

sending reports to Tehran. Policemen walked the streets, not to keep order but to get in on the looting.

The Russian military ruled the occupied regions and the Cheka was in charge of political life and the manhunt. But the *mohajeers* were the self-appointed rulers in the streets. They had set up their headquarters on Karashenk Street [a main thoroughfare in the Armenian quarter] and they were out making grand statements and harassing passers-by. We knew most of the leaders of that “movement.” One of them was Dali Ghazo, a renegade Dashnaktsakan.

The Cheka was undoubtedly behind all these shenanigans, frightening Armenians and keeping them at bay, and at the same time provoking Dashnaktsutiun to react, first in order to assess our capabilities, and second, to find excuses to make arrests. The Central Committee convened and examined the situation. Word was sent to the rank and file to remain cool, calm and collected at all times in dealing with hooligans in the street; to put up a strong defense when attacked with firearms; to maintain control of the Armenian quarter and never let those ruffians enter; to never surrender weapons; and to never give any information about the ARF if summoned by the Cheka and only tell them to contact the Central Committee representative. With these precautions, Dashnaktsutiun would remain firm and present a united front. The decision was also taken to lend protection to Archbishop Nerses Melik-Tangian, the Prelate of Atrpatakan. Central Committee members were instructed not to leave the city and to remain with the people.