

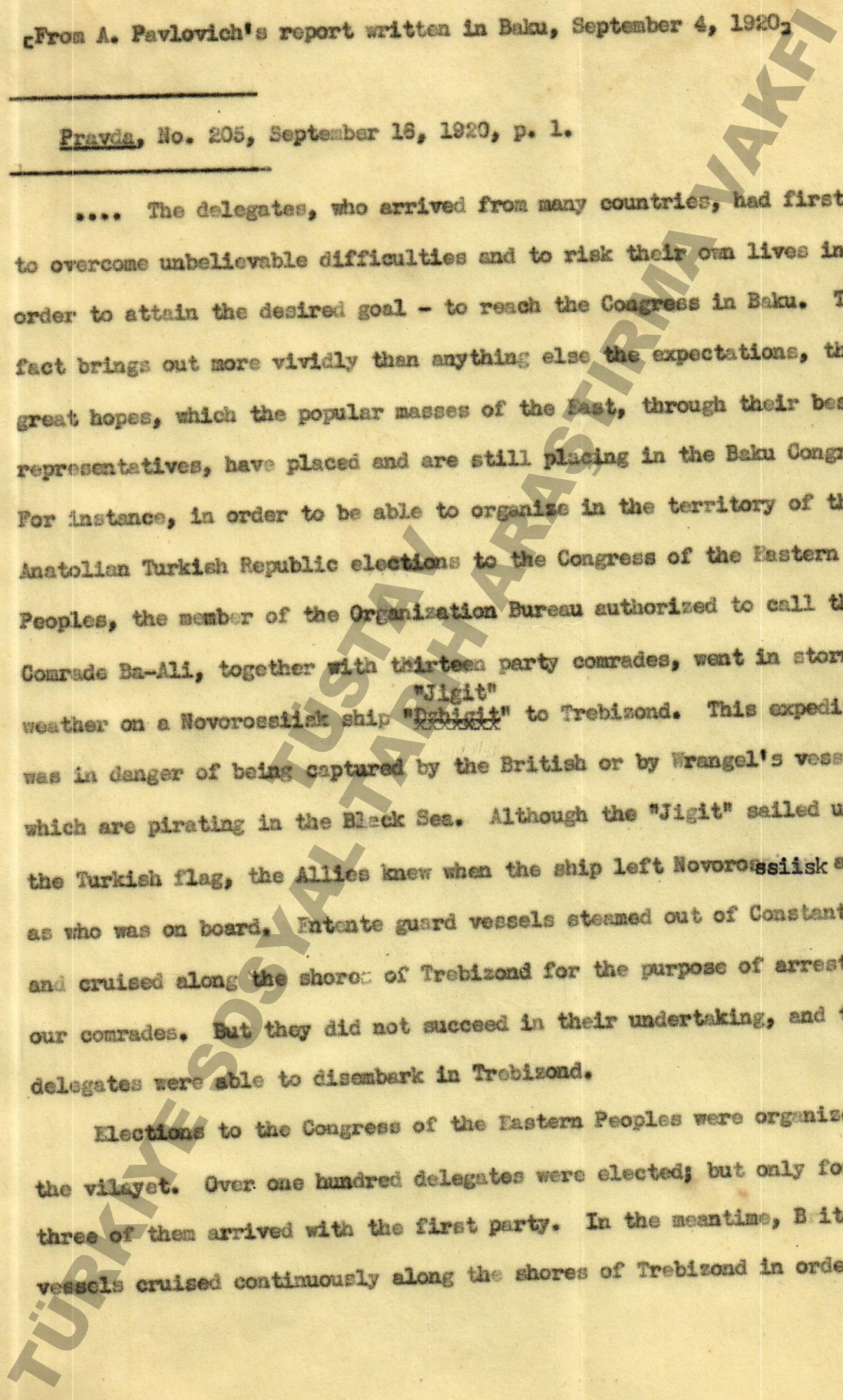
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[From A. Pavlovich's report written in Baku, September 4, 1920]

Pravda, No. 205, September 16, 1920, p. 1.

.... The delegates, who arrived from many countries, had first to overcome unbelievable difficulties and to risk their own lives in order to attain the desired goal - to reach the Congress in Baku. This fact brings out more vividly than anything else the expectations, the great hopes, which the popular masses of the East, through their best representatives, have placed and are still placing in the Baku Congress. For instance, in order to be able to organize in the territory of the Anatolian Turkish Republic elections to the Congress of the Eastern Peoples, the member of the Organization Bureau authorized to call the Congress, Comrade Ba-Ali, together with thirteen party comrades, went in stormy weather on a Novorossiisk ship "Jigit" to Trebizond. This expedition was in danger of being captured by the British or by Wrangel's vessels, which are pirating in the Black Sea. Although the "Jigit" sailed under the Turkish flag, the Allies knew when the ship left Novorossiisk as well as who was on board. Entente guard vessels steamed out of Constantinople and cruised along the shores of Trebizond for the purpose of arresting our comrades. But they did not succeed in their undertaking, and the delegates were able to disembark in Trebizond.

Elections to the Congress of the Eastern Peoples were organized in the vilayet. Over one hundred delegates were elected; but only forty three of them arrived with the first party. In the meantime, British vessels cruised continuously along the shores of Trebizond in order



to arrest the delegates and to stop them from going to Baku. However, a heavy storm forced the British to move toward Constantinople. The stormy elements, however, did not scare the Turkish delegates. On the contrary, they decided to take advantage of the favorable occasion, and risking their lives, they boarded the ship and departed quickly for Tuapse. Because of the terrific storm the delegates found themselves several times at the brink of death. In a half dead condition the crew and the delegates arrived in Tuapse, where the local organizations gave them a warm welcome. On the following day the delegates sailed for Baku. Soon the second party of delegates from Turkey also arrived; several of them even managed to sneak ^{by} under the very nose of the British in a motor boat from Constantinople and to arrive in Trebizond, from where it was easier for them to reach Tuapse.

The British bandits did not confine themselves to doing their utmost in order to prevent the Turkish delegates from reaching Baku. Aiming at stopping the arrival in Baku of delegates from another Moslem country, Persia, the British organized an air raid on Enzeli, where they threw scores of bombs from their airplanes. Several bombs hit the ship "Kursk," abroad which was the Persian delegation. As a result, two were killed and several wounded. We do not even mention the exclusive measures which were adopted in ports and on the frontiers of India in connection with the Congress at Baku.

All these facts demonstrate that the Entente correctly appraised the ominous meaning of the Congress of the Eastern Peoples and that it rightly guessed the significance of the colossal events which were unfolding at Baku. But Britain did not succeed in disrupting the Congress, which it so justly

feared. Almost two thousand delegates (1,890) nonetheless went to Baku, fifty five of them women. Of this number 1,273 were Communists. Representatives of thirty-seven nationalities went to Baku in order to seal the indissoluble union of the Eastern toiling masses with Soviet Russia - the vanguard fighter for the interests of the proletarians and peasants of the yellow, black, and white continents. The British merely achieved the pitiful result that several hundred or a thousand delegates could not break through the fiery blockade set up by Britain....

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