

respect. He even once said to me, “We should break the ice between us.”

Later, the ARF Bureau reaffirmed our strategy, declared the Party’s allegiance to the Allies and recommended that the Atrpatakan Central Committee support the Red Army against Turkey.² Our negotiations continued after the occupation [of northern Iran by the Soviet Union in August 1941]. Two Armenian officers who had arrived in Tabriz with the Red Army were always present at these meetings. However, the atmosphere soon took a turn for the worse and became more like that of an interrogation. Our interlocutors clearly demonstrated Bolshevik intolerance, hatred and enmity toward Dashnaktsutiun.

The negotiations were discontinued for a while and then stopped altogether, having produced no results. Not only did the ice not break between us but it grew thicker. Nevertheless, for the sake of the security of Armenia and the welfare of the Armenian people, we declared our loyalty to the Allies and to the Soviet Union, to be sure. Evidently, however, the Bolsheviks’ priority was to continue and perpetuate their regime, and national interests were not of the essence.

With the German *tour de force* in the Soviet Union, the issue of sending arms and supplies and aiding the Soviet defense grew more and more important for the Allies, and the only safe way to achieve that goal was

2 The 13th ARF General Congress in 1938, the last one before the war, passed a resolution according to which, if war should break out, the ARF would strictly follow a policy of working solely for the security of the Armenian people.