

## NATO NIKABADZE

### SPIRIDON KEDIA AND GRIGOL VESHAPELI, NATIONAL DEMOCRATS

In March 1921 national-democrats did not follow Zhordania's government in exile. They remained in Georgia and continued struggle against the Soviet regime. In 1922 the socialist government arrested S. Kedia and after a year's imprisonment they set him free and sent him into exile abroad.

By this time a great number of national democrats had left the country for the overseas. Among them were: G. Veshapeli, G. Gvazava, R. Gabashvili, I. Dadiani, L. Japaridze and others. N. Nikoladze also was already in Europe.

In the summer 1923 S. Kedia arrived in France. He as a leader of the party took his position in Zhordania's government. This caused some tension between S. Kedia and G. Veshapeli. However, in the letters, sent from G. Veshapeli S. Kedia in April-May 1923, do not evidence any particular anxiety between them.

Only after Veshapeli chose a different course of activities did it create the strain between S. Kedia and G. Veshapeli.

G. Veshapeli's worldview in emigration appeared contradictory. On one hand he was an ardent patriot, who loved his country and could stand firmly in his defense, on the other he was orientated to the soviet government. In fact, his bifurcated vision was the result of the troublesome historical period.