

TRANSFORMERS

"Megatron's Master Plan" - (PART ONE)

(MP#700-34)

(SCRIPT)

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TRANSFORMERS  
"Megatrons's Master Plan" - (PART ONE)  
(MP#700-34)

CAST (SPEAKING PARTS)

AUTOBOTS:

OPTIMUS PRIME  
BUMBLEBEE  
IRONHIDE  
SUNSTREAKER  
CLIFFJUMPER  
WARPATH  
TRACKS  
SMOKE SCREEN

DECEPTICONS:

MEGATRON  
STARSCREAM  
DIRGE  
THRUST  
RAMJET  
SOUNDWAVE  
RAVAGE  
LASERBEAK

HUMANS:

SPIKE  
SHAWN BERGER -- a hefty, middle-aged, commanding "Edward Arnold"  
type  
MAYOR -- middle-aged, dignified  
TV DIRECTOR -- scared company man  
REPORTER -- young, professional Oriental woman  
BLUE-COLLAR WORKER -- gruff, common  
GUARD -- (typical)  
SOLDIER -- (typical)  
MAN IN CROWD -- gruff, common  
TEENAGE GIRL -- typical  
CROWD/SPECTATORS -- (ad-libs only)

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. THE DESERT - CROWD OF PEOPLE - DAY

The CAMERA PANS across a group of people including a TV CAMERA CREW and various APPLAUDING (SFX) SPECTATORS, then STOPS on the MAYOR, a middle-aged, dignified man standing on a platform with a microphone. Behind them all is a new solar-power plant. The area is decorated with streamers, balloons, etc.

CLOSER - THE MAYOR

Smiling, he raises his hands. The APPLAUSE STOPS.

MAYOR  
(amplified voice)  
Ladies and gentlemen. As your  
mayor, it gives me great honor  
to officially open this new  
solar-energy plant...

CUT TO:

INT. BERGER'S OFFICE - CLOSE ON TV SCREEN WITH MAYOR'S IMAGE

MAYOR  
(natural voice)  
--which has been made possible  
through the generosity of the  
well-known Mr. Shawn Berger.

The Mayor's image is on a huge TV screen. The CAMERA PULLS BACK to show that the screen is on the wall of a lavishly furnished office, and flanked by two armed GUARDS wearing paramilitary type uniforms. SHAWN BERGER, seen only from behind, sits at his huge desk, looking toward the screen.

LOW ANGLE - SHAWN BERGER

Berger is a big, "Edward Arnold" type middle-aged man, a truly imposing and authoritative figure. His phone is off its hook. He strokes his chin as he watches the o.s. screen, and smiles, almost cruelly. (Subtly ESTABLISH on the desk a CASSETTE, actually the LASERBEAK TRANSFORM.)

MAYOR (VO)  
 (voice trailing off)  
 Thanks to Mr. Berger, our  
 community will now have power as  
 long as the sun shines...

BERGER  
 (overlapping the Mayor)  
 I certainly spared no expense  
 --but not for any solar plant.

WIDE SHOT - BERGER, GUARDS AND MAYOR'S TV-SCREEN IMAGE

BERGER  
 When my trap is sprung, I'll be  
 the hero of the day... and that  
 stupid mayor will be just one more  
 of my flunkies! (LAUGHS)

As Berger speaks, he sits back in his big chair. The CAMERA PANS, passing the two Guards, who react with noticeable fear of the man, and PUSHES IN on the mayor's TV-screen image.

BACK TO THE SOLAR PLANT - WIDE ON MAYOR, TV CREW & SPECTATORS

MAYOR  
 And now, I declare this facility  
 to be ...

As he speaks, we hear the SOUND of APPROACHING FIGHTER JETS. Everyone reacts to the sky. The CAMERA PANS UP to show four jets -- DIRGE, RAMJET, THRUST and, leading them, STARSCREAM -- ZOOMING toward the plant.

STARSCREAM (VO)  
 (amplified voice)  
 --property of the Decepticons!!

INT. OFFICE - ON BERGER - WIDE SHOT

BERGER  
 I knew they'd take the bait!

Berger, seen from across his desk, reacts with delight. He picks up his telephone receiver and speaks into it.

BERGER (CONT)  
 Get ready! They're on the way!

EXT. LONG SHOT - HIGH ANGLE - MAYOR, TV CREW & SPECTATORS

They all react with terror to the sky and scatter, as --

MAYOR  
Decepticon jets! Run!

LOW ANGLE - THRUST

THRUST (VO)  
Let's throw a little fear into  
these Earth germs!

The CAMERA PANS as he ZOOMS through the sky, arcing downward,  
then ROARS INTO CAMERA!

WIDE ON SPECTATORS

They run in terror, as Thrust ZOOMS THROUGH FRAME, flying over  
them.

ON RAMJET .

The CAMERA PANS as he ZOOMS down, then HOLDS on some solar  
panels. The jet CRASHES through them, then keeps flying OUT OF  
FRAME.

WIDE ON STARSCREAM

He flies down and TRANSFORMS to robot mode, then looks up toward  
the o.s. Decepticon jets.

STARSCREAM  
Our orders are only to steal  
energy!

CLOSER - STARSCREAM

He produces an empty ENERAGON cube from his chest.

STARSCREAM (CONT)  
Proceed with filling Eneragon  
cubes!

WIDE ON THRUST, RAMJET AND DIRGE

The CAMERA PANS as each jet ZOOMS down and TRANSFORMS to robot  
mode.

ANGLE - DIRGE

He produces an ENERAGON CUBE from his chest and walks toward one  
solar panel.

CLOSER - DIRGE

He holds out the Eneragon cube, but no energy enters it. He  
reacts with worry.

The CAMERA PULLS BACK to show him FRAMED by the TV screen.

DIRGE  
(worried)  
Starscream! There's no solar  
energy here

BERGER (VO)  
Now -- attack!

ON STARSCREAM

STARSCREAM  
We've been tricked!

Holding his Energon cube, he reacts with realization. The CAMERA PANS FAST to show the walls of the plant falling down (as if the whole facility is a pre-fab prop). Out roll three slightly futuristic tanks armed with cannons that shoot LASER at the o.s. Decepticons. (The tanks have clear "bubbles" through which we see them manned by more of Berger's uniformed SOLDIERS.)

WIDE - STARSCREAM AND THE OTHER DECEPTICONS

The LASERS ZAP INTO FRAME, EXPLODING the Energon cubes in the Decepticons' hands.

WIDE ON MAYOR AND TV CREW

The crew keeps the cameras trained on the o.s. action.

MAYOR  
That Berger! He's taken the law  
into his own hands again!

CLOSER - HE MAYOR AND CREW

The Mayor grabs a radio microphone and looks at the TV DIRECTOR.

MAYOR  
Can this put me through to the  
Autobots?!

FLIP TO:

EXT. WIDE SHOT - AUTOBOT CONVOY - DAY (PAN BG)

A convoy of Autobots, led by OPTIMUS PRIME, speeds across the desert. Included are IRONHIDE, WARPETH, BUMBLEBEE (with SPIKE riding inside), TRACKS and SMOKE SCREEN.

OPTIMUS PRIME (VO)  
We're already on our way, ~~Mayor~~,  
thanks to **Teletraan I's** sensors!

ON IRONHIDE (PANNING BG)

IRONHIDE (VO)  
I'm ready to bend some Decepticon  
metal!

The CAMERA PANS from Ironhide to WARPETH speeding along.

WARPETH (VO)  
Hah! I can probably junk all four  
of 'em by myself!

ON BUMBLEBEE AND SPIKE (PANNING BG)

SPIKE  
Listen to Warpath, Bumblebee!

BUMBLEBEE  
Some guys just never learn, Spike.  
It's teamwork that beats  
Decepticons!

FLIP TO:

WIDE SHOT - ON THREE TANKS

They keep shooting LASERS at the o.s. Decepticons.

ANGLE ON DECEPTICONS - FAVOR STARScream

They shrug off the LASERS that ZAP off their hides. Then  
Starscream shoots his NULL-RAY at the o.s. tanks.

STARScream  
Let's see those "toys" work with  
a dose of my Null-Ray!

WIDE ON TANKS - HIGH ANGLE

The NULL-RAY ZAPS the tanks, short-circuiting them with  
ELECTRICAL SFX. The bubbles open, and the soldiers jump out to  
safety, as --

SOLDIER  
Hit the deck! They're gonna --

-- the tanks EXPLODE, pieces of debris flying in all directions!

ON THE CAMERA CREW AND MAYOR

Shooting the o.s. action, the crew ducks, as debris from the EXPLODING TANKS flies INTO FRAME. From o.s. comes the sound of APPROACHING AUTOS. The Mayor reacts with a smile to o.s., as the TV crew swing around their cameras. The CAMERA PANS to show the Autobot convoy SPEEDING INTO CAMERA.

MAYOR (VO)  
(relieved)  
It's the Autobots!

INT. BERGER'S OFFICE

Berger watches the Autobots on his big screen.

BERGER (VO)  
The Autobots! Why'd they have  
to interfere?!

CLOSER - OPTIMUS PRIME AND OTHER AUTOBOTS

Optimus Prime SCREECHES to a halt, then TRANSFORMS to robot mode.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Not an astro-second too soon!  
Autobots...transform!

ON IRONHIDE AND WARPATH

They TRANSFORM to robot mode and stand ready for action. The CAMERA PANS to show Smokescreen, Bumblebee (Spike stands beside him) and Tracks. All except Tracks TRANSFORM to robot mode.

TRACKS (VO)  
No offense, Prime -- but I'll stay  
in auto mode!

ANGLE - STARSCREAM

The CAMERA PANS from Starscream, to show Dirge, Thrust and Ramjet TRANSFORM to jet-fighter mode and ZOOM off o.s.

ANGLE - TRACKS

TRACKS (CONT-VO)  
'Cause if I transformed, I  
couldn't do this!

Wings extend under his rear fenders (ELECTRONIC SFX) and he takes off in sub-sonic flight.



LOW ANGLE - CLOSER ON TRACKS (PANNING BG)

TRACKS (CONT-VO)  
Now, to throw some "dark" on the  
subject ... !

He shoots his BLACK BEAM GUN o.s.

WIDE SHOT - DIRGE (PANNING)

The BLACK BEAM shoots INTO FRAME, almost covering Dirge. Unable to see, Dirge's flight becomes erratic, as he banks back TOWARD CAMERA.

DIRGE (VO)  
(getting scared)  
What happened?! I c-can't see!

WIDE SHOT - RAMJET

RAMJET (VO)  
Don't panic, Dirge! I'll bail  
you out!

The CAMERA PANS as he banks, then ZOOMS TOWARD CAMERA.

WIDE SHOT - TRACKS (PANNING)

Ramjet ZOOMS INTO FRAME behind Tracks, then COLLIDES with him (SFX: METALLIC CLANG), knocking him down and OUT OF FRAME.

HIGH ANGLE - TRACKS

He makes a mid-descent TRANSFORMATION to robot mode, then lands hard (SFX: METALLIC THUD) on his feet.

ANGLE ON IRONHIDE

IRONHIDE  
Blast Starscream -- while he's  
still grounded!

Ironhide fires streams of MOLTEN ORE. The CAMERA PANS as Smokescreen shoots his ELECTRO-DISRUPTOR RIFLE and Warpath his SONIC SHELLS.

ON STARSCREAM

He is struck by the barrage of MOLTEN ORE, ELECTRO-DISRUPTOR BLASTS and SONIC SHELLS, and starts to weaken.

STARSCREAM (VO)  
(groaning/weakening)  
Thrust -- I require --  
assistance!!

WIDE ANGLE - THRUST

THRUST  
And you're gonna get the best,  
Starscream!

He ZOOMS TOWARD CAMERA and FIRES his MISSILES.

TWO SHOT - BUMBLEBEE AND SPIKE

Bumblebee shields Spike with his body, as the missiles ZOOM down  
and EXPLODE dangerously close.

ON IRONHIDE, WARPETH AND SMOKESCREEN

The MISSILES EXPLODE around them and off their hides. The three  
Autobots start to drop.

SMOKESCREEN  
What was that...about fighting  
them all...yourself, Warpath?!

ANGLE - OPTIMUS PRIME

OPTIMUS PRIME  
I'll bring that braggart down!

He raises his gun and shoots LASERS into the sky.

LOW ANGLE - THRUST

CAMERA PANS as he doubles his speed, evading Prime's LASERS.

THRUST  
Not if I double my speed, you  
won't!  
(LAUGHS almost insanely)

ANGLE - SMOKESCREEN

He shoots MISSILES. The CAMERA TILTS as they EXPLODE against  
Thrust.

ANGLE ON THRUST (PANNING)

THRUST (VO)  
S-scrambled m-my g-guidance  
system!

His flight gets wobbly, arcing downward.

ON STARSCREAM

STARSCREAM  
No use staying here and risking  
destruction! Retreat! Retreat!

He TRANSFORMS to jet mode. The CAMERA TILTS as he ZOOMS o.s.

WIDE SHOT - THRUST, DIRGE AND RAMJET

They come together in formation, bank, then ZOOM off after the  
o.s. Starscream OUT OF FRAME.

ON OPTIMUS PRIME - HIGH ANGLE

He rushes TOWARD CAMERA, then stops, FIRING his LASER gun after  
the o.s. Decepticons.

WIDE ANGLE - FOUR DECEPTICON JETS - OPTIMUS PRIME'S POV

They fly off, the LASERS ZAPPING INTO FRAME, into the clouds.

ON SPIKE AND BUMBLEBEE

They stand next to each other, Bumblebee dusting off his hands.

BUMBLEBEE  
Well, looks like, uh, "we" showed  
them, Spike!

MAYOR (VO)  
You also showed us and everybody  
watching at home, Bumblebee!

They turn and react with a start. From o.s. comes APPLAUSE.  
CAMERA PANS to a WIDE SHOT of the Mayor, TV crew and CLAPPING  
spectators all smiling.

SPECTATORS  
(ad-lib CHEERS, SHOUTS, "Yayyy,  
Autobots!" "Way to go,  
Autobots!", etc.)

WIDE - AUTOBOTS AND SPIKE

All coming together, reacting to the o.s. CHEERS and CLAPS.

IRONHIDE  
Hey, y'know, I think that's for  
us!

TRACKS

Who else, old-timer?

WIDE SHOT - AUTOBOTS, SPIKE, MAYOR, CREW AND SPECTATORS

The APPLAUSE DIES DOWN. The Mayor offers his hand to Optimus.

MAYOR

Optimus Prime, I want to honor  
all the Autobots at City Hall!

ON SPIKE AND BUMBLEBEE

Spike beams proudly and nudges Bumblebee.

SPIKE

Oh, Wow! If you ask me, Your  
Honor -- it's about time!

CLOSER - OPTIMUS PRIME, MAYOR, OTHERS

Optimus gently grasps the Mayor's hand, as CAMERA PUSHES IN.

MATCH CUT TO:

BERGER'S TV SCREEN - GUARDS

The screen shows Optimus and the Mayor shaking hands. The guards stand on either side. Berger's hand ENTERS FRAME in the f.g. and CLICKS a remote control. The screen goes BLANK.

BERGER (VO)

(angrily)

Those do-gooder robots spoiled  
everything!

ANGLE ON BERGER

He sits at his desk, brooding. He puts down the remote-control and waves for his o.s. guards to go away.

BERGER

Get out! I want to think!

WIDE SHOT - GUARDS AND BLANK SCREEN

GUARD

Yes, Mr. Berger, Sir!

They walk with military precision away from the big screen and out of the door, which slides shut behind them.

ON BERGER - MEDIUM SHOT

BERGER  
(to himself)  
I'd have come out looking luke  
a hero, if those Autobots hadn't  
--

He reacts to the cassette on his desk.

CLOSE ON CASSETTE - BERGER'S POV

BERGER (CONT-VO)  
I don't remember putting this  
here!

He reaches INTO FRAME and picks up the cassette.

ANGLE - BERGER

He reacts with a start, as the cassette flies out of his hand  
and TRANSFORMS to a hovering LASERBEAK.

BERGER  
(incredulously)  
What -- ?!

LASERBEAK  
(Condor's SHRIEK)

WIDE ON BERGER

BERGER  
K-keep ... away from m-me!!

He gets up from the desk, then turns and runs AWAY FROM CAMERA.  
Laserbeak flies INTO FRAME and grabs Berger's coat collar.

REVERSE ANGLE - BERGER AND LASERBEAK

Laserbeak, clutching the terrified Berger's collar, lifts him  
off the floor and flies with him TOWARD CAMERA, as --

BERGER  
(terrified)  
P-put me down! Or, I'll call my  
g-- !

CLOSE SHOT - LASERBEAK (PAN BG)

He fires LASERS from his eyes at the o.s. office window.

EXT. BUILDING

The window is BLASTED by the LASERS. Laserbeak flies outside carrying the scared and helpless Berger. The CAMERA PANS with them as they continue up and away into the sky.

FLIP TO:

EXT. PANORAMIC SHOT - THE CITY - SUNSET

The big city, as seen from a hilltop, as the sun sets behind the tall buildings. In the background, flying rapidly TOWARD CAMERA, is Laserbeak carrying Berger.

LASERBEAK  
(Condor's SHRIEK)

CLOSER - LOW ANGLE - LASERBEAK AND BERGER

Laserbeak descends, then lets go of Berger, who drops about ten feet. Laserbeak flies OUT OF FRAME.

WIDE SHOT - HIGH ANGLE - BERGER

He lands, safe but hard. After a BEAT, Berger regains his composure and looks up with a broad TAKE reaction -- as three giant Decepticon-robot shadows ENTER FRAME and fall upon him.

BERGER  
Oh ... m-my ... g-gosh ... !

MEGATRON (VO)  
(trying to sound  
cordial)  
Greetings, Mr. Berger. I trust  
your flight wasn't too unpleasant.

LOW ANGLE - MEGATRON, SOUNDWAVE AND DIRGE - BERGER'S POV

MEGATRON (CONT)  
Perhaps you recognize me. I am  
Megatron, leader of the  
Decepticons!

HIGH ANGL - BERGER - MEGATRON'S POV

Berger steps backwards in terror, putting his hands up imploringly, the CAMERA TRACKING BACK with him, as --

BERGER  
(scared)  
Pl-please ... Don't hurt me!

MEGATRON (VO)  
Hurt you, Mr. Berger? And why  
should I want to do that?

LOW ANGLE - HILLSIDE - BERGER

He keeps walking backwards, as Megatron stalks INTO FRAME toward him. Berger reacts to the edge of the cliff and stops walking, just inches away from falling off.

MEGATRON  
Ah, yes<sup>m</sup>, even a man of your  
stature has been taken in by those  
lying Autobots!

ON BERGER - MEGATRON'S POV

His back to the city below, Berger looks up curiously at the o.s. Megatron. Behind him, the sky grows DARKER, as the sun sets behind the horizon. The city lights begin to go on, one area after another.

BERGER  
(puzzled)  
What?! But everyone knows that  
the Autobots have been protecting  
the Earth -- from you Decepticons!

ANGLE ON MEGATRON

He stops and looks off--

MEGATRON  
That's what the Autobots have made  
everyone believe, when actually..

CLOSE ON MEGATRON

He turns toward the o.s. Berger and feigns sincerity.

MEGATRON (CONT)  
--it is we Decepticons who strive  
to protect your world-- from the  
Autobots!

WIDE SHO - BERGER AND MEGATRON

Berger now looks more curious than afraid. Megatron holds out his hand and leads Berger aside, to get a better look at the city down below, as --

MEGATRON

If I show you proof, perhaps you would use your power, wealth and influence to help get rid of the evil Autobots.

WIDE SHOT - THE CITY - NIGHT

Megatron's hand reaches INTO FRAME over the lighted city.

MEGATRON (VO)

As a reward for your cooperation, great cities -- such as this -- would be yours to command.

CLOSE - BERGER

MEGATRON (VO)

(very persuasively)

Well, Mr. Berger -- Will you help us?

Berger stares ahead at the o.s. city, considering the proposition and succumbing. Slowly he looks up at the o.s. Megatron.

BERGER

If you show me proof.

WIDE SHOT - MEGATRON AND BERGER

Megatron leads Berger away from the hillside.

MEGATRON

You shall have it. Dirge transform...

The CAMERA PANS to Dirge, who TRANSFORMS to jet mode. He opens his cockpit canopy. (SFX: ELECTRONIC WHINE)

MEGATRON (CONT-VO)

--and take our friend home.

CLOSER - DIRGE

Berger steps INTO FRAME and climbs into the cockpit, as --

BERGER

I'd rather take one of my own jets...

ON MEGATRON AND SOUNDWAVE

Megatron walks up to Soundwave. (SFX: JET ENGINE REVVING UP)



WIDE SHOT - MEGATRON, SOUNDWAVE, DIRGE & BERGER

Dirge ZOOMS off into the sky AWAY FROM CAMERA as Megatron and Soundwave watch them go.

MEGATRON  
The pompous, unsuspecting,  
power-crazed fool!

TWO SHOT - MEGATRON AND SOUNDWAVE

Megatron raises a clenched fist, which CRACKLES with ELECTRICAL power, and smiles evilly, as

MEGATRON  
Not even Berger suspects the  
master plan I have in store for  
the Autobots!

EXT. LONG SHOT - LOW ANGLE - HELICOPTER - DAY

A large helicopter (APPROPRIATE SFX to CONTINUE THROUGHOUT SEQUENCE) flies INTO SCENE and hovers. On the side, we see the words: "BERGER, INC."

INT. HELICOPTER - BERGER AND PILOT

Berger points toward something down below, getting the pilot's attention.

BERGER  
(shouting over  
HELICOPTER SFX)  
There's the spot Meg -- uh, I was  
tipped off about!

CLOSER - BERGER

As he speaks, he reacts with a start to o.s. below, then motions with his hands toward the back of the helicopter.

BERGER  
(incredulously)  
Holy -- ! Get those cameras  
rolling! Use telephoto!

TV-CAMERA CREW

In the back section of the helicopter, they rush to the windows and aim their cameras toward the ground.

HIGH ANGLE - OIL FIELD - AUTOBOTS - BERGER'S POV

Down below, Optimus Prime, Ironhide, WHEELJACK, and SUNSTREAKER walk up to the big oil derricks.

ON THE GROUND - AUTOBOTS

SHOT FAVORS Optimus Prime. He takes a few steps, then looks around at the oil derricks

OPTIMUS PRIME  
The work crew isn't here yet.  
That gives us plenty of time--

WIDE SHOT - IRONHIDE, WHEELJACK & SUNSTREAKER

Each one holds an empty Energon cube.

OPTIMUS PRIME (VO)  
--to drain this oil field dry!

Optimus Prime ENTERS SHOT and takes an energon cube from one of them.

ANGLE - OPTIMUS PRIME

OPTIMUS PRIME  
(evil LAUGHTER)

He steps up to an oil derrick and holds out the Energon cube. Energy WHIZZES from the derrick and fills the cube. The CAMERA PUSHES IN on the energy-filled Energon cube, as we

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. AUTOBOTS AT OIL FIELD - DAY

The CAMERA PANS as energy WHIZZES from the derricks filling the Energon cubes held by Ironhide, Wheeljack and Sunstreaker, then STOPS as Optimus Prime holds out his energy-filled Energon cube.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Another raid to blame on the  
Decepticons! (LAUGHS)

LOW ANGLE - BERGER'S HELICOPTER

(HELICOPTER SFX to CONTINUE THROUGHOUT SEQUENCE) The CAMERA PUSHES IN as the helicopter hovers.

INT. HELICOPTER - ON BERGER

Watching the o.s. Autobots incredulously.

BERGER  
The Autobots stealing energy?!  
Megatron was right!

CAMERA CREW IN HELICOPTER

The startled crew keeps shooting the action down below.

BERGER (CONT-VO)  
Keep filming!!

ANGLE - IRONHIDE AND HELICOPTER

Ironhide sets down an energy-filled Energon cube and looks up toward the hovering helicopter.

IRONHIDE  
We got pests, Optimus. Want me  
to swat 'em?!

As he talks, Ironhide turns. The CAMERA PANS to a MEDIUM SHOT of Prime, who grins and aims his raygun at the o.s. helicopter.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
And deprive me of the pleasure,  
Ironhide?!  
(sinister LAUGHTER)  
No way!

He SHOOTS LASERS toward the sky.

WIDE SHOT - LOW ANGLE - HELICOPTER

The RAYS create EXPLOSIONS near the helicopter, which flies off OUT OF FRAME.

INT. HELICOPTER - BERGER AND PILOT

BERGER  
They'll never let us get away  
knowing what we know!

The chopper is SHAKING, as they react with terror.

CLOSER - BERGER

He reacts with a start to o.s., suddenly smiling.

BERGER  
Wait -- maybe we still have a  
chance -- !

WIDE SHOT - DECEPTICON SQUADRON (PANNING)

Megatron, in robot mode, flies through the sky leading the jet-plane Transforms of Starscream, Dirge, Ramjet and Thrust. They bank, then ZOOM down on a descending trajectory.

MEDIUM SHOT - MEGATRON (PANNING BG)

MEGATRON  
(angry & determined)  
This time the world will know the  
truth! Decepticons, attack!

He fires LASERS down at the o.s. Autobots.

WIDE SHOT - STARSCREAM, DIRGE, THRUST & RAMJET (PANNING BG)

Starscream and Ramjet shoot CLUSTER BOMBS, Dirge CONCUSSION MISSILES, and Thrust MISSILES down at the o.s. Autobots.  
(APPROPRIATE SFX)

WIDE SHOT - AUTOBOTS ON GROUND

OPTIMUS PRIME  
(hatefully)  
Decepticons!!

They look up and react, as the various MISSILES, BOMBS and LASERS EXPLODE around them, BLASTING the stacks of Energon cubes, which EXPLODE.

WIDE - INSIDE HELICOPTER - BERGER AND CREW

BERGER  
(excitedly)  
Blast 'em, Megatron! Show us who  
the real heroes are!

Excitedly, Berger raises a fist. The CAMERA PANS as the TV crew keeps shooting the o.s. battle.

ANGLE - OPTIMUS PRIME

He fires LASERS at the o.s. Decepticons.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
(menacingly)  
Destroy them! Don't leave a  
circuit functioning!

ON RAMJET

He banks and ZOOMS TOWARD CAMERA, firing CLUSTER BOMBS.

ON SUNSTREAKER

SUNSTREAKER  
Let's trash those ugly machines!

Ramjet's CLUSTER BOMBS EXPLODE harmlessly off his polymer hide. He fires his high-energy ELECTRON IMPULSES at the o.s. Ramjet.

WIDE SHOT - SUNSTREAKER AND RAMJET

Sunstreaker keeps firing ELECTRON IMPULSES. Ramjet zig-zags to evade them, then COLLIDES (SFX: METALLIC CLANG) with Sunstreaker, knocking him down, then continuing his flight OUT OF FRAME.

ON IRONHIDE

IRONHIDE  
So, you wanna play rough, huh?!

He fires a stream of SUPER-HOT LEAD at the sky.

LOW ANGLE - THRUST (PANNING)

The HOT LEAD SHOOTS INTO FRAME. Thrust doubles his speed, banks, and creates a SONIC BOOM!

ON IRONHIDE

The SONIC BOOM SHAKES the ground -- and Ironhide -- with EARTHQUAKE force. Ironhide falls with a LOUD METALLIC THUD!

IRONHIDE

Yiiiiii!!

ON WHEELJACK

He looks up. His shoulder cannon aims skyward and fires GYRO-INHIBITOR SHELLS.

LOW ANGLE - DIRGE AND STARSCREAM (PANNING)

SHOT FAVORS Dirge. The SHELLS EXPLODE around him, his flight getting wobbly.

DIRGE (VO)

Ughnn! Wheeljack upset m-my gyros!

STARSCREAM (VO)

Then I'll upset Wheeljack!

Starscream GAINS TOWARD CAMERA firing his NULL-RAY.

HIGH ANGLE - WHEELJACK - STARSCREAM'S POV

Wheeljack is ZAPPED by the NULL-RAY. Sparks CRACKLE from his body, and he goes limp and starts to drop.

WHEELJACK

Shorting ... me ... out ...

WIDE SHOT - STARSCREAM AND WHEELJACK

Wheeljack falls (SFX: METALLIC THUD), as Starscream ZOOMS over him and OUT OF FRAME.

FULL SHOT - OPTIMUS PRIME

He keeps firing his LASER gun o.s. The CAMERA PANS as Megatron lands, Prime's LASERS ZAPPING off his tough hide.

MEGATRON

You've tarnished our reputation for the last time, Prime!

MEDIUM SHOT - MEGATRON

MEGATRON (CONT)

Today, Earth learns the truth!

He FIRES his FUSION CANNON at the o.s. Prime.

ON OPTIMUS PRIME

The BLAST hits him. The raygun flies from his hand. The CAMERA TILTS as Prime CRASHES to the ground.

WIDE SHOT - DIRGE, RAMJET, THRUST AND STARSCREAM (PANNING)

They land, TRANSFORMING back to robot mode, then fire LASERS.

WIDE SHOT - IRONHIDE, WHEELJACK AND SUNSTREAKER

As the LASERS ZAP INTO FRAME off their hides, they get up and back away, the CAMERA PANNING from one to the next.

IRONHIDE

I know when I've had enough!

WHEELJACK

Let's give up -- while we still can!

ON OPTIMUS PRIME AND MEGATRON

Prime revives and stands up, Megatron watching him.

OPTIMUS PRIME

No more, Megatron. I ... yield!

CLOSER - MEGATRON

He works h's built-in radio.

MEGATRON

Megatron to Berger. Do you read me?

INT. HELICOPTER - BERGER AND PILOT

Berger is using the helicopter's radio.

BERGER

Yes, Megatron! And I have everything on videotape!

FLIP TO:

EXT. THE CITY - CLOSE ON BANNER - LOW ANGLE - DAY

CROWDS (VO)

(ad-lib CHEERING & SHOUTING, to CONTINUE THROUGHOUT SEQUENCE)

A cloth banner, with the words "AUTOBOT DAY," hangs over a downtown street. The CAMERA PANS DOWN to a CROWD OF PEOPLE standing on the sidewalk, waving and CLAPPING. Among them are the smiling & cheering Spike, SPARKPLUG and, in his wheelchair, CHIP.

SPIKE  
Yayyy, Autobots! Way to go!

WIDE SHOT - AUTOBOT CONVOY AND CROWDS

The Autobots (in vehicle mode), led by Optimus Prime and including Bumblebee, Ironhide, Wheeljack, Sunstreaker, SIDESWIPE, CLIFFJUMPER, HOUND, and others roll down the street.

CHIP (VO)  
Roll for glory, Autobots!

ON CITY HALL AND CROWD

Large TV monitors have been set up on the walls. More CROWDS stand on the stone steps, cordoned off by ropes. The CAMERA PANS as Prime and the other Autobots roll INTO FRAME and stop.

OPTIMUS PRIME (VO)  
Autobots...transform!

Optimus, then Bumblebee, Ironhide and Wheeljack, TRANSFORM to robot mode.

WIDE SHOT - THE OTHER AUTOBOTS

as they TRANSFORM to robot mode. SHOT FAVORS Sunstreaker who smiles conceitedly as he looks over the crowd.

SUNSTREAKER  
One thing I'll say -- they've got  
taste!

WIDE SHOT - CITY HALL

The crowds wave and CHEER as Optimus Prime and the other Autobots walk up the steps, taking many at a time.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CITY HALL - AUTOBOTS, MAYOR, CITY-HALL PERSONNEL

The CAMERA PUSHES IN on a very large room. The Autobots stand at the front of the room, the Mayor at a podium with microphone. Several TV monitors have been set up near the ceiling. A few armed SECURITY GUARDS stand about the room.



MAYOR  
(amplified voice)  
People of our fair city, it gives  
me great honor to ...

CUT TO:

INT. TV CONTROL BOOTH - BERGER DIRECTOR, TECHNICIANS,  
SOLDIER

The Mayor's image is on a monitor screen with NO SOUND. The TV DIRECTOR is scared, looking up at Berger, who is holding out a videotape cassette. Next to Berger is a uniformed SOLDIER. Other TV TECHNICIANS are at the controls.

TV DIRECTOR  
(nervously)  
But Mr. Berger, I can't interrupt  
the Mayor -- with your tape!

BERGER  
You can and will ...if you value  
your job!

CLOSER - TV DIRECTOR, BERGER'S HAND WITH CASSETTE

BERGER (VO-CONT)  
(threateningly)  
Remember who owns over fifty per  
cent of this network!

The TV Director pauses in thought, then defeatedly takes the cassette from Berger's hand.

CLOSE ON CONSOLE

The TV Director's hand ENTERS FRAME and inserts the cassette.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY HALL - CROWD AND MONITORS

The people look toward the monitors showing the Mayor.

MAYOR  
And now, before we officially  
honor there noble Autobots, let  
me show you but one example of  
their heroism...

CLOSER ON OUTDOOR MONITOR SCREEN

MAYOR (CONT)  
--which they displayed yesterday,  
at Mr. Berger's "solar plant" ...

The Mayor's image CUTS to a SHOT of the oil field's derricks.  
INSIDE CITY HALL - ON IRONHIDE, OPTIMUS PRIME, OTHER AUTOBOTS  
They react with a start to the o.s. screens.

IRONHIDE  
Hey, that's an oil field!

CLOSE - MONITOR SCREEN IN CITY HALL

It shows the Autobots stealing the oil-derrick energy into their  
Energon cubes.

MEGATRON (VO)  
Good people of Earth, this is  
Megatron speaking!

HIGH ANGLE - AUTOBOTS AND MAYOR

All reacting incredulously toward the monitor screens. Ironhide  
makes an angry fist and tenses up.

AUTOBOTS  
(incredulous, voices  
overlapping)  
Megatron?!

MEGATRON (VO)  
I'm grateful for this opportunity  
to expose the Autobots for what  
they really are!

IRONHIDE  
What kinda trick is he tryin' to  
pull?!

OUTSIDE CITY HALL - CROWD, SPIKE, SPARKPLUG AND CHIP

They all stare incredulously at the o.s. monitors.

MEGATRON (VO)  
As you can see, the Autobots are  
hardly the heroes they've seemed  
to be.

CHIP  
I don't believe it!

CUT TO:

THE TV CONTROL BOOTH - BERGER & TV DIRECTOR

TV DIRECTOR  
It's ... impossible!

BERGER  
Now ... the second tape.

The TV Director, staring at the o.s. monitor screen, turns as Berger smiles and hands him another cassette.

CUT TO:

INSIDE CITY HALL - OPTIMUS PRIME AND OTHER AUTOBOTS

SHOT FAVORS Optimus, as they watch the o.s. monitor screens.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
The tape is a fake! The  
Decepticons have caused too much  
trouble on Earth for anyone to  
believe it!

MEGATRON (VO)  
If you doubt me, keep watching.

CLOSE ON INDOOR SCREEN

MEGATRON (VO-CONT)  
This tape, secured at great risk,  
shows why we Decepticons have  
often acted -- irrationally.

On the screen, Optimus Prime stands on a mountainside holding a strange projector-type device. Next to Prime is Wheeljack. Both are looking skyward.

WHEELJACK  
My invention should turn even the  
noblest being evil!

TV IMAGE: MEDIUM SHOT OF OPTIMUS PRIME

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Let's put it to the test!

He SHOOTs a weird ELECTRICAL BLAST at the sky.

TV IMAGE: WIDE SHOT - DIRGE, RAMJET AND THRUST (PAN BG)

As they fly along in jet mode, the ELECTRICAL BLAST ZAPS them. Their flight becomes unsteady.

DIRGE (VO)  
Wh-what was that?

THRUST (VO)  
Don't know! But suddenly I have  
the urge ... to steal energy and  
destroy!

OUTSIDE - THE CROWD - SPIKE, SPARKPLUG, AND CHIP

SPIKE  
There's no way -this could be true!

Spike, Sparkplug and Chip exchange confused glances.

INSIDE CITY HALL - MAYOR AND AUTOBOTS

MEGATRON (VO)  
Finally, I offer this ...  
secretly taped by Laserbeak at  
Autobot Headquarters ...

The CAMERA PANS across their startled faces, to an overhead monitor screen showing Optimus Prime and various Autobots standing inside the control room at AUTOBOT HEADQUARTERS.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
-- and soon, when we Autobots are  
fully trusted, and the Decepticons  
destroyed...

TV-MONITOR IMAGE: CLOSE ON OPTIMUS PRIME

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT)  
--we'll claim the Earth for our  
own and steal all its energy for  
ourselves! (evil LAUGHTER)

Optimus Prime makes a threatening fist. The screen goes BLANK

IRONHIDE (VO)  
(enraged)  
That's a dirty Decepticon lie!

ANGLE - IRONHIDE, OPTIMUS PRIME, OTHER AUTOBOTS

IRONHIDE  
C'mon, Prime, let's do something!

CLIFFJUMPER  
I'm with you, Ironhide!

Ironhide and Cliffjumper step forward, ready to fight. Optimus grasps their wrists, holding them back.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Autobots -- don't overheat!

ANGLE - BUMBLEBEE

BUMBLEBEE  
Uh, you don't really believe those  
tapes, do you, Mr. Mayor?

He turns o the o.s. Mayor. The CAMERA PANS to the Mayor, who slowly shakes his head.

MAYOR  
(confused)  
I ... don't know what to believe.

ON MAYOR AND SECURITY GUARDS

MAYOR (CONT)  
But, until I do

He looks up, as two uniformed SECURITY GUARDS walk up beside him, SLAPPING their hands onto their holsters.

WIDE SHOT - AUTOBOTS

SHOT FAVORS Optimus Prime. He looks at the others, then starts walking across the room, the other Autobots following.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
You may contact us later, your  
honor.

EXT. CITY HALL - CROWD, SPIKE, CHIP AND SPARKPLUG

CROWD  
(ad-lib GRUMBLING, BOOING, etc.)

Everyone looks up and reacts, as the CAMERA PANS to the front door, and the Autobots walk out of the building and down the steps.

ON SPIKE, CHIP AND SPARKPLUG

Spike and Sparkplug step TOWARD CAMERA, as --

SPIKE  
We believe you!

SPARKPLUG  
Yeah, those tapes had to've been  
faked by those Decepti-crumbs!

LOW ANGLE - OPTIMUS PRIME

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Thank you for your loyalty, Spike  
...Sparkplug...Chip...

Suddenly a tomato flies INTO FRAME and SPLASHES against Optimus  
Prime's arm. He turns and reacts.

ON MAN IN THE CROWD

holding a couple more tomatoes.

MAN IN THE CROWD  
Go back to Cybertron, you  
mechanical freaks!

ON SUNSTREAKER, CLIFFJUMPER AND IRONHIDE

Reacting angrily to the crowd.

SUNSTREAKER  
Why, those ingrates ...!

WIDE ON OPTIMUS PRIME

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Autobots, transform... and roll  
back to headquarters!

He looks around, then TRANSFORMS to vehicular mode. CAMERA PANS  
as the ot er Autobots TRANSFORM and REV their ENGINES.

ON SPIKE, SPARKPLUG AND CHIP

Disgusted, they walk and roll TOWARD CAMERA.

CHIP  
Wait for us, Optimus!

SPIKE  
Yeah, the air's gotten bad here!

THE CROWD

TEENAGE GIRL  
That's right, traitors! Go with  
'em!

MAN IN CROWD  
Lousey Autobot-lovers!

The angry crowd, including the Man and a TEENAGE GIRL, rush TOWARD CAMERA, raising fists, sticks, throwing garbage.

WIDE SHOT - AUTOBOT CONVOY

With Optimus in front, they ROAR down the street, the CAMERA PANNING with them, with Spike, Sparkplug and Chip riding in Bumblebee. As they roll AWAY FROM CAMERA, they are hit by garbage.

FLIP TO:

EXT. AUTOBOT HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The CAMERA PUSHES IN on the extinct volcano.

SUNSTREAKER (VO)  
If you ask me, I always suspected  
the humans would turn on us  
someday!

CUT TO:

INT. AUTOBOT HQ CONTROL ROOM - SUNSTREAKER AND OTHER AUTOBOTS

SUNSTREAKER  
Just what you'd expect from  
inferior life forms!

HOUND (VO)  
Oh, I'm not so sure,  
Sunstreaker...

Sunstreaker looks up, as the CAMERA PANS past him and other Autobots, to Hound standing next to Spike.

CLOSER - HOUND AND SPIKE

HOUND  
Given time, they might realize  
the truth.

SPIKE  
Thanks, Hound!

Spike smiles and nudges Hound, who returns the smile.

ANGLE - OPTIMUS PRIME, SPARKPLUG AND CHIP

OPTIMUS PRIME  
All we can really do is try to  
expose this Decepticon hoax for  
what it is.

Suddenly TELETRAAN I sounds a WARNING SIGNAL. They react.

CHIP  
Teletraan's warning signal!

WIDE SHOT - TELETRAAN I AND WHEELJACK

Teletraan I is FLASHING its WARNING SIGNAL, with Wheeljack reacting to it. Optimus Prime steps INTO FRAME, as --

WHEELJACK  
Our external security system has  
been breeched, Optimus Prime.

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Get a visual, Wheeljack.

CLOSE - TELETRAAN I'S MONITOR SCREEN

Wheeljack's hand ENTERS FRAME and presses buttons on the computer console. Lights FLASH (COMPUTER SFX) and the screen LIGHTS UP. After a couple BEATS, several futuristic "Shawn Berger" tanks APPEAR on the screen, rolling across the rugged terrain outside and TOWARD CAMERA. Berger's uniformed SOLDIERS sit under the clear "bubbles."

BERGER (VO)  
(radio filter)  
Autobots! This is Shawn Berger!  
Come out -- at once!

CUT TO:

EXT. AUTOBOT HQ - ON "SHAWN BERGER" TANKS

Numerous (at least seven) tanks RUMBLE across the rocky terrain. The CAMERA PANS ahead to the slope of the volcano.



CLOSER - AUTOBOT HQ DOOR

The door OPENS (ELECTRONIC SFX) and out steps Optimus Prime, followed by Ironhide, Wheeljack, Sunstreaker, Cliffjumper and any other Autobots (except Bumblebee).

WIDE SHOT - OTHER AUTOBOTS

Virtually ALL AUTOBOTS (except Bumblebee) not in PREVIOUS SHOT gather outside the volcano, reacting to o.s.

CLOSER - OPEN DOOR OF VOLCANO

Bumblebee steps out, accompanied by Spike, Sparkplug and--in his wheelchair--Chip. All react with shock to o.s.

BUMBLEBEE  
Great Cybertron!

SPARKPLUG  
Still think they're gonna realize  
the truth, Hound?!

WIDE SHOT - AUTOBOTS, SPIKE, CHIP & SPARKPLUG

They are all standing and reacting to what's ahead. The CAMERA PULLS BACK to include all the tanks, which RUMBLE to a stop, virtually surrounding the Autobots.

CLOSER - OPTIMUS PRIME, CLIFFJUMPER, IRONHIDE, OTHER AUTOBOTS

Cliffjumper and Ironhide make fists and step forward.

CLIFFJUMPER  
C'mon, guys! Let's see how much  
punishment those tanks can take!

OPTIMUS PRIME  
Negative, Cliffjumper!

As he speaks, Prime holds out his hand and looks at Cliffjumper.

CLOSER - OPTIMUS PRIME

Looking back at the o.s. tanks --

OPTIMUS PRIME  
That's what they'd like us to do!  
And we're already in enough  
trouble!

LOW ANGLE - BERGER'S HELICOPTER

It descends, and hovers. Prime steps INTO FRAME and looks up at the chopper. (HELICOPTER SFX to CONTINUE THROUGHOUT SEQUENCE)

OPTIMUS PRIME  
(amplified voice)  
We will not fight you, Shawn  
Berger! Why are you here?!

CLOSER ON HELICOPTER

We see both Berger and the Mayor inside the cockpit. The mayor speaks into a microphone.

MAYOR  
(amplified voice)  
Optimus Prime, this is the Mayor  
speaking! I order you to offer  
us no resistance!

HIGH ANGLE - PRIME AND OTHER AUTOBOTS - HELICOPTER'S POV

As the WIND from the HELICOPTER (SFX) buffets them.

MAYOR (VO-CONT)  
(amplified voice)  
You are all under arrest! I  
repeat...

HIGH ANGLE - BUMBLEBEE, SPIKE, SPARKPLUG AND CHIP

All reacting incredulously toward the sky.

MAYOR (VO-CONT)  
(amplified voice)  
All Autobots are under arrest!

FADE OUT

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. WIDE SHOT - BACK TO SCENE OUTSIDE AUTOBOT HEADQUARTERS

The Autobots, Spike, Sparkplug, and Chip react incredulously, surrounded by Berger's tanks, and with the HELICOPTER (SFX to CONTINUE THROUGHOUT SEQUENCE) hovering over them.

MAYOR (VO)  
(amplified voice)  
As mayor, I ask you, Autobots:  
Will you submit to arrest  
peacefully?

HIGH ANGLE - OPTIMUS PRIME, IRONHIDE, OTHER AUTOBOTS

As the HELICOPTER WIND whips about them, Ironhide makes an angry fist, but Optimus Prime remains calm.

IRONHIDE  
Just say the word, Prime -- and  
we'll...

OPTIMUS PRIME  
The "word," Ironhide, is  
"surrender."

CLOSER - OPTIMUS PRIME AND IRONHIDE

Ironhide gives Prime an incredulous look, but Prime keeps looking toward the o.s. helicopter.

IRONHIDE  
Huh?!

OPTIMUS PRIME  
We don't want to add "resisting  
arrest" to our alleged "crimes."

WIDE SHOT - OPTIMUS PRIME, IRONHIDE, OTHER AUTOBOTS, TANKS

OPTIMUS PRIME  
(amplified voice)  
Autobots, offer no resistance!  
Transform -- and start your  
engines!

In the f.g. are a couple tanks, with laser cannons trained on the Autobots. As he speak, Optimus turns toward the others. The CAMERA PANS as he, then Ironhide and a couple other Autobots, TRANSFORM to vehicular mode, REVVING their ENGINES.

WIDE SHOT - THE REMAINING AUTOBOTS (PANNING)

As they TRANSFORM to vehicular mode and REV their ENGINES. PAN STOPS as Bumblebee, standing near the worried Spike, Sparkplug and Chip, TRANSFORMS to VW mode, then opens his doors.

BUMBLEBEE (VO)  
Coming with us -- for moral support?

They get inside Bumblebee.

WIDE SHOT - AUTOBOT TRANSFORMS, TANKS, HELICOPTER

The helicopter hovers over the Autobot vehicles.

MAYOR (VO)  
(amplified voice)  
I'd ...like to believe you're innocent, Autobots

CLOSER ON HELICOPTER

The Mayor and Berger look down at the o.s. Autobots.

MAYOR (CONT)  
(amplified voice)  
but the truth must be revealed through due process of the law!

BERGER  
(amplified voice)  
Until then, Shawn Berger considers you guilty!

WIDE ANGLE - AUTOBOTS, TANKS AND HELICOPTER

BERGER (VO-CONT)  
(amplified voice)  
Autobots, follow my army!

The tanks ROAR their ENGINES, then start to turn around and RUMBLE over the rocky ground.

WIDE SHOT - OPTIMUS PRIME AND OTHER AUTOBOTS

OPTIMUS PRIME (VO)  
You heard the man. Autobots -- roll out!

Prime starts rolling, other Autobots rolling after him o.s.

CLOSER ON AUTOBOTS - INCLUDING SUNSTREAKER AND IRONHIDE

SHOT FAVORS the Sunstreaker yellow Contach and Ironhide red Vanette, the CAMERA PANNING as they roll along.

SUNSTREAKER (VO)  
I can't believe we're actually  
doing this, Ironhide! The  
humiliation!

IRONHIDE (VO)  
The party's not over yet,  
Sunstreaker!

WIDE ANGLE - AUTOBOTS, TANKS AND HELICOPTER

The tanks keep RUMBLING, going OUT OF FRAME, as all the Autobots, led by Prime, roll after them. After a couple BEATS, the helicopter turns and flies directly above the Autobots.

FLIP TO:

EXT. THE CITY - "AUTOBOT DAY" BANNER - DAY

REPORTER (VO)  
(professional female  
voice)  
And you, sir -- would you mind  
telling our TV audience what you  
think: Are the Autobots innocent  
-- or guilty?

As she speaks, the CAMERA PANS DOWN from the now torn and tattered banner, flapping in the wind, to a TV-news REPORTER (an attractive young Oriental woman), standing on the sidewalk, holding a hand-microphone in front of a hard-hatted BLUE-COLLAR WORKER. A TV CAMERAMAN shoots the interview.

BLUE-COLLAR WORKER  
(nervous; rough voice)  
Uh ... well, I used to think those  
metal guys were okay! Y'know?

CLOSER - REPORTER AND BLUE-COLLAR WORKER

The worker shakes his head forlornly, as --

BLUE-COLLAR WORKER (CONT)  
But now, after I seen those  
tapes...

REPORTER

Thank you, sir! Now, for another opinion...

The reporter takes the mike away from the worker and looks around, as we --

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TV STUDIO - BERGER AND SOLDIERS

The CAMERA PUSHES IN past a TV-CAMERA CREW to Berger, who sits at a desk before the cameras. Behind him, standing guard with arms folded, are two of his uniformed SOLDIERS.

BERGER

(excited & angry)

--and I say that, for too long, these mysterious, alien robots have wielded too much power on this planet where they don't even belong!

CLOSE - BERGER

BERGER (CONT)

(more angry & excited)

Great power must only be used by good Americans who can be trusted -- like ME!

He climaxes his words by SLAMMING his fist on the desk.

FLIP TO:

EXT. THE OCEAN - DAY

The CAMERA PANS across the sea, then PUSHES IN and STOPS on the water's surface. From underneath comes a TURBULENCE. Suddenly the DECEPTICON HEADQUARTERS docking tower shoots up from the water, water SPILLING from it. (SFX: GUSHING WATER)

CLOSER - DECEPTICON HQ DOCKING TOWER

The hatch opens (SFX: ELECTRONIC HUM) and Megatron, followed by ALL the DECEPTICONS, fly out, with Starscream, Dirge, Thrust, Ramjet, THUNDERCRACKER, SKYWARP and BLITZWING TRANSFORMING to jet-plane mode as they go. The CAMERA PANS as they fly off over the ocean. (SFX: JETS)

FLIP TO:

EXT. LONG SHOT - SPORTS ARENA - HIGH ANGLE

The CAMERA PUSHES IN on the huge arena. On the wall is a big sign reading: "NO GAME TODAY! CLOSED FOR THE TRIAL OF THE AUTOBOTS." (SFX: JETS AND FLYING DECEPTICONS)

WIDE - STADIUM WALL AND DECEPTICONS ←

Megatron leads the FLYING (SFX) Decepticons toward the stadium, over the high wall and OUT OF FRAME.

INSIDE THE STADIUM - WIDE - AUTOBOTS, MAYOR, BERGER, GUARDS

It is an open stadium. All the Autobots stand in robot mode, with the Mayor, wearing judge's robes, sitting at a makeshift bench. Berger is seated at the witness stand. In strategic places are more of Berger's uniformed SOLDIERS, holding futuristic laser rifles. Set up over the field are more large TV screens. Everyone looks up at the sound of APPROACHING DECEPTICONS.

ON SPECTATORS IN STADIUM - SPIKE, SPARKPLUG & CHIP

The SPECTATORS sit in the stadium bleachers, with Spike, Chip and Sparkplug looking worried. They all react to the sky at the sound of the APPROACHING DECEPTICONS.

WIDE SHOT - SIDE OF STADIUM FIELD

The Decepticons, led by Megatron, descend INTO FRAME and land, the jet-planes TRANSFORMING back to robot mode.

CLOSER - MEGATRON AND OTHER DECEPTICONS

Megatron smiles cordially at the o.s. Mayor.

MEGATRON

I trust you will forgive this interruption, Your Honor, and proceed with the trial.

ANGLE - MAYOR

MAYOR

Of course, Megatron. And now, Mr. Berger, you were saying...

The Mayor looks toward Berger, and the CAMERA PANS to him, flanked on each side by one of his uniformed soldiers.

BERGER  
Yes, Your Honor. I was actually present, along with a TV crew, when the Autobots raided the oil field.

CLOSER - BERGER

getting excited as he goes on...

BERGER (CONT)  
With my own eyes, I watched them walk up to those derricks and drain energy into those weird cubes!

ON SPIKE, SPARKLUG AND CHIP

Listening to the o.s. Berger, Spike suddenly reacts curiously, rubbing his chin as he gets an idea. Chip and Sparkplug notice.

SPIKE  
Y'know, something really bugs me about Berger's testimony.

SPARKPLUG  
What's that, son?

CLOSER - SPIKE

SPIKE  
I'm not exactly sure -- but I might be, if I could see those tapes again.

The CAMERA PUSHES IN as Spike looks contemplative. Suddenly he stands up and waves his hand excitedly.

SPIKE (CONT)  
Wait! I've got it!

Chip and Sparkplug turn and react with a start, as Spike jumps off the edge of the bleachers, then starts to run TOWARD CAMERA.

SPARKPLUG  
Spike -- where you going?!

ANGLE - MAYOR

Turning sharply to the o.s. Spike.

MAYOR  
What's this -- ?!



ON MEGATRON

He turns and nods affirmatively to Soundwave, who ejects a cassette from his chest compartment.

SOUNDWAVE  
Ravage -- stop him!

ANGLE ON CASSETTE

It TRANSFORMS to RAVAGE, who lands on his feet and bolts o.s.

RAVAGE  
(feline SNARLS)

ON EXIT TO STADIUM

Running, he zips out an exit, followed by Ravage...

RAVAGE (CONT)  
(threatening GROWLS)

EXIT GATES OF STADIUM

a revolving gate of bars. Spike runs out, turning the revolving bars, and continues o.s. as Ravage follows, getting caught in the door, causing a small shower of SPARKS!

RAVAGE (CONT)  
(YELP!)

FLIP TO:

INT. - TV CONTROL BOOTH

Spike stands before the console and monitor, slipping the videotape in the machine.

SPIKE  
I'm sure we never saw those  
Autobots on the tape transform!

CLOSER ON MONITOR

The Autobots are raiding the oil field, as before. Suddenly the tape goes BLANK!!

CLOSE ON SPIKE

He continues looking o.s. expectantly...Then looks down, disheated.

SPIKE (CONT)  
But it's still not proof!!

He looks up again and REACTS

ON MONITOR SCREEN

The Autobots are seen as before, only they have put their energon cubes down on the ground. Optimus Prime reaches up and removes his head--actually it's a mask, revealing Starscream behind it!

STARSCREAM  
That oughta frame those Autobots  
for good!

CLOSE ON SPIKE

gaping at the screen o.s.

SPIKE  
Starscream!!

BACK TO MONITOR

Other "Autobots" remove their masks, revealing themselves to be Skywarp and Thundercracker!

STARSCREAM (CONT)  
My performance was excellent as  
usual, don't you think?!

WIDER ANGLE ON SPIKE

He hits a button on the console, which ejects the tape. He grabs the tape...

SPIKE  
Wait'll the mayor sees this!

RAVAGE (VO)  
(LOW GROWL!)

Startled, Spike turns, and the CAMERA PANS to the doorway, where Ravage wa'ts, EYES GLOWING!

SPIKE (VO)  
Ravage!!

FLIP TO:

EXT. THE SUN AND STADIUM WALL - DUSK

The CAMERA PANS from the sun setting behind the wall --

MAYOR (VO)

Autobots -- I have carefully  
weighed all the evidence presented  
at this trial. And I have reached  
a verdict.

--to the stern-faced Mayor sitting at his bench, with the  
Autobots standing before him, Optimus Prime most prominent.

CLOSER - MAYOR

Reacting as if he doesn't like what he is saying.

MAYOR

Autobots ... it is the decision  
of this court that you are --

ON OPTIMUS PRIME AND OTHER AUTOBOTS

MAYOR (VO)

-- guilty of all charges!

The Autobots react with disbelief, CAMERA PANNING across their  
startled faces.

AUTOBOTS

(ad-libs of astonishment and  
disbelief: "Guilty?!", "That's  
crazy!", "We were framed!", etc.)

ANGLE - MEGATRON AND OTHER DECEPTICONS

Megatron turns and smiles with evil triumph at the other  
Decepticons.

AUTOBOTS (VO)

(ad-libs CONTINUE)

WIDE SHOT - SPARKPLUG AND CHIP

THE CROWD

(ad-lib MURMURING)

Sparkplug, Chip and the crowd react to the verdict with shock.

ON MAYOR

He looks back toward the o.s. Autobots, as --

MAYOR

And now, with no further interruptions, I sentence you Autobots...

WIDE SHOT - AUTOBOTS

MAYOR (CONT-VO)

--to be banished from this planet... forever!

AUTOBOTS

(ad-lib REACTIONS of astonishment and resentment)

CLOSE - OPTIMUS PRIME

Very serious.

OPTIMUS PRIME

Your Honor, we will respect and comply with the decision of this court.

WIDE ON MEGATRON AND DECEPTICONS

SHOT FAVORS Megatron, as they all react with evil smiles.

FLIP TO:

EXT. ROCKET LAUNCHING PAD - NIGHT

A huge rocketship stands on a launching pad, its exhaust smoking. The ship has windows and on its side are the words "BERGER, INC." A boarding ramp leads to an open hatch on the ship. (SFX: HISSING SMOKE) The site is illuminated by spotlights. The CAMERA PANS past more of Berger's tanks and soldiers, to a LONG SHOT of all the Autobots, gathered together in robot mode, and looking toward the o.s. rocket. Near them are Spike, Sparkplug, Chip, the Mayor, Berger, more of his soldiers, and the Decepticons. (They need not all be shown in this opening SHOT.)

ANGLE ON MAYOR, BERGER AND SOLDIERS

Berger is guarded by a couple of his soldiers. The Mayor looks toward Berger, then back at the o.s. rocket, as --

MAYOR

It was most generous of you to provide that spacecraft. Mr. Berger.

BERGER

A paltry sum to pay -- to rid our  
world of those menacing robots!

ANGLE - OPTIMUS PRIME, WHEELJACK, IRONHIDE, CHIP AND SPARKPLUG  
Everyone is sad.

SPARKPLUG

Isn't there something you can do,  
Optimus Prime?

OPTIMUS PRIME

Negative, Sparkplug...

CLOSE - OPTIMUS PRIME

Looking down at Sparkplug.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT)

-- for that would be an open  
admission of our supposed "guilt."

WIDE SHOT - MEGATRON AND DECEPTICONS

MEGATRON

It's time to board the rocket--  
now!

Megatron raises his Fusion Cannon threateningly. The CAMERA  
PANS across other Decepticons, all raising their weapons at the  
o.s. Autobots.

ON BERGER'S SOLDIERS AND TANKS

They raise their futuristic laser weapons.

ANGLE - SPARKPLUG, CHIP, AND AUTOBOTS

Sparkplug and Chip watch sadly as the Autobots walk off o.s.,  
seen only from about waist-down.

CHIP

But where will you go?

OPTIMUS PRIME (VO)

To find a new home, Chip...

WIDE SHOT - OPTIMUS PRIME AND OTHER AUTOBOTS

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT)

Maybe even return to Cybertron.  
Farewell. You and Spike were  
truly good friends.

Looking back at the o.s. Chip, Optimus Prime turns, the other Autobots walking with him, AWAY FROM CAMERA. The CAMERA PANS to show the waiting, SMOKING rocket on its pad.

ON SPARKPLUG AND CHIP

Sparkplug looks around.

SPARKPLUG  
Where is Spike?!

CHIP  
I don't know-- He said something  
about evidence...

CLOSER ON CHIP

He lowers his head.

CHIP (CONT)  
But it's too late for that, now!

CLOSER ON ROCKET

Optimus, then other Autobots, ENTER FRAME and walk up the ramp.

TWO-SHOT - MAYOR AND BERGER

The Mayor looks pensively at the o.s. rocket. Berger looks up and smiles slyly at him.

BERGER  
Something bothering you, Mr.  
Mayor?

MAYOR  
Just hoping ... that we've done  
the right thing.

ON ROCKET

The hatch CLOSES and the ramp moves away from the ship (ELECTRONIC SFX). HISSING SMOKE issues from its exhaust. A couple BEATS LATER, its ENGINES ROAR, FLAMES BLAST from the exhaust, and the ship lifts-off the launching pad. The CAMERA TILTS as it ROARS into the sky.

HIGH ANGLE - CLOSE ON CHIP

A tear rolls from one eye, as his face reflects the FLICKERING LIGHT from the o.s. spaceship.

LOW ANGLE - LONG SHOT - ROCKET

It becomes small in the FRAME as it ROARS into the night sky.

THE EARTH IN SPACE

The CAMERA PULLS BACK, leaving the Earth behind.

FLIP TO:

EXT. AUTOBOT HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

The CAMERA PUSHES IN on the volcano.

BERGER (VO)

Why have you brought me to Autobot  
Headquarters, Megatron?

CUT TO:

INT. AUTOBOT HQ CONTROL ROOM - BERGER AND MEGATRON

They wal through the deserted control room. Berger is puzzled,  
looking up at Megatron, who is smiling malevolently.

BERGER (CONT)

And when do I get my reward for  
helping get rid of the Autobots?

MEGATRON

Soon, Berger. For now, you must  
be patient...

WIDE SHOT - TELETRAAN I

Megatron and Berger step INTO FRAME toward Teletraan I, which is  
still functioning, flashing lights. (COMPUTER SFX to CONTINUE  
THROUGHOUT SEQUENCE)

MEGATRON (VO)

It's time for me to claim my  
personal reward.

BERGER

I don't understand...

CLOSER - TELETRAAN I

Megatron stops in front of the computer console.

MEGATRON

There's still one thing left to  
do... to make sure the Autobots  
never return to Earth!

The CAMERA PUSHES IN as he shoots LASER BEAMS from his eyes.

ON TELETRAAN I - MEGATRON'S POV

The LASER BEAMS ZAP various circuits on the computer. Suddenly ,  
HISSING SMOKE and ELECTRICAL SPARKS shoot from the computer.  
Teletraan I's ELECTRICAL SYSTEM starts to WIND DOWN.

MEGATRON (VO)

(evil, triumphant LAUGHTER)

ANGLE - MEGATRON AND BERGER

MEGATRON (CONT)

My reward, Berger! Now nothing  
can bring back ... or save  
the Autobots!

(LAUGHS evilly)

BERGER

(confused, worried)

Megatron, what have you done?!

Megatron is happy. Berger looks at him perplexedly. The CAMERA  
PUSHES IN on Megatron's triumphant face, coming into an EXTREME  
CLOSE SHOT, as --

MEGATRON

I've destroyed their computer's  
communications capability...

DISSOLVE TO:

OUTER SPACE - VAST STARFIELD

The CAMERA PANS across starry space, to the rocket, speeding  
silently through the void at incredible velocity, as --

MEGATRON (CONT-VO)

--making it impossible for them  
to contact ... or be contacted  
by the Earth!

INT. ROCKET - AUTOBOTS

The CAMERA PANS over the entire band of Autobots, all sitting in  
seats within the rocket, all looking ahead unaware of any danger  
to them, as --



MEGATRON (CONT-VO)

But, I've also tampered with  
Teletraan I's guidance-system...  
and have sent the unsuspecting  
Autobots...

EXT. - FULL SHOT ON ROCKET

MEGATRON (CONT-VO)

on a one-way, irreversible  
journey...

The CAMERA PANS as the rocket silently speeds, at fantastic  
velocity, through space, toward the sun, blazing in space,  
shooting out enormous streams of flame.

MEGATRON (CONT-VO)

--to the sun!  
(evil, triumphant  
LAUGHTER)

FADE OUT

END OF PART ONE