

tall, congenial, middle-aged man, and the conversation began. I informed the editor about the purpose of my visit, our position against Germany, and the fact that we had conducted negotiations with the Soviets before and after the invasion and had offered our support and assistance. Despite all that, I said, his paper was publishing provocative articles and inciting the mob against Armenians. I told him I was there to ask him to stop this conduct. He asked me to submit my points in writing to which I objected, saying that I was not there to write articles for the paper, and if he did not trust the validity of my explanations, he could check with the Soviet Consulate.

I have to admit that my visit bore no results. The provocations continued. What impressed me though and filled my heart with pride was the behavior of that Armenian officer, his overt pleasure when I explained our firm position and expressed my demands. An Armenian is an Armenian, no matter what regime he lives under. He belongs to the mother nation, the Armenian nation.

Under the occupation, our communications with the ARF leadership in Tehran were carried out solely through couriers. All other channels were controlled by the Soviets. We would send reports by trusted travelers to Varos Babayan,⁴ the Bureau representative, and receive

4 Varos Babayan, born in Alexandrapol (Gyumri) in 1886, was an active member of the ARF from an early age. In 1918, he served in a high-ranking position in the Ministry of Labor in the government of the newly established Republic of Armenia. In 1921, together with other members of the government, he escaped the Bolsheviks and settled in Tabriz. There he worked as a teacher in Armenian schools. After the schools were closed in 1936, he moved to Tehran with his family. At the time of the narrative, he was the ARF Bureau representative in Iran