

**MATERIALS FROM AZERBAIJAN NEWSPAPER OF AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (1918-1919)**

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№ 55, December 8, 1918

Baku, December 8

We, Azerbaijanis, are not so experienced in politics and can not use the methods, applied by others, especially by our evil-wishers. We did not manage to strike alarm in the entire Europe, to bear down doors of the strong countries and even did not manage to establish an appropriate press in Europe.

The words said by the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan Kh.B. Khasmamedov are the honest truth for everyone who is closely familiarized with the life of Caucasus Moslems within the last 15 years.

Beginning from the first saddest day of Armenian-Moslem clashes, most part of progressive press of Russia took a hostile position towards the Moslems, charging them of reactionary character, inclination to serve the basis for autocracy, black-hundred tendency, barbarities. There were such cases when the names of nonexistent Caucasus towns as though ruined by Moslems appeared in the large academic bodies.

Such a sensation caused in the Russian capital press certainly did not go without the due echo in the European and global press in the whole and Moslems were associated with redskins from the novel by Gustav Emar, while the appeals to the parliamentarians of different countries were made about the victims of the barbarities of Moslems.

Some families have an awkward baby, the constant object of ridicule and mocking from the side of his skillful brothers, does not even try to complain and is waiting obediently for his mother to beat not his offenders but him as the skillful information has already been used. We have been in the same state of such an awkward baby and in the Caucasus the victims have always been the object of false accusations.

That is all due to our inability to cause sensations and good press.

It is clear that the outsiders get an impression not too profitable for us. And the visitors are extremely surprised seeing quite an opposite scene.

Such a state still exists nowadays. When Azerbaijani Turks, like all the Caucasus Moslems suffered ten times greater than other peoples, residing in the Caucasus in period of anarchy, the majority of the Caucasus press continues the pursuit that has acquired a systematic character, the one which creation is supported unanimously by all the elements from cadets to Bolsheviks and from dashnaks to socialists. The latter pushed back the class issues and hold struggle directly with Azeri Turks rather than separate classes and not on the social but of the national and even religious basis.

It is quite depressing: if the issue touches upon us, Moslems, the political credo of Baku socialists is able to carry out even such perturbations. We can't and are not eager to assimilate with our political enemies, not thinking much over the means for the achievement of the goal. We proceed calmly and in cold blood aware of our innocence and clear consciousness to our goal assured that our loyalty and unsophisticated actions will be recognized and appreciated by everyone whose eyes are not closed to the reality by malice and egoistic longing. The fact is clear. You can check if you do not believe.

№ 4, September 25, 1918.

The first issue of the Azerbaijan newspaper reflects the regulation of the government of Azerbaijan on the creation of extraordinary investigation commission for investigating the violence committed towards the Moslem population of Transcaucasia since the beginning of the European war and determination of the damage caused to the population. The same issue reports that the state of Moslems in Erivan province defies description. By late April of this year the number of ruined Moslem villages reached 199: 135 thousand residents of the village were terminated by Armenians or died of hunger and part of them moved to the places occupied by Turkish troops.

On reading this, the reader, not familiarized with the state of affairs in the Transcaucasia will be taken aback. The press especially foreign mass media systematically declared on the violence committed against the poor defenseless Christian Armenians and suddenly it turns out that the barbarities were committed not by Moslems but by Armenians against Moslems.

The aforementioned events are quite insignificant for anyone who has no idea about the life of Transcaucasian peoples as they are considered the logical results of the politics of Transcaucasian party Dashnaksutyun, playing the leading role in the political life of Armenians against Moslems. Its policy has always been hostile and aggressive towards the Moslems of Transcaucasia.

"Our social moral orientation aimed at the life isolated from our neighbor Moslems and we did not try to establish friendly relations with them. Our intelligentsia, especially those, who headed our national policy, contributed to the kindling of hostile attitude of our people towards Turks, Moslem

peoples and maintenance of aggressive policy towards them"

Such statement was made by Armenian newspaper Mshak in its Easter issue. That is quite a valuable recognition confirming our opinion.

What caused the aggressive policy of Armenians against Moslems of Transcaucasia, the fight with them? Was that the leading role of Moslems in the social life of the region: their economic influence, intention to subdue Armenians, the attempts to create obstacles on the way to creation of Great Armenia from sea to sea? There was nothing of the kind. Armenians have always been liked by Russian Tsars as in the consequent attack to the Moslem East Trastist regime found support in Armenians. Armenians developed economically, strengthened their culture, united. Feeling much strengthened, Dashnaksakans paid their attention to Turkish Armenia and started to assist actively to Turkish Armenians in gaining independence. That turned out to be quite easy as European states interfered with the internal affairs of Turkey as if protecting Christian population. The hostilities towards Turks were later ascribed to the Moslems of Transcaucasia, who are the single nation with the Turks. After annexation of Erivan, Ganja and other khanates to the Russian empire the Moslems of Transcaucasia did not gain the civil equality of rights. The limitation of Moslem's rights was also well-known. At the same time all possible obstacles were created for the spread of enlightenment among Moslems. Each attempt of Moslems to arrange or strive for the enlightenment activity ascribed to the display of separatism and panislamism, that was caused by those very Dashnaksakans. The economically weak, humiliated, as if the citizens of the second class, that did not have enough intellectual powers, the Moslems of Transcaucasia did not play any role in the region and is they wished they would not manage to prevent Armenians from achievement of their goals in creation of Great Armenia.

With participation of Turkey in European war, dashnaksakans found the possibility for the soonest implementation of their great plans. Yet the creation of Great Armenia required the establishment of ethnically clean area. Thus, the bloodshed over the Moslem population, first in Kars and Kars region and later with the proceeding of Russians to the center of the Asia Minor's lands out of Turkey was initiated. It is possible to judge about the character and scale of the bloodshed only by the barbarities committed by Armenian troops before the eyes of approaching Turks in Erzindjan, Erzerum, Kars and other places. With the departure of Russian troops Armenians became weaker and Dashnaksakans need to reconsider their politics and their relations with the Moslems of Transcaucasia, try to establish good neighbor relations with them. Yet they continued their former policy. Russians left but English people were quite nearby. Instead of moving to the front Armenian troops stayed in Erivan province and ruined hundreds of Moslem villages and refugee Armenians were settled on the forcefully cleansed lands. The great Surmala quarter was cleansed of Moslem population and Nakhchivan city was also subject to destruction.

The great bloodshed is committed against the Moslem population of Baku. It was even more horrific than any terrors even known. Over 6000 Moslems regardless of the Party they belonged to or their financial state were killed, children and women were beaten and different quarters were terminated by the fire. A punishment expedition was sent to Shemakha, the city and tens of villages were fired and their population terminated. The similar violence are committed in other places of Baku province. And at the same time Dashnaksakans sent the telegrams all over the world on the bloodshed committed by Moslems against Armenians. And even in time when the blood brothers of Caucasus Moslems Turks started to protect Azerbaijanis who did not manage to create armed forces owing to MrGegechkori and Co -the mad Dashnaksakans could not calm down. And all possible measures are undertaken for the deprivation of Azerbaijan of its capital-Baku on the territory which belonging to Azerbaijan is not rejected by any of Armenian leaders, the Garabagh (Shusha) Republic was created, the claims accompanied with certain actions, in other unquestionably Azeri lands, all Armenians able to carry weapon are mobilized and concentrated in definite points so as to attack the Moslem population in case of the failure of Turks at Baku.

Now that Baku-the main stake of Dashnaksakans was not occupied and the center of the ancient Moslem khanate Erivan, completely cleaned off Moslems, was surrendered to Armenians with a great pain in heart, Dashnatsakans will have to forget the conflict with the Moslems of Transcaucasia and try to establish good neighbor relations with them, avoiding everything that could cause the claims between two neighbor peoples, that have a number of common interests and, moreover, they will have to do much to cure the wounds, caused by the sad events of the recent time.

After the famous leader of the kidnapper band, T. Alirov, headed the socialist army and terminated up to 6 thousand defenseless Moslem impoverished people in Baku, and Martyn's boon companion, cur Stepa Lalayev, heading Dashnaksakan (also socialist) bands, cleaned a number of quarters from the representatives of Moslem intelligentsia, whom he drew off their houses and fired at the streets, Shakumyan and other similar leaders of democracy found the experience too bright for their commanders and Amirov and Lalayev were appointed for struggle with counterrevolutionaries in Shemakha together with the selected Dashnaksakan squadron.

We do not know what had happened to the Shemakha counterrevolutionaries, but it is known that the red socialist squadron headed by the socialists Amirov and Lalayev terminated the Moslem population of Shelakha and ruined nearly 40 villages. The barbarities committed by Lalayev against Shemakha Moslems are even more terrific than all the cruelties we saw during the war.

The evil was so horrible that it could not be kept a secret like all other actions of these bands. People started to talk on it and even a number of Bolshevik bodies published the report from Shemakha. At the same time Lalayev's barbarities were reflected through the following statements: "... And some injustices were displayed towards the innocent people". The termination of Moslem population, the unripped stomach of pregnant women, horrific violation of girls are called some injustices. Nevertheless, the government of Skillful Sheumyan did not manage to hide the Shemakha acts. Molokans first acting in cooperation with Armenians as the result of the skillful provocation of Vermishev and Sheumyan as the events of Mughan turned their backs to Armenians and adopted a resolution of protest against Armenians' barbarities. The commission headed by the provincial commissar traveling later also added to the scene of violence. An extraordinary military commission headed by Kozhemyako which included one Moslem was created to calm the public opinion. The commission started its activity. It resulted in the accusation act against S. Lalayev as the organizer of the termination of innocent people and the fire in the city. It was necessary to arrest the criminal. Yet Baku socialists did not manage to arrest Dashnaksakan bandits... When Kozhemyako invited S. Lalayev to the commission and declared about his arrest, the latter damned him and phoned Shaumyan who then called Kozhemyako to the telephone and said. "It is nit polite to arrest Lalayev, that is a nonsense".. Thus, the ideal leader of democracy backed the crime and Lalayev left for a walk at the Velikoknyazhesky Avenue accompanied with his bodyguards from the bureau of Dashnaksakans. And what about the trial? In 3-4 days the newspapers published an information on the elimination of the military and investigation commission.

21 (8) October, 1918

#### THE STATE OF GARABAGH IN THE DAYS OF UNREST

As is known, Turks occupied Shusha without a fire of a gun, at the same time Armenians did not display any resistance on the 1st day of the month of Mokhareh. Nobody expected that, as they thought that the occupation will not go without strong resistance and bloodshed.

To understand the reason for such a peaceful occupation requires familiarization with the conditions in the region and the relations between Armenians and Moslems.

A vast plain, extending to the west of the Caspian Sea and covering the Mugan and Mil steppes ends at the Garabagh mountains. They surround Shusha and two highways pass through them. The first goes via Aghdam and the second via Gerusy and Zangezur. An ancient tower Askeran that dominates the entire circle is located 38 miles away from the city along the Aghdam highway. Though there are no fortifications like Askeran along the Gerusin highway, several people were able to cut the city off the external world.

Most of the residents of Shusha reaching 40 thousand in number are Moslems. The city is surrounded by 12 Armenian villages and only one Moslem village Malibeyli locating somewhere between them.

From the very beginning of the anarchy in the Caucasus Garabagh Armenians did not display any activeness and did not take part in any of the events. Following the establishment of three Caucasus countries, they did not recognize any of it and intended to create the independent Garabagh republic and in fact they have achieved their goal.

Yet Moslems did not recognize the republic and owing to that the relations between Moslems and Armenians deteriorated and the bloody clashes were expected at any minute. All the attempts of Armenians to gain the trust of Moslems were not a success. On seeing that, they made up their mind to act more intensively. The city was cut off food within four days. The mountain paths to Karyagino and Halifalu were closed as well. Those who tried to escape were killed.

The gossip on the soonest arrival of Andranik's and Shakhnazaryan's troops was heard everywhere in Shusha. Armenians became even more impudent. They oppressed not only the villagers but also the residents of the city. Armed Armenians arrived at the Moslem sections and those Moslems who risked appearing in Armenian part of the city were

checked and disarmed. Thus, the population was not able to use the new crop and had to use the insufficient remnants of the last year's crop. The hunger started to spread among the Moslem population. I've previously mentioned that Armenians wanted to make Moslems recognize the Garabagh Republic in winter yet among them there was an insignificant group of people who did not even dare to speak for the peaceful settlement of the issue. The group operated secretly.

At the time when Armenians were engaged in the creation of Garabagh republic, Gasan Basri bey was appointed the commandant of Shusha, Fakhri bey- of Aghdam and Kyazym bey-of Karyagin.

Yet, Armenians did not recognize the appointed commandants and did not even want to hear about them. Due to that all the relations were cut off. The entire governmental establishment abandoned by Moslems continued operating for some time yet then were shutdown. The Armenians convened the national assembly that operated within two weeks. It approved the position held by Armenians of Shusha and proposed them to continue the same work, declared the Garabagh Republic and distributed the administrative positions. The real political face of Armenians was revealed at that session. Socialism, brotherhood, justice and other slogans pronounced by Armenians before the session were forgotten. Only the nationalism of dashnaks was preserved. The government was formed from Dashnaks and it was waiting for the arrival of Andranik and Shahnazarov in order to subdue Moslems (To be continued).

G. Khalil Ibragim

№ 16, October 23 (10)1918.

SITUATION IN GARABAGH IN THE DAYS OF UNREST (continuation, see No 14)

In one of the previous editions, describing the situation in Garabagh, we defined the position of Armenians in details. Today we'll to reflect the picture of spirits and actions of the Garabagh Moslems. Long before the arrival of the commandment of the city Gasan Basri-bey, Shusha Moslems seeing the armament and preparation of Armenians started to prepare themselves as the armed clash was possible at every minute. The men able to carry guns from the age of 15 till 50 were taken to the list. The young people were included into the acting squadrons and the people over 45 years were included into reserves and had to appear in the extreme cases. 14 committees for the population armament were created and these committees compiled the lists for the sections they controlled, collected money for the purchase of guns and for the armament of the indigent people. Thus, everyone regardless of financial state was armed. Great reserves of guns and shells were formed. Moreover, the border between Armenian and Tatar parts of the city was consolidated and the trenches were dug. The houses located at the border were adapted for the defense and at the same time the windows were closed and the loopholes were created in the walls. Each section was shown its place during the battle, the reserves are registered and the department for supply of shells and bread was arranged. In other words, all necessary measures are undertaken and nothing remains unnoticed. Days and nights the patrols formed of young people served in the trenches. The poor people of the city were not forgotten as well, they were provided with wheat, bought from the collected money used for the baking of bread that was sold by 50 kopeck per a pound.

Thus, the population of the city did their best but initially they had done a number of mistakes. They were soon noticed and tried to correct. Thus, the general mobilization of Moslems was declared and the young people started to study the profession of the militant under the leadership of the officers staying in Shusha, and a staff was arranged there. The trained youth was allowed home and part of it was left as the permanent army. Among the trained youth 50 people joined the open military college that was teaching cavalry and infantry formations from 9 till 12 and from 4 till 6. And at the same time the leadership of officers was digging trenches, laid underground ways from one part of the city to another. The blindages were created for the protection.

In case of a sudden attack from the side of the surrounding Armenian villages, the entire Moslem part of the city was protected from each part by trenches. The trenches were also dug at the highland Uch-Mykh, dominating the city. On the same day a deep ditch was created to the mountain hill and the trenches were dug. That caused the dissatisfaction of Armenians who demanded to clean the position. The issue was settled somehow. The highland Doteleb is located 2.5 miles north of the city. To was possible to cut off the communication of the enemies with the villages of Khalifalu, Khankendy, Malibeyli and Karyagin and to prevent people entering the zone just through occupying the mountain with a squadron of 20-30 people. The Moslems understood the importance of the point quite in time and occupied it with a small squadron. The troops were divided into several sections, each commanded by a separate person. The chiefs of such sections have assistants that carried out the service in the trenches. Despite all those preparations the Moslems did not want a war. The digging of trenches, mobilization, armament and others was only the result of Armenians' preparation for the war and therefore, Moslems were obliged to follow their pattern through a narrower scale.

G. Khalil Ibrahim

(To be continued) October N: 20, 28 (15) 1918

## SITUATION IN GARABAGH IN THE DAYS OF UNREST

( Continuation )

It was quite difficult to prepare the population for the war and at the same to keep the people from the active meetings. Only any of the social organizations could undertake such a responsible task. Such organizations operated and worked almost in all the spheres.

During the preparations for the attack the epidemics of typhoid erupted in Garabagh. From 30 to 40 people died a day. .. A hospital was opened through the public funds of 12 000 rubles by the party Mudafeyi Millete

The fights continued within four days. Due to the information coming to the front the alarm was increasing and threatened to burst into bloody clashes. The international committee managed to sooth the people. A part of refugees was returned to the city and the others were sent to the villages. The committee contributed much to the fight before the arrival of Turks. But we shall talk about that later. But now I'll tell you about the way the Shusha Moslems managed to communicate with the external world.

The city was cut off the entire world and there was no idea on the events tat occurred out of the city's bounds. We were like prisoners without any information. The only way to communicate was that through the mountains, the most difficult one, by the way. We were obliged to use this way. Three people who knew the way Abdal Kasym, Gulabl Baydar and Dalidamura undertook the delivery of letters and information. The first mentioned traveled through a Molokan village and the other through Aghdam.

Thus the city was in blockade and no bread was supplied there. The local reserves were diminishing day by day and everyone was obliged to by bread from the markets. The landowners who stayed in the city could not get to their villages and bring something from the crop of this year. Several times the deputation of Moslems and Armenians left for Askeran for the talks on the opening of communication. And though Armenians insisted that the way was open, anyone who dared risk was killed on the place.

Along with the lack of food, vegetables and fruits the situation was deteriorated due to the fact that Armenians used the water of the city and Moslems were left without water. They were obliged to send armed people for water to the springs, locating near the city. There they were fired by Armenians. The water was carried to the city with danger to the life of the suppliers.

The goods rose in price. Most of them could not be found by any price. The Moslems were in despair. Moreover, they heard about the approaching of Andranik and Shahnazaryan's troops. The impudence of Armenians even increased. Moslems longed for the soonest battle in order to either find a way out of such a depressed situation or to die. They could not bare it any more. The city commandment Gasan Basri-bey soothed the population and asked to bear a little longer.

At that time the people expected the arrival of Armenians troops, the city was informed of the occupation of Baku by Turks just on the eve of Kurban Bayramy. For the first time the Moslems overfilled with optimism and the day of Gurban Bayramy as celebrated in the best possible way. Shusha had never witnessed such a great day before. The city was decorated with carpets and the people went for a walk. The spirit of a holiday was felt everywhere.

The information gave hope to Moslems for the soonest escape. Armenians were doubtful about the announcement yet their spirits sank. In two days the gossips about Shahnazaryan's approach intensified and they said that his troops advanced 20 miles towards the city, to the village Zabykh.

The Moslems, the members of the international committee made their best in order not to let them enter the city and promised to assist them. On the contrary, Armenians tried to draw Shakhnazaryan's arrival closer. They supplied the troops with horses, carts and other transport means. Armenians felt more optimistic. Thus, the time passed. The frequent shooting was heard in Armenian part on the second night. Moslems were in a panic, they left their houses and each of them went to the place stipulated for him during the battle. Yet the shooting was not allowed until the people were not informed about the events tat had occurred. At that time the voices from Armenian trenches shouted: "Moslems, we are not going to kill you or fight with you".

The matter was as follows. The troops of Shakhnazaryan arrived in Zabykh to enter the city from that place as the village is borders of a big village Kala Derem, an excellent supporting point. According to a plan, the troops of Shahnazaryan and Armenian divisions were to unite there and move on Shusha after the destruction of Moslem villages. Yet, the cavalry Kurds and mountain tribes took Shakhnazaryan's envoy prisoner and studied the plans of Armenians from the letter he carried with him and initiated war a day before. They did not allow the squadrons to approach the city and defeated Shakhnazaryan. His division wandered off and the aide that was sent from the city got frightened

and ran away. Part of them returned to the city. They were welcomed with fire of Armenians as they thought that those were Moslems attacking them.

G. Khalil Ibrahim

(To be continued)

№ 24, November 1 (October 19) 1918

#### SITUATION IN GARABAGH IN THE DAYS OF UNREST

The atmosphere was extremely depressing within the last few days: the unrests and clashes were possible at every minute. The people were stricken with famine. A part of the population hoped that after the fight with Armenians the roads would open and suggested initiating the battle and achieving a break through. Others insisted on the examination of the rich who had made great reserves of food for themselves. Both suggestions would immediately cause bloodshed. The people were in such a despair that even did not believe in the arrival of Turkish soldiers in Aghdam.

At that critical moment the city received a letter from Ismayil Khakki-bey to Armenians demanding to send delegates to Aghdam. Five delegates were sent there. Two of them returned to Shusha announcing that their three fellows were detained in Aghdam, while they were sent to communicate the demand to Turks to surrender the city immediately. The similar letter was addressed to the commandant of Shusha.

Armenians conducted a session that was full of arguments and disagreements on the settlement of the issue. They did not respond for five days.

The Moslems of the city hearing the news of the soonest arrival of Turks started to prepare for the solemn greeting of the savers. A triumphal arch was established at the entrance to the city. The similar arches were also established on the Shah bridge at the entrance to the market on the way to Maydan and in many other places.

Meanwhile, Armenians did not come to any decision... Finally on the fifth day at 9 p.m. the Armenians-the members of the international committee came with the declaration that they surrender. The next day, the three Armenian delegates detained in Aghdam returned to the city and announced that they were suggested to surrender the city within 24 hours.

On that very day, several Armenians came to the commandant of the city and brought a self-made cannon, a machine-gun and 80 ordinary guns and announced that they give up and recognize the power of Azerbaijan.

The next day, the envoy was sent to Aghdam to Ismayil Khakki bey and Djamil Djikhad bey with the announcement on the case.

From that day Armenians started to decorate their part of the city for the arrival of Turks. They also established an arch in front of the international committee at the upper Maydan and also at the entrance to the city.

The arrangement of the meeting and all the expenses were undertaken by the Moslem national committee. The funds of 20 thousand rubles were collected from the population voluntarily.

Moreover, one of the local beys undertook the receipt of Turks within the whole day. Most of the people contributed tea, sugar, coffee, bread and other things.

In two days Turks came up to the city. The delay was caused by the resistance of Armenian villages locating at the slopes of the Askern mountain. These were the Khoramurd, Khanabad, Dashbash, Aranzemin, Kenik, Akbukak, Karakend and others. The village near Khachinchay also showed resistance. The Aghdam troops displayed a great courage and brevity.

G. Khalil Ibrahim

№ 1, Wednesday, January 1 1919

The copy of the communication of the attorney of the affairs of the Republic of Armenia to Georgia for the diplomatic representative of Azerbaijan of August 17, 1918 No 401

Confirming the receipt of your information No 461 of August 15 and its communication to the government of my country on the intervention of the troops of general Andranik to the Republic of Azerbaijan I'm proud to inform that general Andranik his squadron were excluded from the staff and the list of Armenian troops by the order on a separate Armenian corps, after which they refused to recognize the power of Armenia and its state officials and to obey them.

Thus, general Andranik and his squadron have nothing common with Armenian national troops and their bodies and the government of Armenia is not responsible for their actions.

The plenipotentiary of Armenian under the government of Georgia Djamalyan

... The band of Gulyatag Armenians attacked the village Sirkhavend and stole 122 heads of cattle and 45 goats. The same even strengthened bans formed of Gulyatag, Djanatag and Kaspated Armenians twice attacked the village of Balagiylar. The region of three police stations, where Armenians and Moslems use the lands conjointly and with the prevalence of Armenians is full of gossips about the departure of Turks and Andrabik's approaching from the side of Shusha. They also say that Armenians try to drive Moslems away from the mountain strip and to establish the region comprising only Armenians in order to separate it from Azerbaijan.

The band is headed by the following people in the said region: the former people's commissar of the third section of Djavanshire quarter Karapet, the resident of Agdara Anresbek, brothers Moses and others. The bands also comprise Armenians, Turkish and people from Yerevan sent from Andranik's squadron.

Reporting on the aforementioned I inform that Armenian population behave extremely glaringly that threatens with great complications as the Moslems, refraining from revenge on Armenians, demand for the legal pressure on Armenians and great evenge.

N:5 Tuesday, January 7, 1919 .

Note of Azerbaijan to Armenia

Yerevan.To the Foreign Minister of Armenia

We were informed that the Moslems of Yerevan province are subject of violence by numerous armed troops who, kill, sack, disarm Moslems of villages and cities and make them obey. Moslems ask to help them from the attacks. We were informed that the number of people who sank trying to escape from Armenians by the River Arax reaches 300. We were also informed that recently Armenian troops accumulated near Kazakh in Armenian villages. These actions violate the sovereignty of Azerbaijan. My government, reporting on the aforementioned events to the government of Armenia is against the violence committed by Armenian troops towards the Moslems of Yerevan province and is against the Armenians' occupation of those regions of the Yerevan province that are the integral part of Azerbaijan. My government is sure that the due agreement will be made on the prevention of the further acts of violence and actions possible to cause harm to the relations of the two neighbor republics.

Deputy Foreign Minister Adil-Khan Ziyatkhanov

... The representative of Zangezur and Ordubad Moslems could hardly get the Baku with a number of documents and reports to the government of Azerbaijan January 4...

The road was too dangerous and everyone daring to escape from the fire ring of Andranik's band puts his life at stake. The representative was sent for the inevitable death.

Committing these crimes, Andranik declared to the Moslems that he received such an order from English people.

In case the aide, able to prevent the barbarities of Armenian butchers does not come in time, these "knights" would not stop the complete termination of Zangezur and Erivan Moslems.

№ 8, Tuesdat January 14 (1), 1919

The following appeal was introduced by the representatives of Erivan Moslems to the chair of the Ministers Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

"According to the exact data, Andranik, under the shelter of the accompaniment of refugee Armenians, leaves to Erivan to help the Armenian troops, fighting there. That poses a great threat to the Moslems of Erivan as all the refugees are the former residents of Turkey intending to settle at the places inhabited by Moslems. The resettlement of Armenians

from the Republic of Ararat to the places inhabited by Moslems against the will of the latter proves all the stated above and a real war continues between Moslems and Armenians on this basis.

Following the battle, Armenians though suspended the hostilities as it was difficult to fight at two fronts yet with the suspension of the Georgian-Armenian war, they are proposed to resume the attack.

Being aware of that, the Moslems of Erivan guard the consolidated positions and will hardly allow Andranik to their rear.

The issue is quite grave and we, therefore, ask you to work out a special agreement with general Thomson that will be based on the responsibility to withdraw the Armenian troops, that have intervened to the settlements of Moslems to their initial positions and to send Armenian refugees to the Turkish Armenia or to the Republic of Ararat, and to withdraw Andranik's troops in parts.

The due agreement will be appropriate for the Moslems of Erivan that must be introduced with that to avert the new clashes with Armenians on the said basis.

The report on the state of Moslems in Ordubad and its surroundings intrdocd to the government by the representatives of the city

Ordubad is the place, that is located on the border of Yelizavetpol and Erivan province: it has the population of 6000 people and covers the mountain and rocky places: gardens, sowing and other lands dry out due to the insufficient irrigation and do not give crop every year: on the whole, the soils in Ordubad are not fertile and therefore the residents mostly leave for different cities of the Caucasus to earn their living. Moslems dominate the population and Armenians make up only 200 people.

Armenians and Moslems live together in the villages on the outskirts of the city but there are a number of fully Moslem or Armenian villages as well. The city and the surrounding villages are obliged to get food from Nakhchivan.

After the departure of Russian troops from the Caucasus, the province was full of anarchy, the villages were ruined by the enemies and their residents were terminated. During Andranik's advance through our territory to Zangezur, two third of our villages were ruined and their residents killed. Turks came following Anrdanik's arrival and for three months everything was under control in the province.

After Turkish troops left the Caucasus out state even deteriorated as the roads to Tiflis and Ganja closed; the supply of food to the city was cut off with the departure of Turkish officers and therefore, we were obliged to dismiss our squadron of 500 people leaving only one squadron. The lack of food weakened our organization and we did not know whom to obey. The Moslems of Nakhchivan and Sharur were also in the same state and we therefore decided to arrange a Moslem government of Arax. By the way, this government was arranged by the Moslems of Nakhchivan and Sharur who suggested us to join it as well and we agreed due to the suspension of communication with Ganja and as the government of Arax acted in the same direction as that of Ganja. The Arax government is newly established and it is not known which form it would acquire later and therefore, it did not manage to undertake the necessary measures for the improvement of the state in the city and province and left it to the cities to decide on the issues and the organization of their own forces for defense.

Armenians have recently resumed hostile actions against Zangezur province, against us, Sharur and Erivan, they attack our villages, sack them and terminate the people, the residents of nearly 20 villages of Zangezur province abandoned their places and ran away to Persia, Garabagh and our city.

The declaration of the annexation of the entire Zangezur province to the Ararat government were introduced in a number of villages.

At the same time they set the goal to terminate the entire Moslem population of Zangezur, Sharur, Nakhchivan and Ordubad provinces, to remove the Moslems from all the provinces so as to prove their rights for the said lands and declare them the part of Armenia at the future peace conference as all peoples recognize the lands free of Moslems as belonging to Armenia. Therefore, Armenians terminate our population, shed blood, covering steppes and mountains with it, hundreds of villages are ruined, tuned to the waste lands and our dignity is humiliated by Armenians. The cry of women and girls is heard everywhere you look. When will our government stop observing the termination of our brothers indifferently, when will the attacks of Armenians against us Moslem be stopped? When will the merciful Americans and European peoples undertake the responsibility for the destiny of our people?



When will the people of Ganja and Baku recall their brother Moslems who live on the same land. If after Armenians terminate Moslems from these lands, no trace of our people will be left and only dream will be preserved from our intentions and strivings.

Our enemies are on the alert, they do not miss any chance to realize the ideas of their people and to annex our lands to Armenia. They try to expand the Ararat state from the borders of Turkey and till Shusha without any Moslem Turks in it and make use of each chance they receive.

The general reconciliation that put an end to the war of the peoples did not have any influence to the actions of Armenian government. The bands of this state continue to serve the realization of the ideas of our people. Our people undertake no measure against all these burglaries and violence. This inactivity of our people and government deteriorates the state of our people. Our young people losing hope for any step by our nation escape where they are able to go. Everyone has lost hope for any action from our side. The hopelessness of our state penetrates into our society and paralyzes that insignificant power that has ever existed among people. If no measures are undertaken by our brothers from Baku in the near future and the commission for the familiarization with the state of affairs, the due number of soldiers and civil officials for raising the spirit of the people and for the support of our organizations are not sent to the place, everything will die in the near future and the turmoil will win over. Thus, by the time of the establishment of peace, the population will be driven out of these lands and when the peace conference discusses the issue of the separation of the territory, we'll have to say goodbye to this lands forever.

Reporting on the aforementioned events to the Turkic organizations of Ganja, which are considered the cornerstone of our nation, we ask to undertake immediate and decisive measures for the prevention of the termination, burglar and resettlement of our people by the time of the common peace, we ask you to send us the necessary number of troops for the strengthening of our divisions and to communicate the sad state of our people to all the nations and countries of the world through press. The information was reported a few days ago yet they could not be sent due to the suspension of communication and the absence of couriers. After that the events in Erivan changed. The armed Armenians attacked the villages Kamaria, Sadarak, ruined them and moved to Sharur and Nakhchivan. They were supported from Alexandropol and Erivan. If the due measures are not taken within 15 days, our Ordunad will be caught between two large forces of enemies and our dignity will be humiliated by them.

Of these two hostile powers, one comes from Erivan and another-that of Andranik threatens from Zangezur. Under such hard conditions we ask to think over our state and compile the plan of actions for us that is to explain whom we are to deal with: that is either with the official enemy or with the bandits.

The chair of the National Committee

Mir Gidayat Seid-Zade

December 22 1918

№ 14, Wednesday, January 22 (9) 1919

The following telegram was received by the Council of Ministers from the Zangezur commandant from Aghdam January 10:

"I greeted the English commission headed by major Gibbon in Abdullar and at that meeting it was decided to stop all kinds of hostile actions between Moslems and Armenians and restore the normal life in the presence of Armenian and Moslem Deputies in accordance with the instruction of the commander of the allied troops general Tomson. The population was informed about that. After that Armenians can travel to Shusha and back to Gerusy safely and that can be proven by the mission itself. The Armenians headed by Andranik's squadrons despite their promise, ruined, burned and sacked over 30 Moslem villages. The residents that did not manage to escape were terminated regardless of sex and age. On the third day when I saw Gibbon off, I was informed that Armenians completely ruined the Razdar village of the fourth section and killed a part of the population. Such barbarous termination of Moslems in the presence of the mission of strong countries is not punished. Armenians put all the responsibility on Andranik's troops and the refugees from Turkey. Reporting on that and by the request of the population I ask you to attain the withdraw of Andranik's troops from Zangezur, to keep the responsible under control for the restoration of normal life. The Moslems worry that the government does not allow them to act.

The commander of Zangezur Melik Namazaliyev

N:15, Thursday, January 23 (10), 1919

Baku, January 23, 1919

The typical document-Andranik's order signed by archimandrite and the Shusha mayor on the suspension of the hostilities against the population of Garabagh, placed in the yesterday's issue brings different thoughts.

On the one hand, one can not help applauds for this order as it is the result of the interference of English mission to the activity of the notorious general. Such quick capitulation shows that Englishmen carry out the consequent policy of peace establishment in the Caucasus and will not allow any bloodshed through the aggressive actions of Dashnaks.

That fact witnesses that the allies are just to the needs of all the peoples of the Caucasus and will undertake all measures to meet these needs regardless of the nationality.

On the other hand, the very tone of the order and its signing by the people holding public positions in the city of the republic of Azerbaijan show that despite all the agreements between the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the delimitation of the territory on the basis of mutual concessions, the leadership of Armenia will not be able to implement them and to control their implementation.

That very document shows that the termination of the helpless Moslem population of Garabagh, committed by Andranik's bands is not way by accident and is carried out by the plan worked out in advance and supported by the local Armenian organizations.

We should hope that such cases when the false generals issue the orders themselves or not on behalf of the legal government will be finally stopped.

The convene of Azeri-Armenian conference, like Georgian-Armenian one with the representatives of ally countries as the arbiters for the settlement of all disputable borderline issues may put an end to this artificially created state of affairs. The attempts to convene the Caucasus conference were not a success due to the refusal of Armenian government. It is necessary to put an end to all the disputes through a number of separate conferences that alone would be able to prevent the new possible conflicts.

Garabagh is originally Azeri land and the historical cradle of the Azerbaijani people must get rid of any attacks by the bands of Dashnaks or any Andraniks that do not have any rights for it and that settle all the issues through application of force.

To date when the ideas of the democracy of all people has won over and when all the rights of people for self-determination are realized and the independence of all the Caucasus republics is close to the official recognition, the destiny of different regions is defined not by the power of guns but on the basis of the goodwill mutual agreement.

No 21. Thursday, January 30 (17), 1919

Baku, January 30, 1919

The Republic of Ararat appealed to the government of Azerbaijan with claims for Garabagh, expressing protest against the establishment of general-province in frames of Djavanshir and Shusha provinces as if violating the territorial rights of Armenia. It is not clear what they base their claim for Garabagh on, perhaps on the purely imperialistic intentions, that take into accounts neither the history, nor the present state of Garabagh. The latter is the original part of Azerbaijan. The whole line of the Azerbaijani people is closely connected with Garabagh so that no one among the Azerbaijani Turks doubts about his right for this land which is the nuclear settlement of Turkic people in the Transcaucasia.

The Moslem population currently occupies the entire Garabagh. Armenian settlement, with the minority population, surrounded by the Turkic settlements from every side extends in the mountain part of Garabagh from Shusha to Ganja does not communicate with any center of Ararat state and is connected with the rest of Azerbaijan. Such economic connection of the plain Garabagh, inhabited by Turks with the mountain strip which is visited by the population of lowlands in summers, is well-known and can not be broken by any claims of other states. When Andranik appeared in Garabagh with his bands, that terminated the Moslem settlements with guns and swords, the Armenian governments was official against any solidarity with him announcing that Andranik is himself responsible for all the action, but now that the note of Armenian government on its rights for Garabagh are issued, it is evident that the actions of Andranik were controlled by the government of Erivan, that hoped to strengthen the Armenian rights for Azeri land through such actions.

The government of Azerbaijan has repeatedly expressed its point of view about the conflict with the Armenians and insisted on peaceful liquidation, i.e. by the bilateral negotiations without violence.

The newspaper 'Nashe Vremya' (Our century) leading from January 29, supporter of the democracy, turned into he attorney of the republic Ararat in the matter of Karabakh(Garabag). It supposed that 'Armenia may not wish to have

bloody conflict with the neighboring people instead of peaceful existence'; it forgot who was the defender at the moment and feared that 'irresponsible noble powers of Azerbaijan' would aggressively protest and carry the democracy. It is high time to leave aside forgotten lofty phrases of Azerbaijan government about 'feudalism' based on the democratic and social powers of the parliament. The matter is out of the question. Never the government of Azerbaijan, responsible before the parliament, would act aggressively. The fact has already been proved; it is evidently striving for peaceful existence with the neighboring people. It may not at the same time allow the offence of the sovereign rights and the integrity of Azerbaijan; the democracy of the Republic of Azerbaijan would help and support it despite all 'warnings' of the newspapers alike 'Nashe Vremya'

No 23, Saturday, February 1(January 19), 1919.

Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Republic sent the following telegram in the response to the protest of the government of Ararat:

Iravan, to the Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic Ararat. Protest of your government against the decision to establish temporary general-province in the regions Javanshir, Shusha, Jabrail and Zengezur is groundless, for those regions are the inseparable part of Azerbaijan. In the course of the supreme administration the government of Azerbaijan is legally and morally obliged to take intensive measures against irresponsible persons for restoration the order and without national discrimination protection of live, honor and the property of its citizens living on its territory.

Thus the decision made by the government of our state about establishment of the general-province is not to be considered the infringement to the territorial rights of Armenia whether protest by your government might be viewed as infringement to our sovereignty and the attempt to penetrate our internal affairs. No 176, January 31

On behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Adil Khan Ziyadkhanov.

N: 23, Saturday, February 1(January 19), 1919

The source of financial support to Andranik

The following published in the newspaper 'Грузия' ('Georgia') dated January 29 (No 22):

Editing office has received a photocopy of a very interesting document that highlights the sources of the financial subsidy of the famous adventurer Andranik. We entirely reproduce that document and preserve its photocopy:

The chief of the special Armenian strike force

No 700 December 10, 1918

To His Majesty General Bicherakhov

Arshak Shiranyan and Nikolay Osipov, the members of the National Armenian Board of Zengezur, arrived from Baku and invested million rubles (1000 000) and left you a subscription. The abovementioned members of the Board informed me that you presented that money on the request of Bagratuny. I express you my deep and sincere gratitude for care took for my force and poor refugees.

General- major

The document has a seal attachment with two-headed eagle and Russian script: "армянский ударный отряд"(Armenian strike force)

No, Saturday, February 8, (January 26), 1919

In the republic Ararat

The official on the special missions by the Minister-Chairman of the government of Azerbaijan reported the minister:

'Allahverdi Oruj oglu and Rustam Meshedi Huseyn oglu, from the village Kara-Iman of the mahal Goycha of the Iravan province arrived in Ganja in the face of the attorney representatives of the village Kara-Iman with the complaints of the rowdyism of the Armenians in Goycha mahal.

The Governor guided by the fact that rowdyism and barbarities against peace Moslem residence carried out in the territory of Armenia and that he had no opportunity to render substantial aid to the suffered people, send them to Baku.

The attorney Allahverdi Oruj oglu and Rustam Meshedi Huseyn oglu, being questioned by me, gave the unanimous evidence:

Seven days ago the peasant Kuli (Gulu) came to Kara-Iman (Gara Iman) and said that the Armenian force under the leadership of the officers Filimov and Nishanov surrounded the settlements Kizin-Veng, Subatan and Zagali. They ensnared all men under the pretence that the police officer called them and then started to rob the villages. People of the village begged and asked that they were ready to do everything they demanded for being released. The reply was: we shall not enjoy the revenge with destruction of only two or three Moslem settlements. Destruction of even 30 such settlements can't be compared with blood shed and victims given by Armenians in one of the ordinary streets of Baku during September events.

Four days before crushing of those villages, 4 men and 6 women were brutally murdered in the village Chamurru; the heads of the men and the chests of the women were cut off. We buried them.

An inhabitant of the village Sharaba, suffered mockery, told that all men were murdered in the village Sharaba, the children burn in the tendirs, then they chose 8 women, took them hostages for 25 days, dishonored them and only after it then freed.

No 30, Sunday, February 9 (January 27), 1919

Latest news

In Javajir uyezd

The copy of the telegram No 44 from Terter to Baku city to the Ministry of the Internal Affairs from February 7.

A group of about 30 armed Armenians from Agdere at the head of Dusunya Khachatur Bukan attempted to steal cattle on February 3. Shooting started. Kurban Allahverdi oglu (Gurban Allahverdi oglu) wounded, a cow killed. Stolen cattle hurt. Reported to the British mission in Shusha. While Zakharbeyov have not still been withdrawn out of the piece residence, there is no end to the barbarisms and all the attempts for peaceful relations will have been failed.

Chief of the uyezd Melik-Abbasov.

No 32, Wednesday, February 12 (January 30), 1919

Note to the Armenian government

The minister of the Foreign affairs sent the Armenian government a note of the following content:

Iravan, to the minister of the Armenian republic

A report received by our government that the Armenian force at the head of the officer, crossed over the borderlines of the territory of Azerbaijan near the lake Goycha and have recently ruined the Moslem settlements Kizil-Vank, Subatan, Zagali, Shakhbab and others. Part of the men population of the mentioned settlements murdered, part of them managed to escape. The large quantity of women suffered rape and outrage. The information received from different sources by the government on barbarisms in Goycha are the same, thus there is no doubt about the honesty of the facts. Systematic repetition of those barbarisms by the Armenian military units over the Moslem population within the borderlines of Azerbaijan drives our government into a corner. The people's temper exhausting. Our national masses make hints to the government of poor reaction to the implemented brutality and of the fact that it is satisfied only with some protesting telegraphs and notes to the Armenian government. Our government apprehends that people protest, based on passion and initiated with the provocation to destruction, would rise to an undefeatable point. If the government and the republic do not take the firm and energetic measures to remove infringement over the sovereign rights of Azerbaijan and to cease such brutality, carried out not by irresponsible persons, but by the military units, and if the main instigators and the inciters of Goycha tragedy are not deservedly punished, our government will be obliged

to decline all responsibility for the future consequences. The copy of this note is sent to the supreme union commanding in the Caucasus.

On behalf of the Minister of the foreign affairs

Adil Khan Ziyadkhanov

No 42, February, 1919

Baku, February 25, 1919

The government of Armenia answered the protest of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It confesses in its reply that the fact of the mass violence against the piece Moslem residence on the board is true and all the inhabitants had been evicted from their shelters and robbed.

The worst is that all the abovementioned barbarisms and brutalities were carried out by the Armenian officers and military units.

Despite of the horror of the mentioned facts Armenian government deserves positive appreciation for confession of the doings of Armenian military units and for promises it gave to take measures against it. It seems that the political leaders of the republic of Armenia seriously thought over the situation. It contemporized with the appointment of the Armenian deputies into the parliament of Azerbaijan and appointment of the Azerbaijani diplomatic envoy to Iravan.

We should like such peaceful measures of the both representatives be logicity. It is difficult to imagine that the military units of the republic carried out brutalities over the piece labor residence in the region Basarkecher, nearby the political center of Armenia, without instructions of any authorized or unauthorized power.

But the results of the promised consequence and serious measures are close to the reality!

No 52, March 9, (February, 24), 1919

About Azerbaijan

The Foreign Minister received the telegram of the following context from the civil governor:

'Visiting representatives of Goycha mahal of Novobayazid uyezd informed about their critical position. Regular Armenian military forces attack villages, rob the properties and food, murder people. They beg Azerbaijan for help.'

No 67, March 30 (17), 1919

When the Turkish army retreated from the Caucasus front, Armenians from Turkey joined to those of the Caucasus, joined their powers and attacked and pursued the retreating Turkish armies. The forces of Andranik operated from one side and those of Dro, Kery and Murad on the other. All cleared Moslem villages were rubbed and ruined... Simultaneous to that Shaumyan and Avakyan provoked the Shamakhi events. The commandant of Ganja received the letter written by Shaumyan on this matter. The letter informed that Shaumyan and Avakyan were the real dashnaks... The groups under the leadership of Stepa Lalayev attacked the Moslem houses in the nights, possessed the weapons of the hosts and bit them. The same done by the naval sailors. The case remained the same from the beginning of the January till the March event. The Moslems were murdered till March 21. Extermination of the Moslems ceased after the demand of the 36<sup>th</sup> Turkestan regiment. After the threats of the sailors and the interference of Japaridze, the chairman of the executive committee, the military steamboats 'Ardagan' and 'Krasnovodsk' approached to the eastern docks and threatened to fire from the cannons to the Armenian part of the city if the carnage of the Moslems did not finished. Thus the negative powers had been restrained.

'I saw on March 20,'-told the other witness,-'that Tatevos Amirov entered the building of 'Ismailiyye' with 3 armed Armenians from the side street by the editorial of the newspaper 'Kaspiy' and soon after that the building was in fire and it burned down.' The fire of the burning 'Ismailiyye' threatened Tagiyev's secondary school nearby, that was prevented by the employers of the 'real school'; they watered the roof of the building under the shower of bullets.