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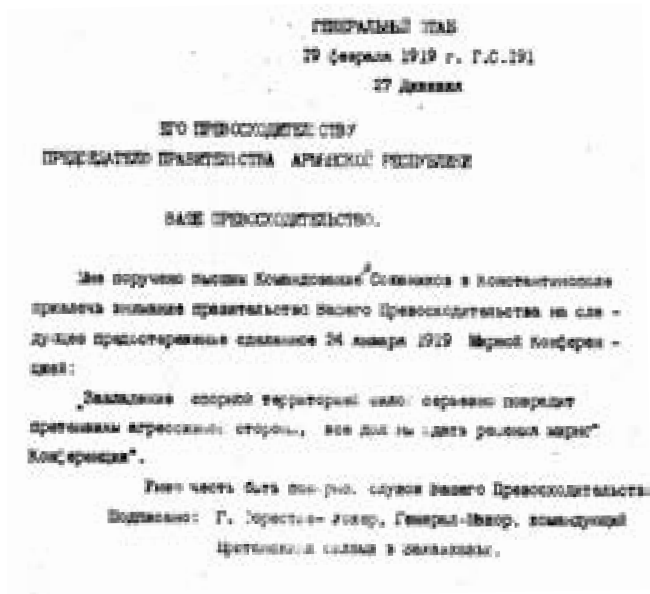
FIFTH COLUMN

The words in the headline are the title of one of the plays of Ernest Hemingway. In the preface to it, the writer explains that the title is taken from the statement of Spanish-Franco rebels made in the fall of 1936 that, except for the four columns advancing on Madrid, they have a fifth column that is inside the city and is ready to attack its defenders from the rear. Many of those who were part of this fifth column were killed in the war, in which they were as dangerous and implacable enemies as those who fought and died in the ranks of the other four columns. The four columns advancing on Madrid shot their prisoners of war. At the beginning of the war when it was possible to capture Fifth Column people, they were shot too. They deserved it under martial law and were ready for it, Hemingway says. Subsequently, they were brought to justice and sentenced to several years in prison or camp, or to death - depending on their crimes.

Since then, the "fifth column" has become a common expression to describe enemy agents in various countries, especially during the Second World War. Mass manifestation of deceit and betrayal in time of war illustrates, in particular, **the behavior of Armenians of the Ottoman Empire in the years of the first world massacre. These were the same Armenians who, in the words of L. N. Gumilev, "lived 500 years under the oppression of the Turkish sultans, grew rich, grew fat and easily bred, inhabiting even America."** It is clear that Gumilev differentiated the Armenian people, a peaceful and hardworking people doing their job, from their uninvited defenders - Dashnak nationalists who trumpet the glory and greatness of their people, humiliate other nations, especially their neighbors, and incite ethnic strife at every opportunity.

From the 1870s, Armenian nationalists began to incite their countrymen in Anatolia to take action against the Turkish authorities. **The Patriarch of the Turkish Arme-**

Warning by commander of British troops in the Caucasus Maj-Gen Forestier-Walker to the leaders of the Armenian Republic on the unacceptability of the seizure of lands by force. 1919



Armenians repeatedly informed the British ambassador to Turkey that the Armenian minority is ready to overthrow Turkish rule and merge Turkish territories with Russia. Turning their eyes on Russia and Europe, they provoked intervention to realize their territorial ambitions.

At the beginning of World War I, Armenian intrigues reached their peak. The Turkish authorities could not determine which of the Armenians would remain loyal and which would follow the call of their leaders. **The president of the “Armenian National Bureau” in Tiflis assured Nicholas II, who visited the Caucasus:** “Armenians of all countries rush to join the ranks of the glorious Russian army to give up their lives for the triumph of Russian arms. Let the Russian flag fly freely over the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. Everything is ready to deal a blow to the Turks from the rear.”

Nicholas II believed that the time had finally come when he could triumphantly enter into Istanbul. On 1 November 1914, the Turkish border was broken - with the open support of the Armenians. In a letter from Echmiadzin on 8 November 1914, **the Catholicos indicates to the governor in the Caucasus, Count Vorontsov-Dashkov, that the main theater of war with Turkey is “Turkish Armenia” and notes at the same time that upheavals that human imagination can hardly imagine await the Turkish Armenians for treason in wartime.** He also offers to publish on behalf of the Emperor a

Burning oil fields of Baku – a result of Armenian-Azerbaijani clashes. Photo in the Russian magazine “Our life”. 1905





promise to Turkish Armenians that great Russia will grant them autonomy within the six provinces (Van, Erzurum, Bitlis, Sivas, Diyarbekir and Harput) together with Cilicia.

In April 1915, Dashnak instigators, who had come to the Caucasus from neighboring Russian territories, organized a revolt in the city of Van and proclaimed an Armenian state. In May 1915, an order was issued to evacuate the Armenian population from the rebellious provinces of Van, Bitlis and Erzurum.

We must remember that in all the provinces of Anatolia, as calculated by the American historian Justin Mc-

Carthy, Muslims accounted for no less than two thirds of the population. According to him, **even if Armenians from around the world gathered in the six Turkish provinces, Muslims would still be in the majority there.** For the existence of a viable state, there were not enough Armenians, McCarthy points out.

Armenians were not included on the list of nations invited to the peace conference in Paris. But Boghos Nubar Pasha, the head of the Armenian delegation, boastfully told the Times of London on 30 January 1919: *“The Armenians have been belligerents de facto, since they indig-*

Commemorative silver medal minted by the Russian government during World War I. On the face of it there is an inscription: “Russians to the Armenians in times of trial”. It was given to members of the Armenian troops who revolted against the Turkish army during World War I



Commemorative bronze medal minted by the Russian government during World War I. On the reverse side there is an inscription: “God bless the Armenians”. It was given to members of the Armenian troops who revolted against the Turkish army during World War I



nantly refused to side with Turkey. In the Caucasus, without mentioning the 150,000 Armenians in the Russian armies, about 50,000 Armenian volunteers under Andranik, Nazarbekoff, and others not only fought for four years for the cause of the Entente, but after the breakdown of Russia they were the only forces in the Caucasus to resist the advance of the Turks, whom they held in check until the armistice was signed."

Nubar Pasha did not even say a word about the victims from the Armenian side. Instead, this was done by one of the leaders of the Entente, Winston Churchill, in his book "The World Crisis": "In 1915 the Turkish government began and ruthlessly carried out the infamous general massacre and deportation of Armenians in Asia Minor. Three or four hundred thousand men, women, and children escaped into Russian territory and others into Persia or Mesopotamia... It is supposed that about one and a quarter millions of Armenians were involved, of whom more than half perished."

American historian Justin McCarthy estimated those killed on both sides. **Slightly less than 600,000 Anatolian Armenians died in the wars of 1912-22, not 1.5 or 2 million, as is often claimed.** By the word "Armenian" McCarthy meant Ottoman citizens of Armenian-Gregorian faith. The Ottoman government was keeping a record of the population not on linguistic, but on religious grounds.

Of course, the 600,000 Armenian losses, also con-

firmed by Churchill, are a terrible number. The total statistics of the war are even more ruthless: **Along with the Armenians, 2.5 million Anatolian Muslims, mostly Turks, were killed. In the six provinces, in places where Armenians lived, more than 1 million Muslims were killed.** Anatolian losses are not only soldiers in the war, but also old people, women and children - Armenians and Muslims caught in the midst of the world war on the one hand and on the other, intercommunal war between Armenians and Muslims unleashed by the fifth column within Turkey.

In the article "The Armenian Question" (Vestnik Yevropy, 1915, June), Professor M. Kovalevskiy recognizes that attempts to help the Armenians in Asia Minor had the most serious consequences for them: **"In order to avoid persecution for the support they gave the Russian troops they had to move to the present-day Transcaucasia en masse.** This was the case in 1826 during our war with the Persians; this was the case in 1828-29 during the war between Russia and Turkey. And after the conclusion of the Treaty of Turkmanchay with Persia, up to 40,000 Armenians moved to our empire. The above also applies to the wars of 1854-55 and 1877-78... Armenians migrated to the Orthodox Empire," the well-known culture historian Kovalevskiy stated. They moved to push the empire to collapse and aggression.

In letter No 1131 on 5 August 1914, Catholicos Gevorg V reminded Count Vorontsov-Dashkov: "... I, on behalf of



all Armenians, addressed a request to our Most Gracious Sovereign on 2 October 1912 to provide high protection for the Armenian people in Turkey for a lasting improvement of their situation." And further: "The great war that has now broken out once again puts the fate of the Turkish Armenians and the fate of the reforms to great tests." The Catholicos suggests:

Forming one indivisible region from the Armenian provinces in Anatolia;

Putting a person of Christian faith, independent from the Porte, with a high rank or title, elected by Russia, at the head of the administration of the region;

Granting Russia the exclusive right to control the introduction and implementation of all reforms

The Catholicos is concerned about the mobilization announced in Turkey, and he wants Russia to take appropriate measures to safeguard the lives and property of the Armenians.

The dragoman of the Russian embassy in Constantinople reported to the Foreign Ministry with a telegram dated 15 March 1915 that "all Armenians who served in the armed forces have been disarmed and arrests of Ar-

menians are being made across the nation". On 29 April 1915, an agent named "Capital" wires to the Russian Foreign Ministry: *"The Armenians have received the following letter from Van, sewn into the lining of the messenger's clothes: up to six thousand people were killed in the province. Van and Shatakh are stubbornly resisting, and projectiles are causing little harm to the city of Van. We are straining our remaining forces. Every day we wait for Russian help. We beg you to hurry up. It will be too late afterwards."* It is not by chance that even Sazonov, the foreign minister of tsarist Russia, doubted that the revolt of Armenians in Van was caused by carnage, and not vice-versa.

I will not go into further developments. I can only say that I took these data from a weighty volume edited by M. G. Nersisyan "Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire", published in Yerevan in 1983. The first edition of the collection was prepared and made in the mid-1960s, when the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR was led by A. I. Mikoyan, while the economic development of the USSR was determined by T. S. Khachaturov, who became an academician without a doctoral degree. Key positions in the Central Committee of the Commu-

A “Map of Armenia” composed by contemporary Armenian “researchers” and showing the immense ambitions of Armenian chauvinists



nist Party in the early 1960s were held by K. N. Brutents, a former resident of Baku who worked in a psychiatric hospital, and G. H. Shakhnazarov, who nestled in the chair of a gray cardinal under three Soviet secretaries general. To address the future problems of the Soviet economy, **an institution led by Abel Gezevich Aganbegyan was set up at the same time. It was this pseudo-economist who said in November 1987 in Paris that Karabakh was economically tied with Armenia more than with Azerbaijan, although in the external trade turnover of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, the share of the Armenian SSR did not exceed 1.5 per cent then.** But Gorbachev's adviser on economic reforms confidently walked into the house, where the Armenian lobby gathered at the helm of the Soviet government and where Aganbegyan, according to the ideologist of the bloody Karabakh whirlpool Igor Muradyan, had drunk about two liters of vodka before putting his signature.

Let me remind you that by the word "reform" during the First World War, Armenian nationalists meant the re-

establishment of the so-called "Great Armenia." *"The future in the Caucasus belongs to the Armenians; their neighbors, Georgians and Azerbaijanis, have no choice but to Armenify or become their slaves,"* French journalist Koutouli wrote. He was deceived and prophesied in the whole of Europe that *"in the future the Armenians will make up a kingdom of thirty millions subjects"*.

Georgian educator I. G. Chavchavadze noted on a similar occasion: *"It is the rumble of a shaky mill, it is just the chatter of a slacker who squeezes water from fresh and still wet cheese and assures people that he is squeezing it out of stone. All this is the silly nonsense of one man, and so he shall be forgiven for that!"* It seems that these words can reasonably be attributed to the compilers of that same Talmud entitled "The Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire"... ❀