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Soviet Roundups

1. In Lithuania frequent unannounced spot checks or roundups of persons suspected of anti-Soviet activity may take place during either the day or the night. Until 1947 major roundups of suspicious individuals were normal occurrences and usually involved the use of Soviet armed forces from several garrisons stationed in an area. The last large-scale roundup [REDACTED] took place in July 1947 for the purpose of searching out partisans hiding in the Plekstyne Forest near Plateliai Lake, not far from Kedainiai (55-18N, 23-59E). 25X1
2. At the present time (July 1951), roundups involving large areas no longer take place. Soviet forces now usually surround one or, rarely, two villages and check the papers of all inhabitants. They occasionally make thorough searches of all houses, using in the process special spear-like rods of iron to pierce thatched roofs and piles of hay and straw. The searchers look for bunkers, double walls, double ceilings, and other possible places for hiding. During such searches, village inhabitants are invariably plundered. Their clothing, food, and other items are stolen. These roundups are usually carried out by the MVD, who are frequently assisted by the militia and istrebiteli of neighboring localities. In carrying out important roundups, they may call on troops from nearby army garrisons.
3. Occasionally a village may be surrounded secretly at night. From the outskirts the security forces will watch for signs of life; if anyone appears outdoors, he will be stopped and immediately searched. These night watches are carried out with great secrecy so that no one is forewarned. The security forces are usually dispersed along fringes of woods and remain there watching until just before dawn. This procedure at times may vary: instead of dispersing outside the village, the watchers may take over a farmhouse during the night, permitting no one to leave, posting guards in the yard, and remaining there observing the village until it is light. If the Soviet authorities have reason to suspect that a village is in contact

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with partisans or is involved with them in any way, such searches and night watches may be carried on without interruption for a month or more.

Specific Roundups

4. In July 1949, there was a roundup in the area between Aleksandravas and Kartena (55-55N, 21-28E). The roundup was provoked by the assassination the previous night of a kolkhoz chairman, Dikoris (fnu).
5. On 9 May 1949, beyond the village of Sateikiai, which is located about two kilometers from Kretinga (55-54N, 21-15E), Soviet forces were searching for partisan bunkers and hideouts.

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