

Not surprisingly, however, Georgia and Azerbaijan enjoyed a certain favoritism in that time of political insecurity and confusion. According to Suren Oganessian, “All the nationalities except the Georgians and the Azerbaijanians [Azerbaijanis] were represented in the exile community. As a matter of fact, over the five years of my exile, I came across only one Georgian and not a single Azerbaijanian.”²⁴ It seems that Georgians were spared because of Beria’s and Stalin’s nepotism, and Azerbaijanis out of a desire to win over the oil-rich republic. This observation was made in Diasporan or rather ARF papers as early as 1938. Writing in *Hairenik* monthly, Arsham Khondkarian (A. Atan) was especially apprehensive about the Armenian intelligentsia and men of letters against whom the persecution was harsher than against those of any other ethnic group in the Soviet Union. They were simply eradicated.²⁵ Of course, this kind of observation and concern in the Diasporan press was met with reservation or no reaction at all by the Soviet Armenian press. Even worse, an article in *Khorhrdayin Hayastan* offered the following assessment of the events that had unfolded in 1937: “With the leadership and direct assistance of Comrade Stalin, the leader of all the people, the Bolsheviks of Armenia destroyed the most ferocious enemy of the Armenian people, the disgusting Dashnaktsakan, the Trotskyite-Bukharinist, bourgeois-

24 Oganessian, *Under Stalin's Sun*, p. 23. His memoir, «Երջանիկ կեանքը՝ ստալինեան Արեւի տակ» (The “happy life” under Stalin’s sun), was originally published serially in *Hairenik* monthly (Boston), January–December 1966.

25 Atan in *Hairenik* monthly, November 1938, p. 151, quoted in *Pakine*, 1995, No. 7–8–9, p. 59.