

organization, Dashnaktsutjun could never harm the Armenian people. Political regimes come and go. They are temporary. The Armenian people and their homeland Armenia are permanent and eternal.

Another subject of interest to my interrogator was the wartime activities of Dro and Nzhdeh. “Your Dro and Nzhdeh and their armed troops are fighting on the German side against the Red Army,” he said repeatedly. And I would explain to him, as we had proclaimed and I had explained to the Soviet representatives during our negotiations in Tabriz, that Dashnaktsutjun was on the side of the Allies. As far as I knew, Dro and Nzhdeh were not fighting in the war: their goal was to save Armenian POWs from being executed in German camps.

One assertion that Ghazaryan repeated time and again was that Dashnaktsutjun had an army of 25,000 in Iran ready to fight the Soviets. Did the Soviets really believe that about the Armenians of Iran? I tried to explain that a community of 80–100,000 cannot muster an army of 25,000: what we had there was a small group of men who were armed merely to protect and defend the Armenian community. But apparently he was not convinced. He came back to this issue again and again.

I was accused of having planned the assassination of Soviet officials in Tabriz. I had to explain the facts to him: “Has anyone been assassinated? If not, no such plan exists, because as you know very well, Dashnaktsutjun’s bullet does not miss its target.”