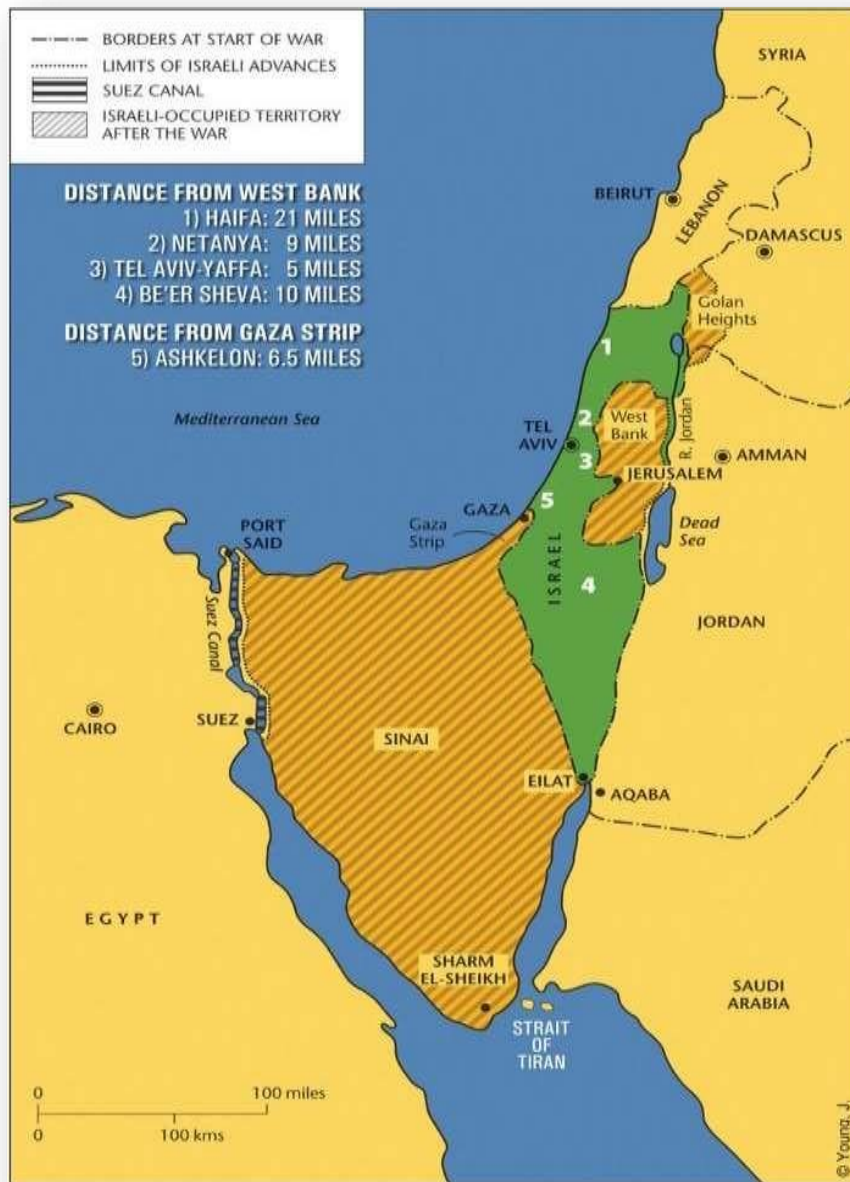




**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY  
COUNCIL  
AU-MUN 2020**

# THE YOM KIPPUR WAR *a.k.a.* THE OCTOBER WAR OF 1973



**LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE  
BOARD**

Greetings Delegates,

It is my honor to be on the Executive Board of the first edition of AU Model United Nations 2020 which offers a brilliant platform for students to come forward and deliberate, discuss and share their ideas, thoughts and solutions on prominent global issues and also understand the different perspectives from which the issues are viewed. The historic war of Yom Kippur, a.k.a. the October war of 1973 or the Arab Israeli war of 1973 had far reaching effects both diplomatically and militarily.

The main ideology of the war from the side of the Arabs was to bounce back and salvage pride after the devastating defeat they faced in the Six-day war, and for the Israelis, it was about continuing to exist as the dominant power in a hostile environment surrounded by enemies.

We look forward to having you at the **United Nations Security Council – AU Model United Nations 2020** and we hope that we will positively impact your debating careers and help you further it at this conference.

**Ayush R**  
President of the UNSC

**Rakshak Bharath**  
Vice President of the UNSC

**Ramakrishna**  
Director

## ***Introduction and Background***

November 29, 1947, Resolution 181 (II), the General Assembly recommended to the United Kingdom, as the mandatory Power for Palestine, and to all other Members of the United Nations, the adoption and implementation, with regard to the future government of Palestine which marked the sowing of seeds discontent between the Arabs and the Jews and a pathway to the first Arab – Israel war. This plan was made to replace British Mandate with "Independent Arab and Jewish States" and a "Special International Regime for the City of Jerusalem" administered by the United Nations until further discretion.

May 14, 1948 marked the end of the British Mandate over Palestine and as the last British forces left through Haifa, the Jewish People's Council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum and approved a proclamation declaring the establishment of a Jewish state, to be known as the State of Israel under the leadership of David Ben-Gurion.



## ***War of Independence***

The mark of the beginning of the War of Independence didn't take long and the celebrations of the Israelis lasted as short as one day, as there was an immediate attack by Syria, Egypt and Jordan. On 15 May 1948 the ongoing civil war transformed into an inter-state conflict between Israel and the Arab states. A combined invasion by Egypt, Jordan and Syria, together with expeditionary forces from Iraq, entered Palestine - Jordan having declared



privately to Yishuv emissaries on May 2 it would abide by a decision not to attack the Jewish state. The invading forces took control of the Arab areas and immediately attacked Israeli forces and several Jewish settlements. The 10 months of fighting, interrupted by several truce periods, took place mostly on the former territory of the British Mandate and for a short time also in the Sinai Peninsula and southern Lebanon

As a result of the war the State of Israel retained the area that the **UN General Assembly Resolution 181** had recommended for the proposed Jewish state and also took control of almost 60% of the area allocated for the proposed Arab state including the Jaffa, Lydda and Ramle area, Galilee, some parts of the Negev, a wide strip along the Tel-Aviv-Jerusalem road, West Jerusalem, and some territories in the West Bank. Transjordan took control of the remainder of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Egyptian military took control of the Gaza Strip. No Arab Palestinian state was created. In 1949 all the belligerents - except the Iraqis and the Palestinians - signed the **1949 Armistice Agreements**.

### ***The Law of Return & Population Growth***

On July 5, 1950, the state of Israel passed the Law of Return. Its opening line read: "Every Jew has the right to immigrate to the country." The law created an influx of Jewish immigration to Israel. The large numbers of Holocaust survivors (almost 1 out of 3 Israeli citizens by 1949) had difficulty settling into the new country; tensions were high between members of the Yishuv (pre-state inhabitants) and the survivors. It was no easier for Jews from Arab lands. The population of the State of Israel more than doubled in its first five years. Half of the national budget went towards immigrant resettlement, with military spending coming in a close second.

### ***Sinai Campaign***

In the 1950s, the Arab world attempted to pressure Israel through economic sanctions; Israeli ships could not use Arab ports, and Israeli airplanes could not use Arab air space. In 1955, Egypt purchased large amounts of weapons from the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. The next year it announced the nationalization of the Suez Canal.

These actions, combined with increased terrorist attacks across the border and Egypt's massive military build-up, prompted Israel to join Great Britain and France in attacking Egypt on October 29, 1956. The British, French, and Israeli combined military action was successful, but the United Nations set up forces in the Sinai to ensure that it would not be repeated.

### ***Six Day War***

In May 1967, Egypt expelled the United Nations Emergency Force from the Sinai Peninsula and amassed 100,000 soldiers at the border with Israel. The Six-Day War began on June 5, 1967, when the Israeli Defence Forces, led by Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin, pre-emptively attacked Egypt's air force and Jordan attacked Israel. By the end of the war, Israel had gained control of the Old City of Jerusalem and the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the strategic Golan Heights from Syria, and the Sinai Peninsula. The war was a disaster for the Arab world and temporarily weakened the man who was seen as the leader of the Arabs – Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt. The war was a military disaster for the Arabs but it was also a massive blow to the Arabs morale. Here were four of the strongest Arab nations systematically defeated by just one nation.

The success of the campaign must have surprised the Israelis. However, it also gave them a major problem that was to prove a major problem for the Israeli government for decades. By capturing the Sinai, the Golan Heights and the West Bank of the Jordan River, the Israelis had captured for themselves areas of great strategic value. However, the West Bank also contained over 600,000 Arabs who now came under Israeli administration.



### ***The Yom Kippur War of 1973***

The Yom Kippur War of 1973, one of the most decisive conventional wars in Middle East history, is so-called because it began on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), the holiest day of prayer and fasting in the Jewish calendar. The Yom Kippur War is also known as the October War or the **1973 Arab–Israeli War**, was a war fought by the coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria against Israel from October 6 to 25, 1973. At the time of Yom Kippur, Israel was led by **Golda Meir**, Syria by **Hafez-al Assad** and Egypt by **Anwar Sadat**.

The Yom Kippur War started with a surprise Arab attack on Israel on Saturday 6th October 1973. On this day, Egyptian and Syrian military forces launched an attack knowing that the military of Israel would be participating in the religious celebrations associated with Yom Kippur. Therefore, their guard would temporarily be dropped.



The combined forces of Egypt and Syria totaled the same number of men as NATO had in Western Europe. On the Golan Heights alone, 150 Israeli tanks faced 1,400

Syria tanks and in the Suez region just 500 Israeli soldiers faced 80,000 Egyptian soldiers.

The war had far-reaching implications. The Arab World, which had been humiliated by the lopsided rout of the Egyptian–Syrian–Jordanian alliance in the Six-Day War, felt psychologically vindicated by early successes in the conflict. In Israel, despite impressive operational and tactical achievements on the battlefield, the war led to recognition that there was no guarantee it would always dominate the Arab states militarily.

These changes paved the way for the subsequent peace process. The **1978 Camp David Accords** that followed led to the return of the Sinai to Egypt and normalized relations—the first peaceful recognition of Israel by an Arab country. Egypt continued its drift away from the Soviet Union and left the Soviet sphere of influence entirely.



Egypt and Syria both desired a return of the land lost in the Six-Day War. In September 1967, the **Khartoum Arab Summit** issued the "*three no's*", resolving that there would be "no peace, no recognition and no negotiation with Israel". In the years following the war, Israel erected lines of fortification in both the Sinai and the Golan Heights. In 1971, Israel spent \$500 million fortifying its positions on the Suez Canal, a chain of fortifications and gigantic earthworks known as the **Bar Lev Line**, named after Israeli **General Chaim Bar-Lev**.



## **Background**

President **Gamal Abdel Nasser** of Egypt died in September 1970 and was succeeded by Anwar Sadat. In 1971, Sadat, in response to an initiative by UN intermediary Gunnar Jarring, declared that if Israel committed itself to "withdrawal of its armed forces from Sinai and the Gaza Strip", to "achievement of a just settlement for the refugee problem", to "the withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces from all the territories occupied since June 5, 1967", and to implementation of other provisions of **UN Security Council Resolution 242** as requested by Jarring, Egypt would then "be ready to enter into a peace agreement with Israel". Israel responded that it would not withdraw to the pre-June 5, 1967 lines.

Sadat hoped that by inflicting even a limited defeat on the Israelis, the status quo could be altered. Hafez al-Assad, the leader of Syria, had a different view. He had little interest in negotiation and felt the retaking of the Golan Heights would be a purely military option. After the Six-Day War, Assad had launched a massive military build-up and hoped to make Syria the dominant military power of the Arab states. With the aid of Egypt, Assad felt that his new army could win convincingly against Israel and thus secure Syria's role in the region. Assad only saw negotiations beginning once the Golan Heights had been retaken by force, which would induce Israel to give up the West Bank and Gaza, and make other concessions.

Sadat also had important domestic concerns in wanting war. *"The three years since Sadat had taken office ... were the most demoralized in Egyptian history. A desiccated economy added to the nation's despondency. War was a desperate option."* In his biography of Sadat, Raphael Israeli argued that Sadat felt the root of the problem was in the great shame over the Six-Day War, and before any reforms could be introduced he felt that shame had to be overcome. Egypt's economy was in shambles, but Sadat knew that the deep reforms that he felt were needed would be deeply unpopular among parts of the population. A military victory would give him the popularity he needed to make changes.

A portion of the Egyptian population, most prominently university students who launched wide protests, strongly desired a war to reclaim the Sinai and was highly upset that Sadat had not launched one in his first three years in office.

The other Arab states showed much more reluctance to fully commit to a new war. King Hussein of Jordan feared another major loss of territory as had occurred in the Six-Day War, in which Jordan lost all of the West Bank, territory it had conquered and annexed in 1948–49, which had doubled its population. Sadat was also backing the claim of the **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)** to the West Bank and Gaza and in the event of a victory promised Yasser Arafat that he would be given control of them. Hussein still saw the West Bank as part of Jordan and wanted it restored to his kingdom. Moreover, during the Black September crisis of 1970, a near civil war had broken out between the PLO and the Jordanian government. In that war, Syria had intervened militarily on the side of the PLO, estranging Hussein.

Iraq and Syria also had strained relations, and the Iraqis refused to join the initial offensive. Lebanon, which shared a border with Israel, was not expected to join the Arab war effort because of its small army and already evident instability. The months before the war saw Sadat engage in a diplomatic offensive to try to win support for the war. By the fall of 1973, he claimed the backing of more than a hundred states. These were most of the countries of the **Arab League, Non-Aligned Movement, and Organization of African Unity**. Sadat had also worked to curry favor in Europe and had some success before the war. Britain and France for the first time sided with the Arab powers against Israel on the United Nations Security Council.

### **Events leading up to the war**

Following Israel's rejection of Sadat's peace initiative, which had proposed a full Israeli withdrawal to the pre-67 borders in exchange for a non-belligerency pact, Sadat declared that Egypt was prepared to "sacrifice a million Egyptian soldiers" to recover its lost territory. From the end of 1972, Egypt began a concentrated effort to build up its forces, receiving MiG-21 jet fighters, SA-2, SA-3, SA-6 and SA-7 antiaircraft missiles, T-55 and T-62 tanks, RPG-7 antitank weapons, and the AT-3 Sagger anti-tank guided missile from the Soviet Union and improving its military tactics, based on

Soviet battlefield doctrines. Political generals, who had in large part been responsible for the rout in 1967, were replaced with competent ones.



The role of the superpowers, too, was a major factor in the outcome of the two wars. The policy of the Soviet Union was one of the causes of Egypt's military weakness. President Nasser was only able to obtain the materiel for an anti-aircraft missile defense wall after visiting Moscow and pleading with Kremlin leaders. He said that if supplies were not given, he would have to return to Egypt and tell the Egyptian people Moscow had abandoned them, and then relinquish power to one of his peers who would be able to deal with the Americans. The Americans would then have the upper hand in the region, which Moscow could not permit.



In an interview published in *Newsweek* (April 9, 1973), President Sadat again threatened war with Israel. Several times during 1973, Arab forces conducted large-scale exercises that put the Israeli military on the highest level of alert, only to be recalled a few days later. The Israeli leadership already believed that if an attack took place, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) could repel it.

Almost a full year before the war, in an October 24, 1972, meeting with his Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, Sadat declared his intention to go to war with Israel even without proper Soviet support. Planning had begun in 1971 and was conducted in absolute secrecy—even the upper-echelon commanders were not told of war plans until less than a week prior to the attack, and the soldiers were not told until a few hours beforehand. The plan to attack Israel in concert with Syria was code-named Operation Badr (Arabic for "full moon"), after the Battle of Badr, in which Muslims under Muhammad defeated the Quraish tribe of Mecca.

Please note that several events in this timeline differ significantly from the *actual* events of the time. For all practical purposes, this council shall be following the events as mentioned here.

Wherever any event or incident or data mentioned here is found to contradict with the actual events at the time, you will ignore the others and follow this timeline. Anything that's not mentioned in the Timeline, but has happened in the real world remains unaffected. You are *strongly* encouraged to do more research on the background and your country.

AUMUN

## ***Timeline of Events***

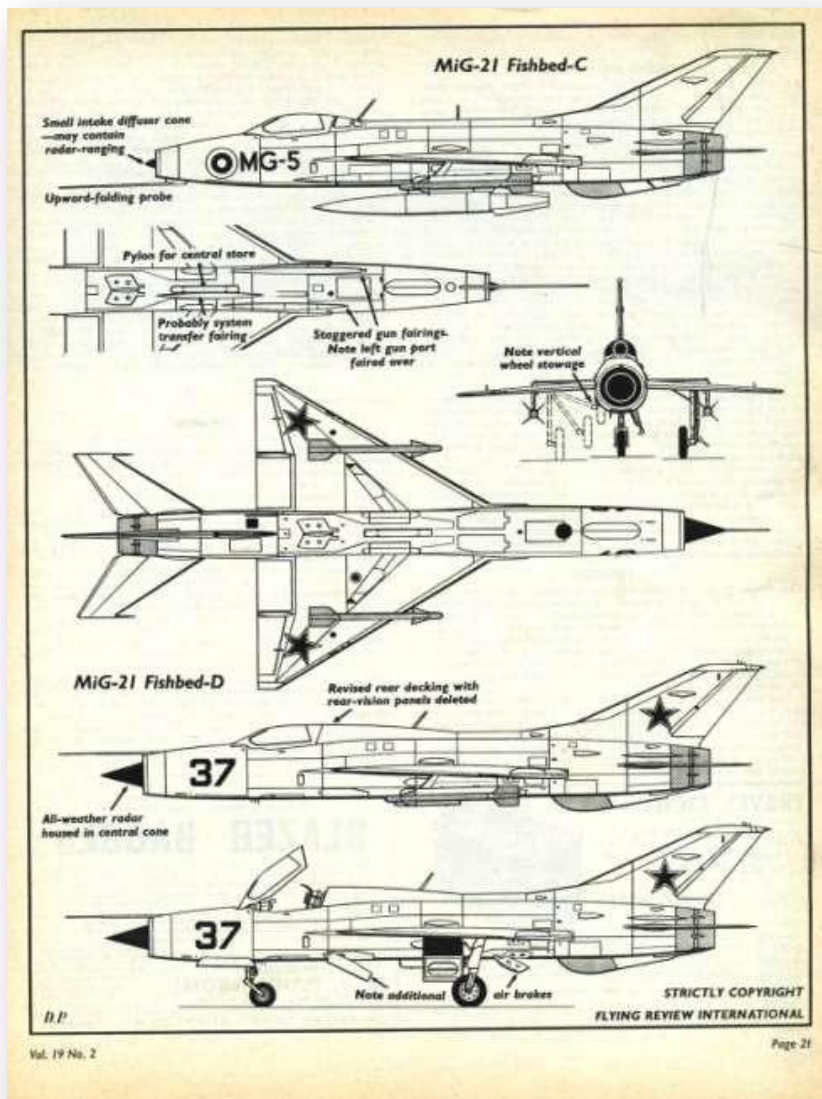
**14th March 1972:** The total strength of Indian Air Force 'instructors' in Iraq has now reached 260. Following the successes of the Indian Air Force against PAF F-104 Starfighter, Shenyang F-6 and F-86 Sabre's in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971, the Iraqi government approached India and signed an agreement to train its Air Force pilots flying the MIG-21s. IAF pilots were attached to every major Iraqi Air Force (IrAF) base and are also rumoured to be assisting their counterparts in IrAF in drafting operational doctrine and tactics. The reverses suffered by IrAF at the hands of the Israeli Air Force during the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 to American made aircrafts were

studied in detail by the Indians, who in turn trained their Iraqi counterparts to counter them. It is also believed that there are more Indian instructors in Iraq than Soviet instructors.

**1st July, 1972:** Following the footsteps of Iraq, the Syrian Air Force signs an agreement with the Indian Air Force (IAF) to help train its pilots in handling the MIG-21. Syrian, which is a close ally of the Soviet Union already, has hundreds of Soviet instructors training various branches of the Syrian armed forces. IAF is believed to send a team of 100 instructors experienced in flying the MIG-21 in the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.

**20th July, 1972:** In a surprise announcement, President Richard Nixon says that he will visit Beijing, China, before May 1972. The news, issued simultaneously in Beijing and the United States, stunned the world. Nixon reported that he was visiting in order "to seek normalization of relations between the two countries and to exchange views on questions of concern to both sides."

**21st – 28th May, 1972:** Nixon's visit was a profound success. The President toured the country and met with China's top officials, including leader Mao Zedong. Soon after the visit the two countries established formal diplomatic ties and began to negotiate trade agreements. The two nations had not had official diplomatic relations since Communist forces took control of China in 1948. In April, 1971 China invited the United States table tennis team to visit. After this event the Nixon trip was planned.



**7th October, 1972:** The first of the many shipments of Soviet made Surface-to-Air missile (SAM) systems begin arriving in Egypt. These include the advanced SA-2, SA-3, SA-6 and SA-7 batteries, command vehicles and radars. A large number of Soviet “technical” personnel have already arrived in Egypt earlier to help train the Egyptian forces in using these newly arriving SAM systems and to develop tactics to fool the enemy.



**11th November, 1972:** The first of the over 850 T-62 tanks ordered by the Egyptian army arrive along with associated spare parts and equipment's. News reports suggest that available Soviet trainers would train the Egyptians on the new tanks.

**21st December, 1972:** The first batch of the 600+ T-62 tanks ordered by Syria begins arriving in Syria. A new gunnery range is setup in Syria to train Syrian tank crews on the new tank.



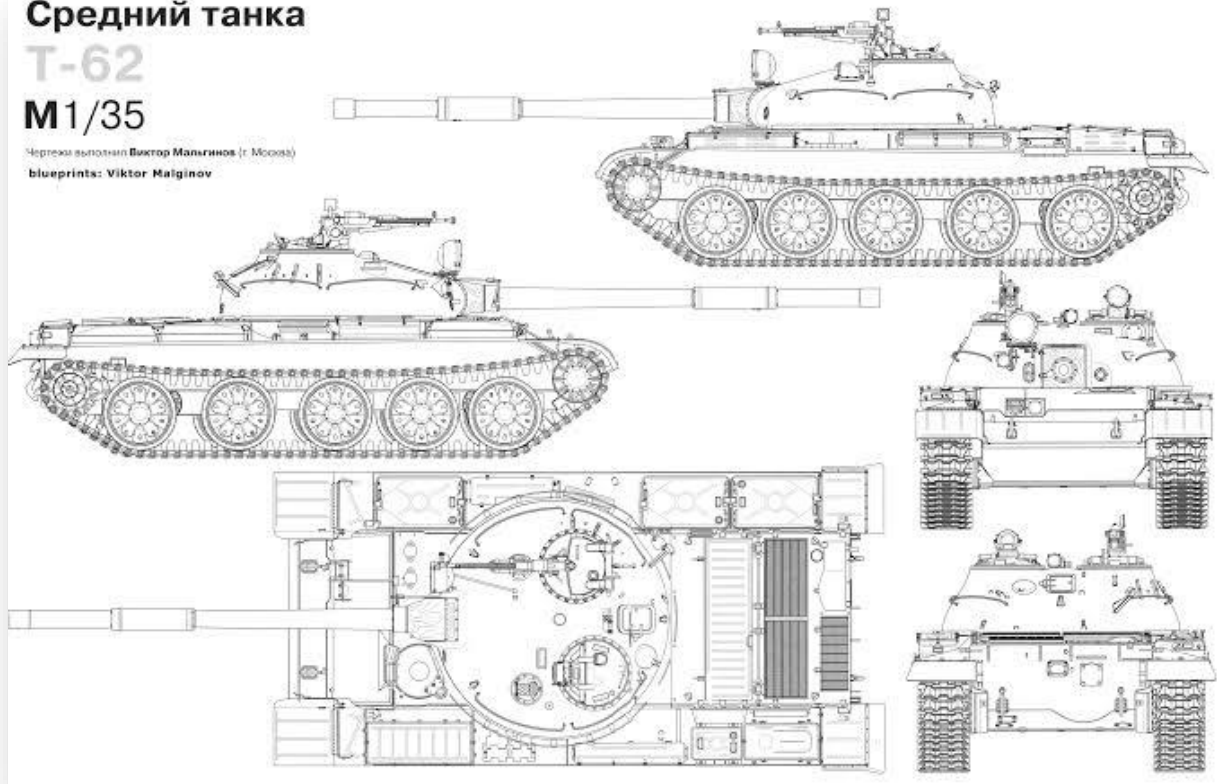
## Средний танка

### T-62

### M1/35

Чертежи выполнил Виктор Малигунов (г. Москва)

blueprints: Viktor Malginov



### T-62 Main Battle Tank

#### CHARACTERISTICS

Length: 30.6 feet with gun  
Width: 10.8 feet  
Height: 7.9 feet  
Weight: 44 tons  
Speed: 31 miles per hour  
Range: 279 miles  
403 miles with auxiliary tanks  
Crew: 4

#### ARMAMENT

Primary: 115-mm. gun  
Secondary: 12.7-mm. machine gun  
7.62-mm. machine gun



**23rd December, 1972:** The number of Soviet “instructors” in Egypt touches an impressive 20,000 personnel. The Soviets, news reports say, are involved in training all branches of the Egyptian army and are involved in developing new tactics for the Egyptian army. This has caused significant unrest in Israel and in the U.S. Top Pentagon officials are openly expressing their disgruntlement at Egypt’s “clear” tilt towards the Soviets.

**13th March, 1973:** US State Department officials are quoted off-record by a *New York Times* report that says, that in addition to **50 F-4E Phantoms** already supplied, Washington would sell Israel four squadrons of fighter-bombers, a mix of **A-4 Skyhawks** and improved F- 4Es with leading-edge manoeuvring slats, **TISEO** (target identification system, electro-optical), to be delivered by October - November. TISEO was a Northrop-built long-range television in a cylindrical extension from the Phantom's port wing, and was untested in air-to-air battle, although the principle-use of a zoom lens to guide ordnance visually-had planted bombs squarely in the centre of Hanoi's **Paul Doumer Bridge** in Vietnam under heavy fire.

**26th March, 1973:** President Anwar Sadat of Egypt today assumed the additional title of Prime Minister, State Radio reports. Sadat is believed to have formed a new government with a “permanent War committee” to assist in a possible confrontation with Israel.

**9th April, 1973:** In an interview to *Newsweek*, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat warned that he “...*would renew a war with Israel*” to “*take back from them what was unjustly stolen in 1967.*” The President also made it clear that Israel must honor the clauses of United Nations Resolution 242 or “*face consequences.*”

**13th May, 1973:** Egyptian forces initiate a massive, surprise military exercise near the Suez Canal. Nearly 300 tanks and armored personnel carriers and 10,000 soldiers backed by artillery support in the rear practiced ‘simulated ‘crossings of the Suez Canal, while nearly a hundred Egyptian Air force aircrafts provided overhead cover. The Egyptian infantry used dynamites to blow through a replica of the Bar-Lev line built on their side of the canal. Israeli forces immediately begin mobilizing to a possible threat of Egyptian invasion by calling up reserves.

**14th May, 1973:** Israel's military intelligence Agency – Aman has issued an internal warning that the Egyptian forces are “highly likely” to launch an attack against Israel to recapture the Suez Canal.

Historically, the NATO & Warsaw both believe that the other side might launch a surprise attack under the pretext of an exercise. Therefore the IAF & IDF move to full alert watching the surprise Egyptian practice canal crossings with great ‘interest.’ Aman's warning predicts that an attack can occur in 24 hours or less.

**2nd July, 1973:** President Anwar Sadat of Egypt meets with King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the latter 's capital Riyadh in a historic visit. According to local newspapers the leaders discussed improving ties and strengthening economic & military co- operation amongst the Middle East's most powerful countries. In an unprecedented move that caught many western observers unawares, both nations sign a 'Treaty of Mutual Friendship and Protection 'that allows either of the two nations to come to the others'aid - if requested- when under armed attack by another state. Under the terms of this new treaty, two of the most powerful Arab states are now united under a military defense pact that's valid for 10 years.

**18th July, 1973:** President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, announces the expulsion of Soviet military advisors from Egyptian territory, accusing the Soviets of the allegedly terminating the offensive armament supply. This serves as fertile land to open up diplomatic channels with the United States of America.



**4th August, 1973:** Egyptian forces begin a new set of “live-Fire” exercise ostensibly designed to cross the Suez Canal and attack Israeli forces fortified along the Bar-Lev Line. As before, this was a combined arms exercise featuring tanks, armoured personnel carriers and infantry backed by overhead Air support launching simulated attacks against mock targets. For the first time, the Egyptian navy vessels were also involved in the exercise, conducting simulated shore bombardment in support of the ground troops.

**7th September, 1973:** Despite intelligence warnings of an upcoming attack by Egypt and Syria, General Eli Zeira, pictured on the right, the head of Israel’s military intelligence, **Aman**, remains convinced that there is nothing to worry about.





**20th September, 1973:** The first consignment of Soviet made “Scud” missiles arrive in Egypt through ships at Port Alexandria. Called the “R-77” in the USSR and “Scud” by the NATO, they’re tactical ballistic missiles that can be fired from hundreds of kilometres away. Egypt has received the “Scud- B” variant that has a range of 300 kms with payload capacity of 985 kgs. This first consignment, news reports say, is already several months late than expected and the full delivery may not be completed by mid-next year.

**23rd September, 1973:** King Hussein Bin Talal of Jordan makes a surprise visit to both Cairo and Damascus late in the evening. The visit remained unannounced even after it was over. Neither the Jordanian State Radio nor Television made any mention of the visit either. Israel’s intelligence agencies are believed to be trying to gather information about the motive behind the visit.

**24th September, 1973:** A group of prominent Lebanese politicians visiting Moscow on a well- publicized goodwill visit were reportedly told by the Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko that the Soviets “...*would whole heartedly help the Arabs, but that doesn't mean we'll fight in their place*” the *New York Times* says.

**25th September, 1973:** King Hussein of Jordan secretly flies to Tel Aviv and meets with Israeli PM Golda Meir. He warns her that the Egyptians and Syrians are preparing to attack Israel “soon.” The meeting is kept secret and no Press agency will learn of it for a long time. What exactly transpired between the two leaders remains unknown.

**27th September, 1973:** Two batches of Egyptian reservists – numbering round 20,000 men are called up to participate in a new exercise, slated to begin in day or two. The exercise - the third this year - is expected to be on similar lines as those of the past, with Egyptian forces trying to storm replicas of the Bar-Lev line using dynamites and backed by artillery and air support.

**29th September, 1973:** The first consignment of Scud – B and C variants arrive in the Syrian port of Tartus. Syria ordered improved versions of the Scud's to have the ability to hit distant “enemy” targets and cities without exposing its own Air Force aircrafts to enemy fighters and ground fire. The “Scud-C” variant is rumoured to have an estimated range of 550 kilometres – which is nearly double that of the Egyptian Scud-B's. But this extra range comes at the cost of reduced payload and reduced accuracy.

**30th September, 1973:** Egypt begins yet another planned military exercise involving all three branches of its army. The exercise, the largest of its kind in recent years would involve atleast 70,000 ground troops backed by thousands of personnel from the other 2 branches. Recently, Egypt mobilised about 20,000 of its reservists to participate in this exercise. However, there have been reports that several soldiers and officers were

upset about the timing of the exercises, which coincides with their annual pilgrimage to Mecca. As was the case in all previous exercises, Soviet technicians and Staff officers are assisting and monitoring the Egyptian exercises to provide feedback.

**1st October, 1973:** The Minister of Defense of the Soviet Union, Andrei Greckho visits the Syrian port of Tartus, where a large flotilla of Soviet naval ships under the Black Sea fleet is based. The minister interacted with Soviet personnel at the base and is expected to then leave for a visit to Chad and Angola. The Soviet Black sea fleet also has subsidiary berthing facilities at Port Said and Port Alexandria in Egypt and at Annaba in Algeria. The Black Sea fleet at present contains a total of 15-20 surface combatants and about 20 submarines, along with naval aircrafts for defense. The bases however, have the capacity to *surge* its capacity to about 60 surface combatants and 35 submarines, in times of conflict. This will be an overwhelming force versus the US 6th Fleet's modest and usual complement of 40 ships that includes 2 aircraft carriers, submarines and amphibious landing ships.





**2nd October, 1973:** A senior White House spokesperson announces that President Nixon will be visiting South Vietnam shortly to oversee the withdrawal of the last of the American troops. The visit is expected to finalize deals on the provision of “substantial” economic & military aid to South Vietnam to deal with the insurgency post withdrawal.



STR, AFP, Getty Images

**3rd October, 1973:** U.S Vice President **Spiro Theodore Agnew** has announced his resignation after being charged with having accepted bribes totaling more than \$100,000 while holding office as Baltimore County Executive, Governor of Maryland, and Vice President of the United States. Agnew was earlier investigated by the **United States Attorney's office for the District of Maryland**, on charges of extortion, tax fraud, bribery, and conspiracy.

**Same Day:** A spokesperson for the White House has announced President Nixon has accepted Vice President Agnew's resignation from office. He added that the President will be signing the order appointing current House Minority Leader **Gerald Ford** to the office of Vice President shortly.



**Later, the same Day:** The Soviets reportedly launch a **Zenit-2M** reconnaissance satellite on board a **Voskhod 11A57 Rocket**. The Zenit-2M is an improved version of the legacy Zenit series of “spy satellites” and is rumored to have a high-resolution imaging camera to photograph sensitive military installations and units.

**4th October, 1973:** President Richard M. Nixon made his ninth visit to South Vietnam but his second as president. His earlier visit was in July 1969. Nixon met in Saigon with South Vietnam ‘s President *Nguyen Van Thieu* to discuss the completion of U.S. troop withdrawals. He also met with senior U.S. military commanders to review the withdrawal schedules, emphasizing his continuing *Vietnamization* policies, which he wanted the press to label “The Nixon Doctrine”. During the visit, Nixon is expected to visit several former bases and monuments located at the site of fierce battles.

**4th October, 1973:** Egyptian Television and Radio reports that the 20,000 reservists who were earlier mobilized for a live-fire exercise have now been demobilized. The news report also mentions that several officers and soldiers, who have applied for leave but are not part of the ongoing training exercises, would be allowed to perform the *Umrah* (pilgrimage) to Mecca. Officer trainee cadets in Military colleges too, would be given leave to join their family for pilgrimage or prayers and have been asked to report for training only after October 9th.

**Same Day: *Radio Damascus*** has announced that President Assad would begin a 9-day tour of the country ‘s eastern provinces starting October 10th.

**5th October, 1973:** Ashraf Marwan, an Egyptian spy known to his Israeli handler as 'The Source', warns Israel's intelligence chief, Zvi Zamir that a joint Egyptian-Syrian attack will begin at 6pm the next day. Marwan is the son-in-law of Egypt's former president, Gamal Abdul Nasser, pictured on the left, and information secretary to the current Egyptian president, Anwar Sadat.

**Same Day:** Israel's foreign intelligence agency, the Mossad receives reports of 3 Soviet **Antonov An- 22** transport aircrafts landing at the Damascus International Airport in Syria. These aircrafts with a maximum payload capacity of 80 tonnes are one of the world's largest turbo-prop aircrafts and are rumored to be carrying sophisticated military hardware for the Syrians. While it is common to ship military hardware through ships – which is also cheaper – the Israeli intelligence agencies are wondering why an airlift was required.

**Later that same day:** The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) of the US on behalf of the Department of Defense (DoD), launched the sixth **KH-9 satellite** called "**KH-9-6**" on board a **Titan IIID rocket**. The satellite which was due to be launched back in July had some last-minute technical glitches that required correcting, before launch. The KH series of "spy" satellites are known to take high quality and high-resolution from hundreds of miles up in the sky.

**6th October, 1973:** At 8 am on the morning of October 6, instead of attending Yom Kippur prayers, the Israeli cabinet meets in an emergency session, to discuss the recent news of an imminent Arab attack. David "Dado" Elazar, the Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, demands a full mobilization of all reservists and a "pre-emptive" airstrike using the Israel's Air Force, followed by a ground attack. The cabinet however, declines permission for any pre-emptive strike on the grounds that after the Six-Day war, if Israel was to win international support, they must be seen as the victim and not the aggressor. They however decide to mobilize a limited number reservists for reinforcing defensive positions.

**Later that Day:** Egypt and Syria launch an all-out war against Israel with the aim of liberating the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights, territories that were occupied by Israel six years earlier during the Six Day War. Two-hundred-and-twenty Egyptian air force jets cross the Suez Canal heading for Sinai. They are followed by Five Divisions of Egyptian infantry numbering over 100,000 men, supported by 1350 tanks and 2,000 artillery pieces. The Bar-Lev line and its defensive fortifications are believed to have been breached successfully. Israeli Air Force fighters that attempted to halt the offensive are believed to have taken severe hits. Egyptian engineers successfully use water cannons to breach the massive sand ramparts that make the Bar-Lev Line. Three major Israeli airfields at Refidim, Bir Tamada and Ophir are believed to be put out of actions by the Egyptian Air Force.



At the same time, in the Golan Heights to Israel's north, three Syrian infantry divisions cross the ceasefire line, known as the Purple Line, established after the 1967 war. More than a 100 Syrian aircraft and artillery are believed to have pummeled Israeli defenses for over an hour. Over 30,000 Syrian Infantry backed by 1400 tanks and 600 artillery pieces are believed to be attacking the Israeli Defenders numbering 3,000 troops & 180 tanks. Attempts by the IAF to attack the invading force were met with a heavy counter-attack by Syrian SAM batteries.





**7th October, 1973:** An **Egyptian military communiqué** has stated the Canal is now almost entirely under their control. **Damascus Radio** says Syrian forces on the northern frontier have captured Israeli positions on the Golan Heights, notably Mount Hermon. But the claims are being countered by the Israelis, who say the situation in the border region remains "adequate".

British Foreign Office officials say there is a risk neighbouring countries may become involved. Algeria, Libya, Kuwait, Jordan and the Lebanon have all pledged their support for the Arab offensive.

**Same Day:** With the situation in the Middle East highly unstable, and with both the superpowers privately un reluctant to raise the issue in the UN, The United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the UN, **Sir David Hildyard** has requested an emergency meeting of the UNSC on the grounds that the latest crisis presents a breach of Peace and a threat to world peace.

**Freeze date: 8<sup>th</sup> October 1973**

The logo for AUMUN (AU Model United Nations) is centered on the page. It features a light blue circular emblem with a gear-like border and a central design. Below the emblem, the word "AUMUN" is written in a large, bold, light blue sans-serif font, underlined.

## **Acknowledgements:**

**Mr. Kirish Raj,**  
(for permitting us to reproduce one of his documents.)

