

feedback the same way.

We received information from reliable sources that Varos was about to be arrested. We relayed word of the imminent danger and asked him to leave Tehran for a while. The Tehran uingers also asked him to leave, but he decided to stay and be with the people in those trying times. Not very long after that, we received word of his abduction on December 26, 1941. There was no news of his whereabouts.⁵

I was devastated. My wife dropped her preparations for the New Year celebration. She foresaw disaster hanging over our family and she was frightened. The rank and file of the Atrpatakan ARF were in commotion. Their feelings were running very high. They were pushing for permission to reciprocate. It was hard to hold them back. Fearing an act of revenge, Agaronov went about with bodyguards. To appease him, we sent word that we did not intend to do anything in revenge, for the time being.

The Party leadership in Tehran was shaken by Varos Babayan's abduction. Disagreement and even stark opposition among the members of the Central Committee threatened the solidarity of the rank and file, especially when their disputes and clashes became the talk of the town and threatened the Party's prestige. The ripples reached Atrpatakan and jeopardized our stance vis-à-vis the occupying army. For that reason, the Central Committee in Tabriz decided that I should go to Tehran

and he was employed as the manager of *Alik's* publishing department.

5 The assumption is that Varos Babayan was arrested in Tehran by the Soviet NKVD and sent to the Soviet Union. It is also assumed that he died in prison in Moscow.