

conduct or personal ambitions placed above the common interest. His moral bearing made him a vulnerable target as a fundamentalist or a hardliner and he was admonished to tone it down, take it easy. Unger Sebouh Hovannissian's comment reflects that reality: "He never expected recognition or appreciation and he demonstrated the utmost forgiveness and an unwavering attitude toward all the injustice that was done to him."⁴ In the same vein, Unger Anushavan Grigorian, one of my father's colleagues in school and a close friend, wrote in his memory, "He saw and heard many things and he patiently endured, as if to say, let the cup of my destiny fill to the brim."⁵

And the cup was filling up. The atmosphere at work grew increasingly tense and suffocating for my father. After serving as *Alik's* editor-in-chief for more than a decade, he offered his resignation in a letter dated March 1, 1970. A lot of convincing and negotiations went on, but he was unwavering. The ARF Central Committee of Tehran finally accepted his resignation and conveyed its decision in a letter dated September 18, 1970. In the same letter, the Central Committee invited my father and his family to an appreciation dinner. My father declined....

In fact, he turned down many propositions from different organizations to honor him in some way. Of course, he could not refuse the Mesrop Mashtots Medal bestowed on him by His Holiness Khoren Paroian,

4 Sebouh Hovannissian, «Դոկտ. Բաղդիկ» (Dr. Baghdik), in *Alik*, July 13, 2006, the commemorative issue dedicated to the thirtieth anniversary of my father's death.

5 Anushavan Grigorian, «Բաղդիկ» (Baghdik), in the special commemorative issue of *Alik*, August 21, 1976.