

and talk some sense into our ungers. Zangezurtsi Grigor, a member of our armed defense group,⁶ accompanied me.

My mission was difficult and unpleasant. After several private meetings with ungers involved in the dispute and other important members of the organization, I came to realize that communist propaganda had successfully hit its target, had penetrated the organization and sown the seeds of disunity. Two members of the Central Committee demanded the dissolution of Varos Babayan's "pro-German" Central Committee and the election of a new pro-Soviet body, and they wanted to draft a staunch communist to the membership. That was outrageous. Soviet agents had been able to penetrate the very minds of our veteran ungers. I failed in my mission. There was nothing I could do to restore the erstwhile strength and unity of the ungers in Tehran.

Meanwhile, the Soviets continued to harass our ungers in Tabriz. One day I met Dr. Armenak Aftandilian in the street. He was bewildered. He told me that two Soviet soldiers had literally grabbed him off the street and taken him to attend a patient. Arriving at an office instead of a house, he had realized that there was no patient. Instead, a few more soldiers or officers had interrogated him about Dashnaktsutiun, about its strategies and future plans. He had told them he was a physician and had no interest in politics. He was frightened. He said he wanted to obtain British citizenship. I calmed him down and

6 The reference is to a group of young ARFers, called *մարտական խումբ*, who had received special training to bear arms and to always be ready to counter the mob provocation and harassment of Armenian citizens.