

THE RUSSIAN REVIEW



*An American Quarterly
Devoted to Russia
Past and Present*

JANUARY

1974

Vol. 33, No. 1

Price \$2.50

creating a free army units.¹⁷ And the revolution that the insurgents had formed closely with the abolition of Muslim-populated districts was also designed needed to substantiate the existing evidence of a Turkish-Bolshevik conspiracy against the Republic. Already, in April of 1920, Turkish activities in Azerbaijan had played an important role in that country's revolution, an essential preliminary to the opening of a direct land route between Soviet Russia and the Bolshevik centers of the Turkish resistance movement.¹⁸

The May uprising revived the democratic democrats and prompted the swift resignation of Alexander Khatchatur's cabinet. Continuing with all previous intentions, the entire houses of Deputies/Deputies were entered the cabinet. The bureau-government of Premier Khachatur Khachaturian adopted a policy of unconditional authoritarianism, no going without law, suspending civil liberties, and committing the army to march on the rebel center in the Alexanderpol railway depot. The decisive action culminated in the execution of several Bolshevik conspirators and the flight of many more to Soviet Azerbaijan. The unified Communist organization, driven far underground, could have to await the arrival of the Red Army to celebrate the victory of Soviet order in Armenia.

Spurred on by the success of its ironfisted response to the May uprising, the bureau-government resolved to settle the Muslim problem, which had troubled the Republic since its inception. Minister of War Ruben Ter-Minasian and veteran partisan commander

¹⁷ "The revolution in the Armenian Republic in the May uprising and the formation of a free army units," in *Armenian Revolution*, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 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Drastamat (Dro) Kanayan directed the military campaign, which overpowered the Muslim warriors entrenched in the Zangibasar and Vedibasar districts south of Erevan, and lifted a major barrier to control of the fertile and strategic valley of the Araxes River. The

operation produced rich booty in weapons and livestock and it paved the way for the establishment of democratic Turkish Armenia which was to be the abandoned Muslim villages. By the end of July, the armed forces, having penetrated the Araxes valley as far as Yedigöller, prepared to extend Armenia's reach to the external world by advancing along the railway to the Persian frontier in July. This significant progress after months of frustration seemed to indicate that the nation who had long demanded an aggressive policy. Democratic principles, they reasoned, might have to be violated temporarily in order to ensure the permanency of democracy in Armenia.¹

The subsequent history of the Republic clearly tells how in which to evaluate the validity of that logic, for if self-determination in the name of democracy was the answer to Armenia's troubled state, it had been attempted much too readily. Shortly after the Armenian troops reached Yedigöller when they were interrupted by Red Army detachments, which had moved over Karabagh and Zangazur from Azerbaijan and established bases with nearby Turkish settlements, thus bridging the long covered link between Soviet Russia and Nationalist Turkey. Only weeks later, Mustafa Kemal ordered the Turkish Eastern Army Group to enter across the border, with the fortress of Kars and the railway centre of Alexandropol as primary objectives.

Even as the Turkish invasion extended into the Republic's frontiers from the west and as Red Army units concentrated along the northeastern frontier to enforce an ultimatum for Armenia to accept the Soviet system, the democratic-parliamentary process faltered for one final time. The Armenian government gave way to a coalition cabinet headed by Hovhannes Tumanyan, who abandoned the sacred obligation of securing peace at almost any price. Instead, on the

¹ Tumanyan regarded as the Armenian government as isolated a Russian ally; the Russian War Office in 1918 ordered Soviet Foreign Office to inform that the Russian War Office had decided to support the Armenian Republic.