production, I received a thick envelope. The pessimist in me was pleasantly surprised. I really have to thank my friend, who must remain anonymous, for his efforts.

The envelope contained the so-called Search Protocol, the first bureaucratic record of my father's arrest, a two-page form filled out as the detainee was being subjected to a full-body search prior to his first interrogation, which in my father's case took place in Yerevan. Interestingly, the primary language of the form, including its heading, is Georgian, with the Russian version below each line. The form itself, though, was filled out in Russian.

The date, January 3, 1944, and the duration of the search, from 11:00 to 11:35, indicate that the Search Protocol was filled out right after my father was manhandled into the Cheka building in Tabriz. Next come the names of the authorized agent, K. K. Sultanyan, OKR Smersh 15,[2] who conducted the body search, and the witnesses, First Lieutenant Mdivani and First Sergeant Klochkov. Curiously, though, the line pertaining to the arrest order (Arrest made in accord with Order No. _____, from _____, date _____) is blank. The Search Protocol also lists the items confiscated during the search: two notebooks, fourteen pages of documents and letters, and one copy each of the Armenian-language periodicals *Lusaber* and *Hairenik*. At the bottom of the form, reference is finally made to File No. 54719 for further information on the arrest order and search details.

2 Smersh is an abbreviation of smert shpionam ("death to spies" in Russian). This counterintelligence and counterterrorism organization, an offshoot of the NKVD, was established by Stalin in late 1942 and functioned until 1946.