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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	The Special Council ( <u>Osoboye Soveshchaniye</u> ) of the MVD	DATE DISTR.	2 July 1954 25X1
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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1. The Special Council (OSO, Osoboye Soveshchaniye) of the MVD was an outgrowth of the troikas which were active during the purges of the thirties and in 1939 were finally liquidated. OSO of the NKVD had begun to operate in 1937 or 1938. There was no separate OSO for the State Security services until Abakumov became head of the MGB. He felt that the OSO of the MVD was prejudiced in checking MGB cases and that the decisions of the council reflected unsatisfactorily on his organization.
2. The OSO was composed of the minister, his deputies, and several chiefs of directorates who did not sit in permanent session. The real working body of the OSO was the Secretariat of the OSO, consisting of a chief and some investigators. The Chief of the Secretariat did not have the authority to make or to carry out any sentences, but was charged merely with preparing the cases and with presenting them in final form to the OSO for consideration.
3. The Chief of the Secretariat was the first one to receive a case. After familiarizing himself with all the pertinent data, he turned the case over to an investigator for study and recommendations. The investigator made his own recommendation as to the sentence and indicated whether the case should be tried by the OSO or should be transferred to a military tribunal. If the case were tried by the OSO, the minister or his deputy would meet with the other deputies and the chiefs of directorates. The Chief of the Secretariat and the investigator were then called before the members of the OSO to report on the case, the agency involved, and the individual. The OSO decided whether the person deserved to be punished and, if so, what sentence should be imposed. The decision was final and there was no appeal. The accused was not present when the OSO passed sentence. The individual concerned was informed that he had been sentenced by the OSO, and was told the charge and the sentence. The case file was then forwarded by the Chief of the Secretariat to what is now the First Special Section (Spets Otdel), where it was recorded that the OSO had sentenced

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the individual to serve so many years for certain offenses or to be executed. The file was kept in the Spets Otdel Archives and the Spets Otdel decided where the prisoner would be sent, although the Secretariat sometimes prescribed to what camp he would go.

4. Cases were tried by the OSO instead of a military tribunal when referral to the tribunal would compromise the identity of the agents who had supplied the evidence or would bare the operational methods of the MVD.
5. Following the discontinuance of the Special Council procedure of handling extra-legal MVD cases, and the inactivation of the Secretariat of the Special Council, MVD, in August 1953, a small section of seven persons was formed from among the staff of the Special Council Secretariat. The function of the new section, which was subordinate to the First Special Section, was primarily to review the complaints of the relatives of persons tried and convicted under the former Special Council procedure.

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