pierced and destroyed in the coming war.

10:28:30:--

NARRATION

Israelis prepare for the worst. Rabbis consecrate parks to serve as mass graveyards.

Civilians are called to donate blood and dig trenches. Most of the able men are called into service. Most factories and stores are closed.

10:28:53:--

JOHN HADDEN (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

Every truck, every bus, every human being was gone, and the economy was an absolutely dead standstill. Waiting, you see... and so it was clear that this couldn't last.

10:29:10:--

shifra nanay VO

I was very afraid to leave home. We were just waiting for a plane to come bomb us.

Shifra Nanay (On Camera)

I remember that in my heart I had decided that if we were conquered I would turn on the gas and we would die together. I would not want my children to be hurt by them and I would not want to fall in their hands either.

10:28:43:--

NARRATION

The Arab propaganda has impact beyond Israel.

For Jews everywhere it ignites a deep-seated fear that another holocaust is in the making.

10:29:59:--

NARRATION

Young Jewish Volunteers pour in to Israel.

10:30:04:--

YOUNG WOMAN (ARCHIVE)

I'm just going there because I feel the need to go there at this particular time.

10:30:09:--

2nd young woman (ARCHIVE)

I feel that I identify strongly with Israel. And I feel that they need me perhaps now more than they will next year.

10:30:20:--

GAZIT

We returned to the days of the war of independence, when the threat was really a threat of annihilation. And the public thought, here we are, not even 20 years later, and we are again facing a threat to our existence. So naturally the Jews panicked.

(This statement is taken out of context. In fact Gazit used it as part of his description how the military was confident in victory and the Civilian population panicked. WGBH omitted totally the context and left you only with the public fear. Besides being journalistically unfair it is also part of an attempt to maintain

**the stereotype (David against Goliath) rather than allow new research and new findings to give the old stereotypes more nuances and depth. In the other versions there was an entire scene dedicated to this . Here is the entire part of the interview . I included my question as well. I highlighted in red what PBS used and in blue what we used.**

INTERVIEWER

Let's go back a tiny bit. With the influx of Egyptian forces, there is mass panic, talk of a second Holocaust and [...] tell me what you knew and what the public knew and why there was such a gap.

23:16:50

PERSON B

Look, I'll start by saying that this is perhaps part of our national character. My commander in those days, Areleh Yariv, used to say that the Jewish people is "a hero in the morning and in the pits in the evening." That is our national character. This is not a balanced people.

23:17:15

It's a people of extremes. I think that the people that was in Zion until the Six Day War did not believe in the strength of the IDF. The people knew that it had an army, perhaps knew that it was an army that was not so bad, but thought that it was not an army that could be counted on, that could really stand up to the challenge facing it from the Arab world.

23:17:41

And when all of a sudden – and it happened all of a sudden –you asked earlier about that same process that surprised all the decision-makers in Egypt, in Israel, in the western world, in the Soviet Union, in America, everyone you can think of – that totally surprising development of suddenly facing a war – and for them, Kadesh [the Sinai War] was not a factor. Kadesh was some kind of strange episode which, in Israeli public opinion ... did not enter the consciousness

23:18:22

**That is to say, we returned to the days of the War of Independence when the threat was really a threat of annihilation. And [the public thought:] here we are, not even 20 years later and we are again facing an existential threat.** So, naturally, the Jews panicked, listened non-stop to the radio broadcasts – there was no television yet- from the Arab states – like Kol ha-Ra'am, the Egyptian station that broadcast in Hebrew – and I hope that for this program you also show examples of the Egyptian caricatures which were very illustrative of how to "choke" the Israeli dragon and had pictures in the style of *Der Stuermer*. **And on our end, in the defence community, we had a very realistic picture and estimation of the military balance.**

23:19:26

**We had no misgivings, no doubts about this matter, [we had] full confidence in what was going to happen. And no one even imagined, even in his gloomiest dream, any kind of existential threat and there was even, among many, I would say, a kind of – I wouldn't say joy – but a strong desire to go in ... the army is also a professional body, and a professional body wants to prove itself – and here there was a golden opportunity to prove oneself.**

**OMITTED SCENE : DISCUSSION (through Interviews about the Israeli military knowledge of Israel 's strength**

10:30:53:--

NARRATION

In the moment of crisis all eyes turn to Israel's founding father David Ben Gurion; the man who led the country through the dark days of the war of independence in '48. Ben Gurion thinks it is a mistake to go to war and he fears the worst. When Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin comes to seek his advice, Ben Gurion reprimands him and triggers a major crisis.

10:31:23:--

NARRATION

In his memoir Rabin writes:

10:31:27:--

Yitzhak RABIN (VOICE OF AN ACTOR)

The old man received me warmly but instead of fortifying my spirits he gave me a dressing down. He said, "I doubt very much that Nasser wants to go to war but now we are in a serious situation, totally isolated."

10:31:42:--

Yitzhak RABIN (VOICE OF AN ACTOR)

When I left him I was despondent. It would be days before his words stop ringing in my ears. He said, "You have led the state into a grave situation. You bear the responsibility."

10:31:57:--

LEA RABIN (v.O. TRANSLATION)

Yitzhak always respected Ben Gurion; he was "the old man" and Yitzhak was the young one. Ben Gurion, I think, planted doubts in his mind. Yitzhak told me: "Maybe I am wrong maybe I took on too much responsibility."

10:32:21:--

NARRATION

As commander of Israel's military, Rabin is under immense pressure. His mental anguish becomes obvious as he continues to prepare for war.

10:32:33:--

ZVI DINSTEIN

I was with him. Suddenly he didn't make any sense when he talked. He claimed that he heard lots of noise; maybe it was a bombardment, he said. We didn't hear anything - no noise - than we realized that he collapsed and was having a breakdown.

10:32:56:--

LEA RABIN (voice OF AN ACTOR)

On the 23rd of May he came home. At 6 PM he wandered around in the corridors of the house smoking. He was smoking like a chimney all those days.

10:33:10:--

ZVI DINSTEIN (voice OF AN ACTOR)

Rabin's collapse was a disaster for Eshkol. I remember Eshkol saying, "Can you imagine? If the Public knew about the chief of staff of the army. What a depression it

would cause."

10:33:45:--NARRATION

That same day May 23, the UN Secretary General U Thant comes to Cairo to try to prevent war.

10:33:58:--

NARRATION

A day of meetings with U Thant and UN General Rhykee fail to resolve the crisis. But later, in a private meeting with Nasser they gain a troubling insight into his predicament.

10:34:11:--

GENERAL RYHKEE (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

I think the main points that really came out of it was one that he was under tremendous political pressure and when he talked about that he said that the military are insisting that he go to war.

10:34:19:--

GENERAL RYHKEE (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

He definitely indicated that he was afraid of a coup. Assassination.

10:34:34:--

NARRATION

Under pressure from his military to attack Nasser turns to his superpower ally. He sends his defense minister to Moscow to seek Soviets support for an Egyptian first strike.

10:34:47:--

Pavel AKOPOV

When the defense minister finished speaking Kosygin told him right away I will report this request to the Politburo but I must tell you we cannot give our accord for a pre-emptive strike against Israel and for starting hostilities.

10:35:12:--

NARRATION

The Soviets who incited Nasser in the first place apparently have had a change of heart. Despite Amer's insistence, Nasser decides to heed Kosygin and postpones plans for a first strike.

10:35:36:--

NARRATION

At the same time that the Egyptians are in Moscow Israel's foreign minister goes to Washington. Abba Eban wants the Americans to force Egypt to open the Straits of Tiran.

10:35:48:--

ABBA EBAN (ARCHIVE)

Every nation in the world has a right of free and innocent passage in the Gulf of Aqaba to the Israeli port of Eilat. If you ask me what I think they will do, I would say that is really what I've come to find out about.

10:36:04:--

NARRATION

In the White House President Johnson gathers his advisors to discuss what he should say to Eban. Johnson doesn't want an Israeli first strike.

10:36:16:--

HAL SAUNDERS (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

National Security Council

I still remember his Texas vocabulary: " Come sundown I am the one that will have to bell this cat. Meaning Aba Eban when he came to the White house to find out what the position of the United States would be.

10:36:32:--

ROBERT MACNAMARA (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

President Johnson asked us to bring the foreign minister to the family quarters of the White House and to speak rather crudely about it, the intent was to work him over, to persuade him is perhaps a more polite term, to avoid a pre-emptive attack

10:36:54:--

NARRATION

Abba Eban is ready to be persuaded but only if the US dispatches a naval force to open the straits. And make a formal commitment to help Israel if it is attacked. But Johnson is not ready for that.

10:37:08:--

ABBA EBAN (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

He expressed to me a sense of his own impotence, that I never heard either before or since from an American leader. He said that he was actually confined, contained and frustrated by the Vietnam war.

10:37:27:--

NARRATION

The Americans are only willing to say they will TRY to reopen the straits.

10:37:32:--

ABBA EBAN (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

That could have been done. The United States only had to send one ship through and I believe Nasser could have capitulated.

10:37:40:--

NARRATION

President Johnston also balks at a defense pact with Israel. He believes Israel is strong enough on her own.

10:37:48:--

ROBERT MACNAMARA (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

At the time we had 3 independent appraisals of the results on an Egyptian Israeli war. All 3 showed that beyond a shadow of a doubt Israel would win. I think we estimated that if Israel pre-empted they would win in up to 10 days. If on the other hand they responded to an Egyptian attack I believe we estimated they would win in 14 days.

10:38:15:--

ABBA EBAN (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

But Johnson went on, "My generals are always right about other people's wars." And he then said, in a kind of Delphic oratory sort of mood: "Israel will not be alone unless it decides to be alone."

10:38:33:--

EBAN SCRUM

Reporter: are you optimistic? I am realistic,

10:38:42:--

NARRATION

Eban brings back the bad news. America is sympathetic but unwilling to act with the urgency Eshkol needs.

10:38:53:--

NARRATION

**The crisis now stretches into a second week. The Israeli public wants it resolved and increasingly they blame the Prime Minister for being ineffectual.**

**OMITTED SCENE: Discussion through interviews of Eshkol growing political isolation and the forces that are against him**

10:39:05:--

LIOVA

You feel there is growing disquiet in the public aimed at Eshkol and his leadership. His insistence on postponing decision for one more day, one more day. And a demand begins to be formed: Give us a General, Give us a general; give us a military leader.

10:39:31:--

NARRATION

The papers ridicule Eshkol. Nasser crushes him while he sleeps; he is portrayed as hesitant and indecisive.

10:39:44:--

LIOVA

Women were staging a noisy demonstration around the party offices.  
And we could hear this chanting. Give us Dayan Give Us Dayan

10:39:57:--

Narration

They public wants Eshkol to step down as defense minister and to appoint General Moshe Dayan to the post.

10:40:08:--

Narration

Dayan is extremely popular. He's a military maverick and he's a hero. In 1956 during the Suez crisis he defeated the Egyptian army. Decisive and unapologetic Dayan believes war is the only alternative Israel has at this point. But still Eshkol resists.

10:40:34:--

NARRATION

On the 28th of May, in an effort to bolster his leadership Eshkol plans to make his first public speech since the crisis began.

10:40:50:--

NARRATION

Eshkol wants to reassure a tense nation. To tell them that he has a plan. That the government will fight if Israel is attacked but that he will work together with the US to avoid war. With no time to prepare, Eshkol's secretary insists the speech be delivered live.

10:41:11:--

HAGAI PINSKER

We brought him to the Studio and I did 2 rehearsals with him. He was great, coherent, and fluent

10:41:32:--

NARRATION

And then it is time for the live broadcast.

10:41:37:--

Eshkol (suBTITLE)

The government is acting politically on the international front ...

10:41:43:--

NARRATION

The speech goes well until Eshkol stumbles over a word. He turns to asks an aide about it and has to be reminded that he is live on air. He resumes, but now he is confused, he stutters. He seems hesitant and hard to understand.

10:42:02:--

YOSI SARID

All of a sudden, the person who is supposed to lead the Israeli military corps appears and stutters. And from this stammering – you can't even begin to imagine – in the entire history of the human race, a mere stumble has never been turned into such a national scandal

10:42:17:--

**SHIMON PERES**

Eshkol's radio speech was simply traumatic. In retrospect, one could probably say that the public exaggerated, But at the time, when you didn't know what is going to happen, and the whole world is applauding Nasser. At time when we lost self confidence and the worst doubts were voiced. The impression it created was of doubt and fear.

**OMITTED DISCUSSION : This clip was taken from the Israeli version. However there we contrasted it with Yosi Sarid (Eshkol parliamentary consultant) who talked about Peres and the rest of the opposition magnifying the speech in order to topple Eshkol. Peres here is being presented as an objective observer while in reality he was the head of the opposition and in the center of political intrigues.**

10:42:53:--

NARRATION

Colonel Lior writes:

10:42:56:--

Lior (voice OF AN ACTOR)

It was a horrible broadcast. With his stuttering he conveyed more insecurity and confusion. I heard that soldiers at the front burst out crying.

10:43:09:--

NARRATION

But there is more drama to come that fateful evening. From the disaster of his speech Eshkol hurries to meet the army generals and explain why the government has again postponed the decision to go to war. Lior calls it "The Night of the Generals."

10:43:26:--

GAVISH

There wasn't a Generals rebellion. There was a meeting. He stuttered indeed and we heard it on our car radios on the way to the meeting. We knew Eshkol - it wasn't a big deal. But there WAS a lot of harsh talk.

10:43:48:--

MATI PELED (voicE OF AN ACTOR)

We need to remember that we are a Reserve Army We can't wait for weeks for the Egyptians. The army was never built for that. The army needs to be mobilized and act fast.

10:44:00--

ARIEL SHARON (voice OF AN ACTOR)

Today we sawed off with our own hand the deterrence power of the Israel Army. We sawed our main weapon, the fear from us. The problem is not the Straits of Tiran the problem is the existence of the State of Israel

10:44:13--

AVRAHAM YOFFE (voice OF AN ACTOR)

Egypt with the help of the USSR is creating an army whose sole goal is to annihilate us. It is also obvious that our army is ready but no one is activating it.

10:44:24--

ISRAEL TAL (voice OF AN ACTOR)

Our problem is that Nasser challenged us in front of the whole world, he is showing off and we need to end it

10:44:34--

GAVISH

Their words hurt Eshkol a lot. But for the rest of us we talked about practical matters. We told him that the risk he's taking by postponing the decision to go to war is that the war will take place here on our soil. It gives the Egyptians more time to organize better, to plan better; it gives all the advantage to them.

10:45:08--

NARRATION

It is Eshkol's turn to answer. He speaks to the generals from the heart.

10:45:18--

ESHKOL (voice OF AN ACTOR)

Deterrence does not mean that you always have to act. How long will we live by our swords? You asked for 100 planes you got them. You asked for tanks you got them. But you did not get them so one day we can say "Now we can destroy the Egyptian army."

10:45:47--

YOSI SARID

It was a quiet putsch by the General Staff.

How did he dare? The huge and holy army says that there is no choice but to go to war and this stuttering Eshkol wants to tell the army what is good and needs to be done? And if a war is necessary or not? He did not stand a chance.

**Please read the following full text of the clip to see how it was edited and see how much more nuanced it is when describing Eshkol**

*Actually, there was something akin to a quiet military coup by the General Staff.*

22:25:19

*The General Staff had a consolidated position and exerted terrible pressure – anyone who reads the protocols knows this – I do not think, really, that this was legitimate. I think*

*that some of the pressure was certainly illegitimate,  
22:25:45*

*And they tried to force and even succeeded in forcing their opinion on the government. How much can one delay? Every time, Eshkol tried to delay. A little more space, a little more time ... Another two weeks, another three weeks, another attempt and another... Finally, it was clear that Eshkol was not in a position where he could stand up to everyone.*

*22:26:12*

*And to stand up to the army is a complicated matter to this day. Back then, it was almost impossible.*

*22:26:19*

*"What's this supposed to mean: the great, powerful, sacred army says that the country must go to war and that stammering Eshkol wants to try to tell the army what is good and what needs to be done? And whether a war is necessary, or not necessary?" He didn't stand a chance*

10:46:28:--

NARRATION

The possibility of a war with Israel generates great excitement and support in the Arab world. A victory will undo the humiliation of Israel's very existence. Kuwait pledges its army to the United Command, along with Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. Even a bitter opponent of Nasser, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia joins the cause.

10:46:54:--

FAISAL (ALREADY in English)

Will Saudi Arabia go to war against Israel? We are ready to go to the furthest extremity -- war. Could I ask his majesty what sequence of events he would like to see in the Middle East? The first thing is the extermination of Israel.

10:47:21:--

NARRATION

Jordan is not yet part of the Arab coalition. But this changes on May 30th, when King Hussein flies to Cairo to sign a defense pact with Nasser.

Although the two men have not spoken in years Hussein feels he has no choice but to join Nasser's war plan. He must protect his image as a nationalist Arab leader. And protect his country in case of war.

10:47:44

**MUTAWI (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)**

King Hussein felt that to defend the west bank he needed Arab support. That Arab support was not going to be forthcoming unless he mended his fences with Nasser because this would alleviate the pressures that would stop the propaganda against him.

10:48:07:--

NARRATION

Just a few days earlier Hussein had said to Western diplomats that Nasser's closing of the Straits of Tiran was insane. That it would end badly for the Arabs. That they're not ready to fight Israel.

But now Hussein is a full fledged member of the United Arab Command. Control of the Jordanian army is signed over to the Egyptian military.

10:48:30:--

FARID

This level of enthusiasm King Hussein showed surprised Nasser and he never forgot this for the rest of his life.

10:48:47:--

NARRATION

This alliance means that Israel will need to protect its border with Jordan. Although Jordan is not a major military power its Arab Legion fights well. More importantly, Jordan's alliances with Iraq and Saudi Arabia can bring more men and tanks into the war against Israel.

10:49:08:--

NARRATION

In just two weeks Nasser has ejected the UN forces from the Sinai, blocked the Straits of Tiran and given new life to the dream of eliminating Israel.

The entire Arab world is behind him.

10:49:26:--

ABDULLA SCHLEIFER (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

People were absolutely convinced that with King Hussein and Abdul Nasser and with Syria and Iraq, there was going to be a war, and they were going to win. I mean, without really doing anything, but they were going to win somehow, it was going to happen. And there was this hysteria almost in the air, hysteria of excitement and expectation.

10:49:51:--

NARRATION

On June 1st, four days before the war, Eshkol breaks down and finally agrees. He will give up the Defence portfolio. Moshe Dayan becomes the new Minister of Defence.

10:50:07:--

MICHAEL BAR ZOHAR

Dayan had incredible personal Charisma. He was able to hypnotize the public. Even if one day he said one thing and the next day the opposite. A big part of his success as minister of defence was the fact that he projected a sense of confidence to the army and the nation. People felt safe with him.

10:50:32:--

BRITISH REPORTER (ARCHIVE)

One thing about the significance of this appointment is immediately clear. It is an outright victory for all those in Israel who favor the taking of a much tougher line against Egypt.

10:50:45:--

NARRATION

Now out of the public eye, Eshkol is still looking for a way to avoid war. He sends Meir Amit of the Israeli Intelligence Agency to see the head of the CIA in Washington.

Eshkol tries once again to see if the US navy will in fact force open the straits of Tiran.

10:51:03:--

MEIR AMIT

I asked the director of the CIA what is the United States planning to do. He told me we are not going to do anything. None of the Naval powers wants to get into this thing except Denmark, which is debating it.

10:51:25:--

NARRATION

With diplomatic options exhausted the focus is now on the new Minister of Defense.

Moshe Dayan has become the public face of Israel and journalists ask about Israel's chances in a war against the Arab forces.

10:51:39:--

Moshe DAYAN (ARCHIVE)

**They have plenty of tanks and troops and everything, too much, too many, we have much less than they have. Much depends, of course, on where is the battle.**

**This was put intentionally ( we used another clip from the Press conference) to perpetuate the myth of David.. We have in the archives a statement that was filmed before Dayan joined the government in which he dismisses the Arab armies and talk about Israel being strong enough to face them all. Of course none of that was mentioned.**

10:51:55:--

NARRATION

The next day, June 4, Eshkol convenes a critical cabinet meeting. But Dayan takes charge.

10:52:02:--

Moshe DAYAN (voice OF AN ACTOR)

"We cannot lose the initiative. The situation gets militarily more complex. It does not matter who will shoot the first shot. We have to act and act as quickly as possible.

10:52:15:--

NARRATION

The cabinet votes. Twelve ministers are for a pre-emptive strike; only two are against. Dayan writes the official text of the decision. It reads:

"It is therefore decided to launch a military strike, aimed at liberating Israel from encirclement. And to prevent an impending assault by the United Arab Command."

10:52:49:--

NARRATION

Yitzhak Rabin, recovered from his collapse, drills his army and air force relentlessly. On the eve of war, he says: The Israeli Defense forces are wound up like a mighty spring.

10:53:07:--

NARRATION

On the last night of peace, Eshkol writes to the two superpowers. In a note to Soviet Premier Kosygin he pleads for Russia not to intervene on the side of the Arabs.

In his other note he calls President Johnson "the greatest friend of Israel" and asks him to keep the Soviets in check.

10:53:30:--

NARRATION

Colonel Lior writes:

10:53:33:--

**LIOR**

**I am scared. I am not sure Israel can withstand the combined power of the Arab armies if our pre-emptive strike fails.**

**If you read the entire text of Colonel Lior ) you see that the crux of his memoire on the eve of the war was a political eulogy for Eshkol This sentence was chosen of course to highlight the PBS version thesis of the Arab armies mighty threat to Israel-an existential threat.**

10:54:03:--

AMIN HOWEIDY

That morning, on June 5. I was at home, having breakfast. The attack came at exactly ten to eight, I heard it from my house.

10:54:23:--

NARRATION

The Israeli attack has in fact been planned, even rehearsed for 8 years.

10:54:34:--

YFTACH SPECTOR (V.O.)

Before I fly I leave all my feelings behind. Who I am, my feelings about my loved ones. All of that becomes irrelevant. I focus only on the mission.

10:54:53:--

NARRATION

Almost the entire Israeli air force takes off. The attack is timed to catch the Egyptians at breakfast. It's an all out assault aimed at hitting every airbase in Egypt simultaneously. The planes fly low avoiding Egyptian radar. At each airfield there is an overall plan: first disable the runways to prevent escape, then take out individual planes.

10:55:40:--

YFTACH SPECTOR

We climbed, then dived. The Cairo West airfield was burning in front of me. It was cool to see the airfield burning. My target was in front of me. Now to find find my Tupolev bombers. Each is the size of a Boeing 707 and intended to bomb Tel Aviv. It was a great feeling to destroy them.

10:56:06:--

NARRATION

The Israelis achieve total surprise. Egypt's Field Marshal Amer is caught touring the Sinai to prepare for the coming war, unaware that it has already started.

10:56:19:--

SALAH EDLIN SELIM

It was a strange feeling to see the Israeli planes over us. My first impression of the war was when I saw the Israeli planes above me, while I was in the field army command headquarters. Not a single warning siren sounded before their arrival.

10:56:39:--

AMIN HOWEIDY (V.O. TRANSLATION)

I can't say I wasn't expecting what happened. But I didn't imagine it was going to be that bad. Not *that* bad.

NARRATION 129 THIS IS OUT

Until the last minute, Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol argued strenuously against war. Now that it has come he's amazed at the Israeli success. (PAS SUR LE GT)

10:56:51:--

NARRATION (CONT'D)

In just three hours the Egyptian air force is destroyed. Two hundred and eighty modern jet fighters and bombers lost.

It takes only two more hours to destroy the Syrian air force.  
And minutes to annihilate the Jordanians.

Within the first hours of the war Israel has destroyed the air power of its enemy and is

now able to mount its ground offensive without fear of an Arab air attack.

10:57:25:--

Gavish (V.O. TRANSLATION)

I gave the coded order: Red Sheet. It meant that the tanks should raise antennas and begin to move.

I heard the order cascading through the communication networks of all the command centers and we pressed forward.

10:57:49:--

NARRATION

Israel drives an armored wedge into Egyptian defenses along the three roads leading into the Sinai desert and begins to engage the main body of the Egyptian army.

10:58:06

NARRATION

Israeli Reservist Yehoshua Bar Dayan served in the Sinai campaign. He kept a diary throughout the war.

10:58:14:--

BAR DAYAN (V.O.)

Now that it's actually happening there is no fear only excitement"

It seems like chaos - dozens of tanks and armored trucks are on the move. We are suffocating in the dust.

10:58:34:--

NARRATION

The Egyptian High Command is in a state of shock. Israel's air attack has been a catastrophe. Without air cover Egyptian troops at the front begin to panic.

10:58:46:--

FATHY ABU EL RISH

Our officers didn't even have time to order us to dig in. Everything happened so fast.

Suddenly we saw our soldiers withdrawing. Nobody told us what was happening ... so we withdrew, too.

10:59:17:--

NARRATION

With both air and ground wars going badly the Egyptian military's command and communication networks begin to crack.

Commanders at headquarters don't know what's happening in the field.

10:59:34:--

NARRATION

But these military disasters are kept from the Egyptian public. Jubilant crowds gather to listen as Radio Cairo announces victories.

10:59:50:--

NARRATION

Each fictitious downed Israeli jet elicits cheers.

10:59:56:--

EL SAYED ELGHADBAN

Anchorman Radio Cairo

All we were allowed to broadcast were the announcements of the general command. The command was telling of great victories: we have downed dozens of aircraft, our forces are advancing in the Sinai, and commandos are already in Israeli territory. It gave us the impression we were achieving a great victory.

11:00:26:--

NARRATION

In Damascus, the Syrian Broadcasting Service is also reporting imaginary conquests.

11:00:34:--

DUREID LAHAM

Head of Production Syrian TV

The President of the Republic came to the TV station to make a speech to the nation. He encouraged the people, telling them that the war had started and that tomorrow we will have lunch in Tel Aviv.

11:00:54:--

NARRATION

Israel follows its own plan of disinformation. The public has not been told of the total victory of the Israeli air attack. Israelis learn about the war when air raid sirens signal them to go into shelters.

11:01:14:--

SHLOMO GAZIT

Head of Research Military Intelligence

Moshe Dayan as Defense minister gave an order. He ordered total radio silence on the first day of the war. Not one announcement on what the IDF is doing or its victories.

11:01:32:--

NARRATION

All the Israeli public hears is a general statement that the war has begun.

11:01:37:--

RADIO (V.O.) (ARCHIVES.. TRADUIRE???) THIS SHOULD BE SUB-TITLED WITH HEBREW RADIO BEING HEARD :

From the early morning hours intense battles are raging between Egyptian air and ground forces and our forces.

11:01:51

SHLOMO GAZIT

The reason for that was the fear of an immediate international intervention that would attempt to impose a cease-fire.

11:02:03:--

NARRATION

The Soviets soon learn about the war and the destruction of the Egyptian air force. At the Kremlin, the Politburo goes into emergency session.

11:02:13:--

VIKTOR EGORYCHEV

The Politburo was trying to determine its position: shall we get involved militarily or in some other way? The Israeli army was advancing inside Egypt, the whole situation was getting out of control – we had to decide what to do.

11:02:32:--

NARRATION

The politburo opts for a bold stance. It rushes re-enforcements to the Egyptian Army, and orders 41 MIG jets fighters to fly to a staging ground in Armenia.

11:02:44:--

NARRATION (CONT'D)

While preparing for war the Soviets also activate the hot line and contact the White House directly. For this task the Kremlin summons its foremost English translator, Viktor Suchodrev.

11:02:59:--

VIKTOR SUCHODREV

I was led into a room where I saw not a telephone, but an ordinary teletype machine. And they had rolls of paper, a typewriter style keyboard and that was it.

11:03:17:--

NARRATION

Then Premier Kosygin walks in.

11:03:22:--

VIKTOR SUCHODREV(ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

Kosygin said tell the White House that Chairman Kosygin is here at the apparatus and he

wants to speak to President Johnson.

11:03:32:--

ROBERT MCNAMARA (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

At about 7.15 the telephone rang. It was the duty officer in the war room, "Mr. Secretary Prime Minister Kosygin is on the hot line and he wishes to speak to the President. The president came on the line and he said in effect "God dammit Bob what are you calling me for at this time in the morning?" I said "Mr. President Prime Minister Kosygin's on the hotline how do you wish to respond.

11:03:53:--

VIKTOR SUCHODREV(ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

Kosygin started dictating: " the Israelis were advancing into Egyptian territory and it was therefore up to Israel's ally and supporter the United States to stop the aggression."

11:04:10:--

NARRATION

President Johnson doesn't want the Soviets to take unilateral military action. Nor does he want to become entangled in Israel's war.

Johnson writes back immediately. He promises Kosygin to work together with the Soviets in the United Nations and do everything possible to stop the war before it escalates.

11:04:37:--

NARRATION

Radio Cairo's false news about Egyptian military successes has reached Arab Jerusalem where it has an electrifying effect.

11:04:47:--

REPORTER

What's the radio saying about what's happened?

MAN

air ... for Israel.

REPORTER

Twenty-three?

MAN

Twenty-three, now.

REPORTER

Airplanes?

MAN

Yes, airplanes. gxxxch

REPORTER

What shot down?

MAN

Yes

11:05:00:--

ABDULLAH SCHLEIFER(ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

By this time I had left the newspaper and run over to the radio station. All they were doing was broadcasting military music and slogans. Just to see what was going on? And I remember the head of the station only the two of us had military experience. He was in the Jordanian Army and I was at the US Military. None else was there. This was the amazing this thing for all this clamoring for war and no one knew how to fire a rifle. And I was cautioned don't talk that way. You're suggesting that the united might of the Arabs are not going to overwhelm Israel; they're going to come in here. How can you even think that way?

11:05:46:--

NASHAT EL MAJALI

(Jordanian Intelligence officer)

The truth is that on the first day our morale was very high because all the information we got was that the Arabs were victorious. Israel jammed our military communications, so we were getting all our information from the radio. And the Egyptian "Radio Cairo" was giving wrong information.

11:06:22:--

NARRATION

In Amman, Jordan's King Hussein receives a message from Israel.

11:06:227:--

ESHKOL (ARCHIVE)

We appealed to King Hussein and to other neighbors to stay their hand and Israel will do likewise.

11:06:38:--

NARRATION

But King Hussein can do little. He has signed a mutual defense treaty with his Arab neighbors, and his army is now under the control of an Egyptian, General Riad.

11:06:51:--

SAMIR MUTAWI(ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

We were fighting the war on the basis that it was an Arab joint effort. This is why the Egyptian general's views prevailed.

11:07:05:--

NARRATION

The Arab war plan calls for the Egyptian and Jordanian armies to cut Israel in half. But neither King Hussein nor General Riad have any real information about the progress of the war - just public lies from Radio Cairo and private lies from the very top.

11:07:25:--

NARRATION

Nasser calls the King and tells him that his planes are attacking Israel. He urges Hussein to seize as much territory as possible before a UN cease-fire.

11:07:40:--

NARRATION

Minutes after this phone call Jordanian guns and mortars start to shell the Israeli half of Jerusalem. This is the first attack on Israeli territory.

11:07:58:--

CANADIAN DOCTOR (ARCHIVE)

They started bringing in hundreds of wounded by ambulance and also by helicopter. There is a helicopter landing field over there.

11:08:09:--

NARRATION

Only three hours into the war with Egypt the war has now expanded to include Jerusalem.

The future of the holy city - sacred to Muslims, Christians and Jews - will be decided by force of arms in a battle that will resonate for generations.

11:08:43:--

NARRATION

The battle for Jerusalem begins where the 1948 war left off. For close to twenty years Jerusalem has been a city divided between Jordan and Israel.

11:09:00:--

NARRATION

In his home, Jordanian soldier, Badi Awad keeps a prize painting. It depicts how his unit defeated the Israelis in 1948 and captured the Jewish quarter. Nineteen years later - in 1967 - he's back. This time to fight for the demilitarized UN Compound.

11:09:21:--

BADI AWAD

I got a direct order to occupy the UN Headquarters, south of Jerusalem. I was to secure it from an Israeli incursion.

11:09:41:--

NARRATION

In the war room - the nerve center of Israel's military command- one man: General Moshe Dayan, Defense Minister for only four days is making all the critical decisions.

His prime concern is to avoid a war on multiple fronts - a potential disaster for the

outnumbered Israeli forces. But Jerusalem is a special case - he decides he cannot put the city at risk.

**This contradicts Dayan's own admission( in the film) why he decided on the attack. Dayan's speech (in which he explains in his own words why Israel decided to pursue the attack) has being used in the other versions.**

He authorizes the Israeli central command to engage in the battle for the UN headquarters.

11:10:29:--

ASHER DAR (V.O.)

One thing was clear to me. If I could quickly counter attack I would be successful.

11:10:42:--

NARRATION

While Colonel Dar's tanks attack the high ground overlooking the headquarters, one platoon forces its way into the compound.

11:10:53:--

BADI AWAD

I was giving my orders from the heart of the battle. I was facing the enemy with my soldiers. We were positioned with two battalions forward and one to the rear in the compound.

11:11:21:--

NARRATION

By late afternoon a wounded Asher Dar captures the UN headquarters. Now that a ground war with Jordan has begun, the military must control the road from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

11:11:40:--

NARRATION

In the war of 1948, that road which runs through the Latrun Valley was occupied by the Jordanian Legion.

11:11:50:--

NARRATION

General Moshe Yotvat is assigned to secure the road. Yotvat is no stranger to this place. He fought here twice in 1948. And twice the Israelis were unable to dislodge the valley's Jordanian defenders.

11:12:09:--

MOSHE YOTVAT

I was wounded in the battle, the platoon commander was wounded, Ariel Sharon was wounded. Actually every one who came out alive was wounded. The rest did not come

out alive.

11:12:23:--

NARRATION

Now Moshe Yotvat has another chance. He starts shelling the Jordanians.

11:12:32:--

NARRATION

But the Jordanian Legion has withdrawn into the West Bank. Yotvat pursues them.

11:12:51:--

NARRATION

In the war room in Amman, Jordan's military elite is watching disaster unfold. They want to defend and hold Jerusalem as they have done in the past. But their troops are now under the command of an Egyptian general and he is following orders from Cairo to send Jordan's army away from Jerusalem.

11:13:12:--

SAMIR MUTAWI (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

They were shouting and screaming at each other and they nearly fought because the Jordanians felt that this was a battle of destiny for them. It meant the future of the West Bank and, in particular, Jerusalem.

11:13:36:--

NARRATION

On the second day of the war, with the Sinai campaign going well, Moshe Dayan pulls out his paratroopers from the Egyptian front and sends them to fight in the battle for Jerusalem.

**It will take too much space to demonstrate how different the portrayal of the war in Jerusalem is in the PBS versus the other versions.**

11:13:52:--

**NARRATION (CONT'D)**

**Israelis are haunted by the loss of the Jewish quarter in the old city, just 19 years earlier in the 48 war. The quarter was destroyed, its synagogues defiled, and access to the Wailing Wall lost. Jews were exiled from a city where they had lived since the reign of King David 3000 years before. To many Israelis this was a national disaster.**

**This statement is one sided and a distortion of a much more careful worded text in the other versions.**

11:14:24:--

NARRATION

One of the paratroopers sent from the Sinai to fight in Jerusalem is Hanan Porat.

11:14:32:--

HANAN PORAT

For me - and not only for me - I finally understood something. The war was changing direction. It was no longer a war for survival; a defensive war against Jihad but a war which ... even if I we didn't express it this way ... had become a war of redemption.

11:14:58:--

HANAN PORAT

I remember how we went up to Jerusalem in these dusty buses. The bus is roaring with the song "Jerusalem of Gold." The guys are singing about how the water holes have dried up; how nobody comes anymore to visit the town square. I mean, who thought about those things back then?

11:15:23:--

**NARRATION**

**The song - Jerusalem of Gold was written just before the war. It's an unlikely anthem for the soldiers - most of them secular Jews who have always regarded Tel Aviv as their center. But the war is changing Israel. The largely secular nation is getting a heady dose of religion. And the battle for Jerusalem is starting to feel like another holy war.**

**The above text is a manipulation of the original text which faithfully sums up the song words which Hanan Porat recited just before the sequence.: The PBS version intentionally ignores the political message of the song a fact widely accepted in Israel and the reason why this scene was edited in the first place.**

*The song -Jerusalem of Gold was written just before the war. It is now wildly popular and its lyrics make its political message clear.*

*The Arab city doesn't exist. It is described as empty, simply waiting for its Jewish sons to reclaim it.*

*With Jerusalem the war is changing character - what started as a calculated military attack on Egypt is turning into a war of symbols and national identity.*

11:15:54:--

NARRATION

That night the Israelis begin a determined ground offensive. The soldiers are paratroopers like Private Yaki Chetz fighting for the ridge overlooking Jerusalem.

11:16:11:--

YAKI CHETZ

I felt there was no earth underneath me, like I am walking through water. I shoot just to get my confidence back.

11:16:25:--

NARRATION

Ghazi Rubbaya commands a company of the Jordanian army assigned to protect the ridge.

11:16:32:--

GHAZI RUBBAYA

I had two options, either my soldiers get killed or I find a way out of here. What shall I do? The Jews are coming from all sides, the spirit of my soldiers at its lowest.

11:16:55:--

NARRATION

The Jordanian resistance is broken after five hours of fierce fighting. One hundred and five Jordanians and thirty-five Israelis die; eighteen of them from Yaki Chetz's platoon.

11:17:17:--

YAKI CHETZ (V.O.)

I was in shock. I tried to understand what happened.

YAKI CHETZ (CONT'D)

For me it was a war of survival. I never took part in any of the celebrations. Even a year later I couldn't listen to the music that celebrated the victory. I refused to listen "Jerusalem of Gold." I had to turn the radio off. I was in despair. This war was a terrible blow.

11:17:54:--

GHAZI RUBBAYA

Those who listen to my story of the war may not realize the scope of the tragedy, the fierceness of the battle, the fear, the hunger, the pain, the responsibility. Defeat is bitter. Its psychological effects stayed with us for a very long time.

11:18:33:--

NARRATION

With the defeat of the Jordanians who were defending the approaches to the city, the Israelis prepare to move in. Abdullah Schleifer is there to witness the beginning of the fall of the old city.

11:18:47:--

ABDULLAH SCHLEIFER (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

I saw one airplane that swept low, so it barely cleared the Dome of the Rock, swept low, cleared the Dome of the Rock, and as it moved upward it dropped the bombs that wiped out the military positions, the last Jordanian military positions that were defending the approach to the old city.

11:19:05:--

NARRATION

By morning most of the Jordanian defenders in Old Jerusalem are gone.

11:19:11:--

NASHAT EL MAJALI

On the third day, about six to seven hundred people came to us in the Aqsa mosque, asking us to withdraw. I don't blame them. They saw tanks in the streets, and they were under the influence of Israel's psychological warfare.

11:19:40:--

ABDULLAH SCHLEIFER (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

A few stayed on the walls to fight. A few militia men and a few Jordanian soldiers who decided they were going to stay and die here, they stayed on the walls. And there was even a unit, a Sergeant and two of his men, who looked back and the sun was rising, and they saw the sun sparkling on the Dome, and they were so moved by this sight - usually when people desert they desert to go away from war - these men deserted to come back and fight.

11:20:16:--

HANAN PORAT

We arrived here late in the morning. We came down from Augusta Victoria through the Kedron Valley and climbed towards the Lions gate.

11:20:35:--

HANAN PORAT

We felt that we were making history. That we were writing a new chapter in the bible.

11:20:52:--

ABDULLAH SCHLEIFER (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

Suddenly I heard tremendous shouts, and I realized that the Israelis had entered the city, and were entering the Harem Sharif. And then the shouts of victory, exaltation, and

firing...

11:21:06:--

ABDULLAH SCHLEIFER(ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

You could see Israeli troops fanning out in the Haram Sharif. And you could see prisoners were being taken, and they were obviously notables of the city because this Harem was the last command post, for the Governor, for what there was left of a civilian command.

11:21:25:--

NARRATION

From the Temple Mount the soldiers find a small gate that leads to the Wailing Wall. Even young secular Israelis get caught up in the religious frenzy.

11:21:38:--

HANAN PORAT

Near me I can see a Kibbutz member from a left wing kibbutz and he is asking me, "Hanan what prayer you say here?" I tell him, "pray." "But I do not know how to pray," he answers. "Say Shmah Israel," and he tells me, "I do not know how to say it." I told him, "repeat after me" and he repeated shouting Shmah (Listen) Israel, Our God... Believe me I do not know if I ever heard such a prayer in my life.

11:22:08:--

ABDULLAH SCHLEIFER (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

and I'm standing there with my family holding my American passport and I'm saying - - I'm saying "I'm an American. I'm an American." And they're shouting "The roof. The roof in English, they want to get out on the roof there is still some sniping. . And and then it is in every Israeli History book they come up to hang the flag.

11:22:37:--

NARRATION

Israeli soldiers capture the euphoric moment on home movie cameras. The Israelis have taken the old city of Jerusalem. They have, in their view, liberated one of Judaism's holiest site, the remains of the second temple.

11:23:03:--

NARRATION

But at the same time they have occupied one of the Muslim world's holiest places the Haram Al Sharif - or Noble Sanctuary.

This tragic intersection of religious geography will stoke the fires of conflict for generations to come.

And it will be a deep and humiliating setback for Jordan's King.

11:23:25:--

SAMIR MUTAWI (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

King Hussein always perceived himself as a Hashemite leader He is a descendant of the prophet Muhammad. And the protection of the Jerusalem Muslim shrines was the responsibility of the Hashemites. And history will register that they were lost during his time.

11:23:53:--

KING HUSSEIN

If we are going to live we will live with honor if we don't make it we will die with honor for our nation for our rights and for all times.

11:24:15:--

NARRATION

The conquering generals of the Israeli army - Moshe Dayan, Uzi Narkiss and Yitzach Rabin proudly enter the city they've captured. They are careful to record the moment.

11:24:28:--

ILAN BRUNER

We advanced about 10 meters past the gate when Dayan stopped the group and said Ilan, please go forward and take a picture of me entering the old city. These were his exact words.

11:24:42:--

NARRATION

It is to be a purely military triumph. Israeli Prime Minister, Levi Eshkol, is absent. He has been told it's too dangerous for him to come.

11:24:56:--

NARRATION

There's only room for Israel's heroes of the moment: the military.

11:25:008:--

NARRATION

By the second day of the war the Israeli army in the West Bank is fighting so well and moving so fast that it has outrun civilian control. Even the army high command is leaving critical decisions to local commanders. General Moshe Yotvat moves into the west bank and pushes through to the Jordan Valley.

11:25:29:--

**MOSHE YOTVAT**

**I was just taking advantage of opportunities as they came. And this is how it happened in every place we took on the West Bank. It just rolled from one phase to the next.**

**There was no plan. Yes, there were operation plans from before. But there was just**

**one overall plan: to occupy the West Bank ... period.**

**OMMITTED SCENE, ( it exists in the Israeli version)**

**Israeli general admits in a round table filmed after the war that while the West Bank was occupied no one had any idea what to do with the heavily populated areas.**

**This is followed by the expulsion of 6000 Palestinian villagers and the destruction of 3 villages. An entire scene that was cut out.**

11:25:55:--

NARRATION

In the Sinai the Israelis are also doing better than they expected. General Ariel Sharon surprises the Egyptians when he crosses sand dunes previously considered impassable.

11:26:13:--

NARRATION

He orders his artillery to make the earth shake.

11:26:24:--

NARRATION

For the Arab armies, the war has been one defeat after another. If their leaders are to survive this calamity they must shift the blame somewhere else.

11:26:38:--

NARRATION

Egyptian President, Gamel Nasser gets on the phone with Jordan's King Hussein. Together they come up with an explanation for their defeats. They accuse the US and Britain of fighting on Israel's side. But Israeli intelligence has taped the call.

11:26:59:--

NASSER

Do you know that the US is participating alongside Israel in the war? Should we announce this? Should we say that the US and Britain are participating or only the US?

HUSSEIN

The US and Britain.

NASSER

Good. We will make an announcement that American and British aircraft are using their aircraft carriers against us.

11:27:19:--

NARRATION

When US diplomat Richard Parker hears the accusation over the radio he calls Nasser's deputy.

11:27:27:--

RICHARD PARKER (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

I called up and said, "what the hell is this? There aren't any American aircraft within three hundred miles." He said, "for your information, they could not have possibly done what they've done without help and that help had to come from you or the British. And we think it was you."

11:27:49:--

NARRATION

The accusation about US and British involvement ricochets around the Arab world and feeds a growing resentment against the West.

11:28:02:--

NARRATION

From the outset President Johnson has tried to stop the fighting. He also wants a post war policy that would bring a more lasting peace. But first he has to get the UN security council on board.

11:28:14:--

HAROLD SAUNDERS

A normal United Nations Security Council resolution in a situation like this after a war or any attack would be cease fire and withdrawal of forces to their pre-war boundaries.

11:28:28:--

NARRATION

The Soviets want a cease-fire and a withdrawal. But Johnson accepts Israel's argument that they should not withdraw and that the captured territories be exchanged for peace.

11:28:41:--

NARRATION (CONT'D)

In the corridors of the UN intense negotiations take place. The Soviet Union is so alarmed at the speed of Arab losses that it's ready to accept a quick agreement and avoid the complete destruction of the Arab armies.

11:28:57:--

NARRATION (CONT'D)

The Soviets therefore agree to a cease-fire with no withdrawal, even though Israel is now in possession of large swaths of Arab land.

To Johnson's dismay, Egypt and Syria refuse to accept the proposal. But this principle of exchanging land for peace becomes the American policy in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

11:29:22:--

HAROLD SAUNDERS (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

Nobody sat down and down and said the position of the United States will be that there will not be NO Israeli withdrawal for 40 years until there is peace. We are still 40 years

later dealing with the consequences of this decision.

11:29:57:--

NARRATION

The Egyptian army, though battered, remains a formidable fighting force. Nine of its fourteen divisions have not yet seen combat and could be used to block the Israeli drive to the Suez Canal. Amer, however, has no fight left in him. He wants to withdraw. But when his generals submit a plan that will take three days to implement, he panics and orders the army to get out of the Sinai immediately.

11:30:26:--

SALAH EDLIN SELIM

The withdrawal was not planned. A planned withdrawal means an orderly retreat to specific positions. The withdrawal orders were issued without details and the local commanders were left alone to execute it. It resulted in a big confusion on the Sinai front.

11:30:46:--

NARRATION

The Egyptian army took a month to move into the Sinai, and now it is trying to escape instantly.

Amer's withdrawal order is intercepted by the Israelis and they set a trap. There are 100 thousand Egyptian soldiers and hundreds of tanks to be captured or destroyed.

11:31:06:--

GAVISH

Instead of the original plan of confrontation we decided to encircle the Egyptian army. We knew they had a withdrawal order and so they would have to find a way to break out of this encirclement. Rather than attack them we were waiting for them to come to us.

11:31:26:--

NARRATION

Fathy Abu El Rish has been retreating on foot for over 24 hours.

11:31:32:--

FATHY ABU EL RISH

We were walking in groups of 3 or 4. We knew the roads because we had spent 3 years in this area. As we walked we looked in broken down cars for food or water.

Everyone was looking to the sky.

We were afraid that there would be an airplane coming to attack us.

11:32:06:--

FATHY ABU EL RISH

No one was thinking about anyone else; only about himself.

10:32:27:--

NARRATION

Yehoshua Bar Dayan writes:"I am driving, ""over bodies. There are human limbs, one after another. I am driving over the face of an Egyptian soldier. His nose is sticking up and his eyes are open. I am searching for a word that will describe the sight ... it is the total destruction of the Egyptian army.

11:33:11:--

NARRATION

Tens of thousands of Egyptians are taken prisoner.

An Israeli soldier, near the airport of El-Arish, captures this on film.

11:33:44:--

NARRATION

As the numbers become overwhelming, the Israelis decide to keep only officers and specialists and let the others go.

11:33:54:--

FATHY ABU EL RISH

There was chaos until we got to the banks of the Suez. The Israelis told us "Go back home." They captured a huge amount of soldiers, and were detaining about 20,000 people, but then they let them go.

11:34:09:--

NARRATION

Tens of thousands of Egyptian soldiers are going home with tales of defeat and destruction. There will be no more cheering crowds - no easy lies about victories.

11:34:23:--

NARRATION

By late afternoon Nasser meets with his senior officers including Field Marshal Amer. Distraught, the officers leave the two men alone. Nasser comes out with an ashen face and says "Everything is over. We're agreeing to a cease fire."

11:34:42:--

FARID

He was very sad. He reiterated what he said to me, "If I knew the army was incapable of military confrontation I would have avoided it. I am a chess player. I can play politics. I didn't have to go to war.

11:35:04:--

NARRATION

With his army destroyed Nasser decides to face his nation. He justifies his road to war and admits that the Egyptian army has suffered a terrible defeat.

**But he avoids responsibility and blames the US and Britain of helping Israel. He then stuns his countrymen and the Arab world by resigning as president.**

**Please see the Feature version and read the full text of the speech. You will see how shallow is the presentation of Nasser.**

11:35:30:--

NASSER

Dear Brethren. It has always been our habit in times of victory and in times of crisis in happy times and in bitter ones to sit together and talk with open hearts.

11:35:57:--

FARID

I remember the cameraman was crying. The Chief cameraman had to take over for him in order to continue the broadcast.

11:36:11:--

NARRATION

Nasser has barely finished his speech when thousands, and eventually hundreds of thousands of Egyptians, many organized by his political party, fill the streets crying, shouting, begging their leader to stay.

11:36:26:--

FATHY ABU EL RISH

We heard it on the radio. We wanted to go to Cairo and to tell him "No, don't resign." . He had to stay. It's like your son has done something wrong and is trying to avoid responsibility. You have to deal with the matter and correct your mistake.

11:36:48:--

AMIN HOWEIDY

Not only the Egyptians took to the street but all Arabs everywhere. He received calls from other presidents asking him to stay.

11:37:03:--

NARRATION

Hours later Radio Cairo announces that Nasser will not resist the voice of the people.

11:37:14:--

NARRATION

He says he will remain in office until the traces of Israel's aggression are eradicated.

11:37:23:--

NABIL MALEH

In all the countries in the world that went through similar experiences, the governments fell. But not the Arab regimes. That's the situation I had to face, as well as millions of other citizens. Here we were, left in the middle of a path: a deserted, dry path. Not a cloud in the sky, no promise of rain. We were left with the ruins of our dreams.

11:38:15:--

NARRATION

In the first four days of war Israel defeats Egypt and Jordan. Moshe Dayan did not want the army to reach the Suez Canal but now it's cooling in its waters.

Dayan had been against the occupation of the old city of Jerusalem. "Who needs this Vatican," he said. But now Israel controls all of Jerusalem.

11:38:45:--

NARRATION

Dayan was reluctant to respond to Syrian shelling in the North, because of the possibility of involving Syria's powerful ally, the Soviet Union, but on the fifth day of war Dayan changes his mind and orders an attack on Syria.

11:39:04:--

MICHAEL BAR-ZOHAR MAQUE LE TEXTE

Just copy from the film

11 :39 :33 :--

NARRATION

Israel attacks all along the Syrian border. Dayan's goal is to control the strategic Golan Heights. And silence Syrian guns once and for all. His action brings the world to the brink of global war.

11:39:52:--

NARRATION

That evening the hotline in the White House comes to life. Soviet Premier Alexi Kosygin sends a stern warning.

11:40:01:--

ROBERT MCNAMARA (Already in ENGLISH)

Kosygin in a sense said to the president if you want war you're gonna get war ,he didn't actually use those words he said in effect " if you don't stop Israel attacking Syria we will have to respond and we will consider and I think his words were "unilateral military action"

11:40:23:--

EGORYCHEV

The situation was very serious, on the world scale; no one knew what turn events might take. You know, Middle East conflict has always been like a powder keg: there might have been an explosion with grave consequences for the whole world.

11:40:48:--

NARRATION

The Soviets move to back up their threat. They order air force General Vasily Reshetnikov to repaint his planes with Egyptian air force markings and prepare for action.

11:41:01:--

RESHETNIKOV

I was told to get my air squadrons ready. To equip airplanes with bombs and to be ready to strike military and communications targets in Israel.

11:41:25:--

NARRATION

Less than ten miles from the Israeli shores the Soviet fleet is assembling a force to storm the Israeli port of Haifa.

Captain Yuri Khripunkov is asked to find volunteers to go ashore for battle.

11:41:44:--

CAPTAIN YURI KHRIPUNKOV

I lined up my boys on the deck and said: "Lads, seems like we are going to take part in a very serious action; those who are not ready to risk their lives should step ahead!" Only one stepped ahead.

11:42:03:--

NARRATION

As the news of Soviet military preparations stream into the Situation Room in Washington, the US makes military preparations of its own. It is the most dangerous moment of the cold war since the Cuban Missile Crisis.

11:42:19:--

ROBERT MCNAMARA (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

We feared we would have to introduce US military force particularly air power to support Israel defending itself against a combination of Syria and the Soviet Union. The sixth fleet was then steaming on a training exercise in the Mediterranean toward Gibraltar. We turned it around and sent it back toward Israel, not, not to support an Israel attack on Syria, but to be prepared to defend Israel against a potential Soviet attack. Very very dangerous.

11:42:53:--

NARRATION

In the United Nations Syria presses for an immediate cease-fire, but Israel resists. This buys Dayan enough time to finish what he's started.

11:43:08:--

NARRATION

In the next few hours the Syrian army is decimated. The Israelis push to within 40 miles of Syria's capital - Damascus - when Dayan calls a halt and Israel agrees to a cease-fire.

11:43:24:--

DUREID LAHAM

I remember taking in my car a soldier who was walking back home from the front. He was crying. I asked him: Why are you crying? And he said: I would have preferred to have both my legs amputated than to return home in such a defeat.

11:44:08:--

NARRATION

After only six days the war is over. Israelis feared the worst and now they are filled with relief.

But the political geography of the region has dramatically changed.

11:44:22:--

NARRATION

Israel now controls three and half times as much land as it had six days ago. Prime Minister Eshkol, who didn't want the war, governs one and a half million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. But it is Jerusalem that is both the biggest prize and the thorniest issue.

**Please compare it to the Feature length.**

11:45:00:--

**NARRATION**

**In Old Jerusalem, the Israelis feel they've liberated their ancient capital and they are quick to make their presence known. The war ends at 6 PM. That same night the Israeli army begins to alter the city.**

**Please compare this scene to all other versions.**

**Here is the text of the entire scene as it was played in all other versions.**

*The Six Day war ends officially at 6 PM on June the 10th. As the Jewish Sabbath ends a new kind of war begins. Israeli soldiers and civilians secretly begin to change the face of Jerusalem at its most sensitive and religiously charged spot - the Wailing Wall at the foot of the Dome of the Rock.*

**ABDULLAH SCHLEIFER**

*I start hearing noise coming up from the Mugrabi Quarter. This quarter. And I'm able to look out of the kitchen window and I see that there are bulldozers And they're starting to destroy houses. And in the morning I get a better look. Half the Quarter is destroyed.*

**115 WAILING WALL OLD FOOTAGE 115**

## NARRATION

*For generations Jews who wanted to pray at the Wailing Wall did so in a narrow alley that could accommodate at most a few dozen worshippers. But now that was going to change.*

*Israel now has sovereignty of the entire area.*

*Dayan and other military and political leaders are determined to transform the wailing wall from a purely religious site into a national symbol. And they do it by clearing out a 700 year old Arab neighborhood.*

116 ABDEL LATIF SAYID NEAR THE WALL 116

## NARRATION

*Abdel Latif Sayid was among the more than 1000 residents of the quarter born and raised right beside the Wailing Wall.*

ABDEL LATIF SAYID

*You see the flag. My house was next to the flag at this corner*

## NARRATION

*Sayid and his family were told to leave their homes so the army could search them. By morning the neighbourhood had become the Wailing Wall plaza*

117 ABDEL LATIF SAYID IN THE PLAZA 117

## OLD HASID

*Do you want to bless the lemon and the palm branch? Who has not blessed them?*

ABDEL LATIF SAYID (V.O.)

*When we looked at our houses in the morning we found them all destroyed over all our furniture and belongings. When we left our homes we only had our pajamas on us.*

*They said they wanted to search the houses. We did not know at all that they intended to demolish them.*

HANAN PORAT

*The fact that there is here  
a struggle which has deep religious  
roots. It's not something you can  
defuse. And if we don't recognize  
our religious, spiritual truth then  
we're going to leave everything to  
the Moslems and the Christians.*

*ABDULLAH SCHLEIFER*

*05:06:01*

*You know, when I saw this  
destruction. There was a part of me  
that felt tremendous dread. That  
like a whole new problem was going  
to be created. A whole new problem.*

### **And here is the Scene in the PBS version sans Palestinian**

11:45:18:--

ABDULLAH SCHLEIFER (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

I start hearing noise coming up from the Mugrabi Quarter. and I see there are bulldozers  
And they are starting to destroy houses. And in the morning I get a better look. Half the  
Quarter is destroyed.

11:45:39:--

NARRATION

For generations Jews who wanted to pray at the Wailing Wall had to do so in a narrow  
alley.

But now Dayan wants to transform this quarter into an open plaza that can hold  
thousands.

The wailing wall is to be transformed from a religious site into a national symbol.

11:45:59:--

ANDULLAH SCHLEIFER (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

You know, when I saw this destruction. There was a part of me that felt tremendous  
dread. That like a whole new problem was going to be created. A whole new problem.

11:46:14:--

NARRATION

But, for the moment Israelis are triumphant. Thousands go to Jerusalem to celebrate and give thanks. They feel they have been saved from destruction. Yet many want more than a short term victory.

11:46:33:--

REPORTER (ARCHIVE)

What would you like to see happen now, would you like to see all the land that has been gained kept by Israel?

11:46:37:--

WOMAN (ARCHIVE)

No, I would like to see peace.

REPORTER (ARCHIVE)

Do you think it's made peace more probable here?

MAN (ARCHIVE)

Oh I think there may be a chance for peace now with the Arabs yes of course.

11:46:46:--

LIOVA

We were in state of shock these first few days. For the first time people can visit the Jerusalem and the territories. It's as if all politicians, from the right and left, and all the people have taken a large dose of LSD, and we are all flying.

11:47:20:--

NARRATION

While the Israelis are celebrating, the Palestinians are devastated. The rest of Palestine has fallen into Israeli hands.

11:47:33:--

MUTAWI (ALREADY IN ENGLISH)

I decided to cross the river Jordan, I had relatives in Nablus, and Jerusalem and Ramala. The people where not only shocked, It was more then Shock. People where, as I told you influenced incited by the propaganda war, to feel that victory was at hand. To be defeated in such a humiliating way was something beyond anybody's imagination.

11:48:06:--

NARRATION

**This is a misrepresentation and I will explain why we avoided discussion of anything past the last hour of the War. This entire scene is one sided avoiding the rather serious discussion that is needed . It is also one sided in cherry picking events that happened after the war (including among others the annexation of Jerusalem) and before the Khartoum Confernece. The scene of course does not analyze the Israeli proposal that preceded the**

## **Khartoum conference.**

**Almost immediately, the Israeli government begins to plan for peace. Israel offers to give back Sinai and the Golan in exchange for full peace with Egypt and Syria. It is willing to negotiate over the West Bank, but insists on keeping all of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.**

11:48:28:--

**MICHAEL BAR-ZOHAR**

**Dayan and Eshkol stated that they were willing to give a lot back for peace and Dayan said his famous line that he is waiting for a telephone call from the Arabs. And the Arabs, instead of calling Dayan, went to Khartoum.**

11:48:45:--

**NARRATION**

One month after the war Arab leaders gathered for a meeting in Khartoum, Sudan, to deal with the aftermath of the war. In spite of his horrendous defeat Nasser is still the undisputed leader of the Arab world.

11:49:07:--

**NARRATION**

He rejects the land for peace concept promoted by the Soviets and the Americans as being tantamount to a surrender.

Instead the conference, decides on "The Three No's" . NO recognition of Israel, NO peace and NO negotiations. And all Arab states are to prepare for military action. I will explain why this entire scene was put in for propaganda purposes while it avoided the complexity of the moment cherry picking events to fit one's point of view.

11:49:46:--

**NARRATION**

In the years after the war Egypt and Jordan do sign peace agreements with Israel. The Arab League have accepted the principle of "land for peace."

But Forty years later the war is still with us. Its results are embodied in every aspect of the bloody Middle East conflict. Both the victors and the vanquished are still searching for its meaning.

11:50:21:--

**GAVISH**

We are a foreign implant and around us are hundreds of millions of others and nothing will change that.

It is not a solution to depart from here and give them the country. And if we don't leave here this conflict will not end very soon.

11:50:42:--

HADdEN

The Israeli horizon, you see, is only to the next battle, because if they lose one battle they're gone.

11:50:53:--

DAREID LAHAM

We tried to understand why we were deceived. They lied to us. The only objective of the Arabic regimes was to stay in power, nothing else.

Our institutions were incapable of dealing with this catastrophe. Our governments showed only a short-term view, a lack of organization, corruption, what fell is the political government class in the Arab world.

11:51:18:--

NABIL

We thought we were strong, politically, MILITARILY, economically, culturally and even creatively. Suddenly with the war of 1967 we found ourselves at the edge of a pit, the edge of a vacuum. Our institutions were incapable of dealing with this tragedy.

11:51:51:--

Yossi SARID

So, all right, Nasser made a mistake and Hussein made a mistake. So why do we have to fall into the trap of their mistake and to turn our lives into an ongoing hell?

Forty years, 40 years, we have been living in an ongoing hell because of this accursed occupation... That's all.

11:52:19:--

MiCHAEL BAR-ZOHAR

Forty years later I am convinced that the war was the right step. I am very proud of the six-day war. I Applaud of its result it changed the face of the middle east and I think the peace we achieved with Egypt and Jordan are the direct result of the six day war.

11:52:42

PERES

And there was a myth that the Arabs are not courageous. That they would not commit suicide that they wouldn't fight. But you must not be contemptuous about your opponent. And you must not forget that you have to make peace with your enemy.