he couldn't hear me. He would sink back into deep sleep. To my ignominy, it was only after his death that I began to read his memoir. There it was, Yenisei, the river on which he had been shipped to Narilsk (Norilsk) in northern Siberia.[4] And that was where his memoir came to a stop.

This unfinished manuscript was my only source of knowledge about his experience, aside from some descriptive lines I also found in his handwritten notes, such as the outline he had drawn up for his project, listing the topics that were to follow. When the ARF Bureau finally expressed readiness to publish my father's memoir, I incorporated those lines in the epilogue I wrote for the publication in order to convey to the reader a sense of what his memoir would have been like if my father had had the chance to finish it. In chapters 3 and 4 of the present book, I have included the content of that Armenian-language publication, condensed, rearranged and translated into English. I have tried to give voice to my father, casting the narrative in the first person to present his views and analysis of the situation in Tabriz before his abduction, the events in the Yerevan prison, his indictment and sentence of exile to Siberia, and his journey toward that destination.

My search for additional material took me to the National Archives in Armenia. I was hoping to

4 The Yenisei River runs north through Siberia to the Arctic Ocean. Norilsk (or Narilsk, according to Russian pronunciation) lies above the Arctic Circle, over a thousand miles from Krasnoyarsk, at the base of the Taymyr Peninsula and east of the Yenisei. It is considered the world's northernmost city and is ice-bound all year. Rich in minerals such as nickel, copper and palladium, this industrial city was founded in the 1920s but gained importance in the late 1930s when it became the center of the *Norillag* (Norilsk labor camp) in the Gulag system of labor camps.