

find documentation of my father's incarceration and interrogation and the verdict that sent him to ten years of exile and hard labor. I was interested to see the procès-verbal, the official account of the charges, that my father had signed after his extended interrogation was over. I had learned from my many readings that prisoners were made to sign outrageous "confessions" under torture, well knowing they were signing their own death warrant or preparing their own exile of ten, fifteen, or twenty-five years.⁵

I had been told that documents in the KGB archives pertaining to arrests and indictments in Armenia during the Stalinist purges were recently turned over to the National Archives. I began my inquiries, and thanks to the cordial assistance of the deputy director, Mrs. Sona Mirzoyan, I found bits and pieces but nothing significant on my father's sixteen-month imprisonment in Yerevan. Parenthetically, one such item, a report by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic on the Armenian community in Iran mentioned my father's name as the editor of *Alik* (newspaper) in Tehran in the 1960s and noted that, because of his anti-Soviet activities, Baghdassar Minassian had been punished and exiled to Siberia.⁶ Finally, the director, Mr. Amatuni

5 It was within the powers of the NKVD Special Meeting/Consultation to decide the destiny of the condemned outside Soviet courts. The number of years of exile varied depending on the rights bestowed on this special committee by the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in the years before, during, and after World War II.

6 Republic of Armenia National Archives, 326/1/532, p. 3. A note of explanation: In the aftermath of World War II, the Soviet regime in Moscow granted permission to its satellite republics, including Armenia, to establish a Foreign Ministry. This meant the restoration of the People's Commissariats for Foreign Affairs which