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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

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.