

OTAR GOGOLISHVILI

BATUMI REGION -- THE MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

In July 1920 the population of the entire Batumi Region excitedly greeted the returning of the region into the membership of the democratic republic. The marching Georgian army was exultantly met and thrown the bouquets of flowers by the population. The delegation of liberation organization of the Muslim Georgia waited for the Georgian Army in Bartskhana and congratulated the great victory on behalf of the population of Batumi Region. Memed Abashidze, Jemal Kikava, Mohammed Tsulukidze and others made the speech. There was a solemn mood in the city of Batumi. The music was playing. It was the real festival. A great pageant day was arranged in Batumi Boulevard. All the population of the city participated in it. There were spontaneous meetings where the speakers exultantly talked about this remarkable fact. The meeting, which was held in the Azizye Square (Liberty Square), is worth mentioning: Ketevan Mikeladze who made her speech there spoke about the anguish and torture the local population had suffered through centuries and despite the attempts of numerous invaders to separate this land from Georgia-- the motherland, the people did not lose their national consciousness. They endured carnages, raids, invasions and managed to join this oldest Georgian part to the motherland.