

book he planned to write. He conceived it as consisting of three parts, the first of which covers the situation in Azerbaijan (Atrpatakan) before and after the Soviet occupation, his abduction, his imprisonment in Yerevan, his interrogation, indictment and sentencing. He completed the first part in two chapters of which I had the typewritten text. The second part, also comprising two chapters, began with the start of his journey toward exile on April 15, 1945. He titled the first chapter "Exile toward the Tundra, the Permafrost Zone and the Taymyr Peninsula." Following the same pattern as for the previous chapters, he jotted down a rather extensive outline of this chapter and I found a few handwritten pages belonging to it. Apparently, he started the narrative after tracing a roadmap for the entire book. When it came time to publish his unfinished memoir in 1991, I added those pages to the typewritten text. Chapters 3 and 4 of the present book represent the whole of the Armenian text rendered in English.⁴

The second chapter of the second part of my father's memoir was titled "The Permafrost Zone, Taymyr and Narilsk." His outline for this chapter indicates that he intended to provide a description of the region; information on its inhabitants, the Nenets and the Tungus peoples;⁵ the harsh climate, the polar day (or

4 See chapter 3, footnote 1, for further explanation.

5 In his study of *The Peoples of Soviet Union*, Kozlov mentions the Nenets and the Tungus (or Evanki) among the people of the tundra, whose economy is based on reindeer farming and hunting other animals found in the region. Because of the harsh climate, they lead a semi-nomadic lifestyle. At the end of the nineteenth century, the Nenets and Tungus of the north were converted to Eastern Orthodox Christianity but retained elements of their old religion and combined them with