

forces advanced deeper into Russian territory. Caught by surprise, the Red Army retreated, leaving behind a great number of prisoners of war. The Soviet air force did not have time to pull together and organize an air defense, as if it did not find the courage to enter into war against Germany. For many in the West, German warfare in the East was a blessing.

The flames of war were fast approaching the Caucasus. There was a strong possibility that Turkey would enter the war and that German-Turkish forces would advance on Transcaucasia. There was an even stronger possibility that the Allies would occupy Iran in order to route arms and military supplies to the Soviet Union and halt its defeat.

The Dashnaktsutiun (Armenian Revolutionary Federation) Central Committee of Atrpatakan, headquartered in Tabriz, was more concerned about what would happen to Soviet Armenia if the Turks, with the help of German forces, were to move to the east to realize their longtime dream of Pan-Turkic expansion. The destruction of Soviet Armenia would become the first step toward the creation of that dream empire. The threat to the security of Soviet Armenia was real and we were worried. The ARF Central Committee delegated me as the committee's representative to negotiate with Soviet representatives in Tabriz and offer our unconditional physical, moral and financial assistance to ward off the Turkish danger.

The negotiations began in a cordial atmosphere. Agaronov (Aharonian), representing the Soviet Union [at the consulate] in Tabriz, treated me with amity and