

to Soviet Armenia, one such renegade who published calendars had November 29 printed in red and May 28 printed in black.)¹⁶ Another irony is the fact that, after the Soviets had left and law and order were restored in Iran, those same people returned to the ARF, resumed their positions and continued as respected leaders of the Armenian community.

In my father's papers, I found multiple copies of the August 15, 1946, issue of *Arevelk*, published in Tabriz, no doubt a leftist newspaper, in which the resignation of a number of ARF members was proudly announced. Although my father only passingly alluded to that unfortunate phenomenon in later years, I presume that his Cheka interrogator in Yerevan had boasted about Dashnaktsakans leaving the Party and becoming informers for the Soviets. That could have been part of the Cheka's strategy to intimidate and humiliate my father and force him to open up. It is also possible that after my father returned from Siberia, he searched for evidence of those desertions, found the names of the apostates in that issue of *Arevelk* and saved the copies. I spotted the names of many who later came to be known as respected leaders

16 Armenian calendars published in pro-ARF communities in the Diaspora always printed May 28 in red, marking the day in 1918 when the independence of Armenia was proclaimed, and May 28 is still celebrated today. The Bolsheviks, on the other hand, disdained and ignored the birth of Armenian independence and the existence of the free and independent Republic of Armenia. Instead, they celebrated November 29 as the anniversary of the Sovietization of Armenia in 1920. Of course, November 29, 1920, was the day when a group of Armenian and Azeri Bolsheviks entered Armenia from already Sovietized Azerbaijan (one of the independent republics of Transcaucasia, not to be confused with the province of the same name in Iran) and declared the Sovietization of Armenia. The transfer of power to the Bolsheviks actually occurred on December 2, 1920.