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**THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF SOVIET POWER IN THE MOLDAVIAN SSR IN
1944 – 1946: THE CONTRIBUTION OF STATE SECURITY BODIES**

611.02. HISTORY OF ROMANIANS (BY PERIODS)

Abstract of the PhD thesis in history

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CONCEPTUAL GUIDELINES OF THE RESEARCH

Relevance and importance of the addressed topic. With the end of the Soviet-German war and the division of the post-war world, the Soviet Union's sphere of influence in Central and Eastern Europe increased significantly. Territories occupied by the Soviet Union after 1945 can be divided into two categories: territories annexed by the USSR and territories occupied or under Soviet influence. Along the territorial dominance, to root its regime, with its specific values and social order, the Soviet power imperatively sought to impose itself ideologically in the newly acquired spaces. Bessarabia, being in the category of territories annexed to the Soviet Union, underwent multiple socio-economic transformations and derived actions from the Sovietization policies, which were intended to institutionalize the Soviet power in this territory and shape a union republic according to the dictated canons of Moscow.

For the states that were part of the Soviet Union's sphere of influence, especially those that were incorporated into the USSR, the sovietization process left deep imprints in the societies and consciences of the peoples, which continue to be felt even today. Despite the Red Army was dealing with territorial "liberation," it was the party organs that were responsible for representing, organizing the Soviet power in the territory, and drawing up Soviet-specific policies, then Soviet security bodies had the role of working with the shadow population to ensure an atmosphere as favorable as possible among the natives - establishing the social base, in order to carry out the Sovietization process and institutionalize the Soviet regime in the territory.

Although the Soviet security forces are one of the main tools used by the Soviet power to institutionalize and consolidate the regime in Bessarabian territory, some extensive works, monographic studies to elucidate the role and contribution of these structures in establishing and indigenizing the Soviet regime in Bessarabia were not elaborated. The importance and relevance of the research topic is determined by the fact that the subject of the Soviet security structures in the Moldavian SSR (hereinafter MSSR) is approached and reflected contextually, mainly from the perspective of repressions, but does not directly refer to the activity of these institutions, as well as their role in the process of institutionalizing and consolidating the Soviet power in this space. Given that the Bessarabian territory has been a union republic for about five decades, with all the effects and consequences on its society, deriving from this status, the knowledge and deep understanding of the role of the Soviet security organs and their methods, who contributed "from the shadows" to the rooting and impregnation of the Soviet order not only at the socio-economic level, but also politico-ideologically, is an important topic of constant interest among researchers. The research of the communist regime's history in the MSSR would be incomplete if it neglects the careful analysis of the organization and operation of the Soviet security machinery, as well as its role in institutionalizing and consolidating this regime.

Thus, from the theoretical-scientific perspective, it was identified that there is a shortage of works to cover the research problem of this thesis. Therefore, the importance of the subject's scientific investigation it becomes indispensable for completing the historiography of the Republic of Moldova. The new archival sources introduced by the author into the academic circuit, provide a scientific basis for elucidating the role and contribution of the Soviet security

organs in the institutionalization and consolidation of the Soviet power in the MSSR in the early post-war years.

Chronological and geographical framework. The research topic covers the chronological interval between 1944 – 1946. The lower chronological limit of this paper dates March 1944, when the Red Army troops entered the territory of Bessarabia and installed the state apparatus, party organs and security services, marking the re-establishment of the Soviet regime in this space. The year of 1946, represents the upper chronological limit of this research, as in this particular year took place the reform of state institutions in the Soviet Union, and by extension of those in the union republics and implicitly in the MSSR, which aimed at reorganizing the Soviet of People's Commissars into the USSR commissariats in ministries, as well as security bodies - from the People's Commissariat for State Security (NKGB) into the Ministry of State Security (MGB). This stage of institutional transformation in the USSR marked the transition from the war years to the period of peace, and at the same time, the adaptation of the Soviet state to the new post-war realities, both internally and externally. Addressing the *geographical framework*, the present research we will refer to the MSSR. Thus, for the time segment of March – August 1944 we will use mainly Bessarabia, and after the reoccupation *in corpore* of the Bessarabian territory by the Red Army on August 23, 1944, we will use the MSSR, but for intellectual convenience we will use the phrase Bessarabian space for the whole chronological period of the work.

Purpose of the thesis and objectives:

The **main aim** of this paper is to identify and estimate the role and contribution of the NKGB-MGB in the processes of restoration, institutionalization and consolidation of the Soviet power in the MSSR during 1944 – 1946.

The purpose of the thesis determines the need to achieve the following **objectives**: to analyse the historiography and the relevant historical sources; to reconstitute the process of re-establishing the Soviet security organs in the MSSR in March – August 1944; to establish the connection between the changes in the organizational structure of the Soviet security services in the MSSR, the personnel policy and the tasks of the NKGB-MGB MSSR in 1944 – 1946; to analyze the socio-political context and the military situation in Bessarabia between March and August 1944; to establish the tasks of the Soviet security organs in the MSSR and explain the changes of priorities in the activity of the NKGB-MGB; to identify the measures and methods used by the NKGB-MGB bodies and to analyze the specifics of their application in the process of institutionalization and consolidation of Soviet power in the MSSR; to assess the role and the contribution of the NKGB-MGB bodies to the institutionalization and fortification of Soviet power in MSSR between 1944 and 1946.

The **research hypothesis**: The Soviet security forces, after the reoccupation of Bessarabia in March – August 1944, played a key role in the process of institutionalizing and consolidating the Soviet power in the MSSR, both in the last year of the war and in the first post-war years.

Scientific research methodology.

The methodological support applied in the research of the thesis served us as tools for researching the proposed topic and for achieving the stated objectives. Therefore, the following methods of scientific research have been applied: historical-comparative method, method of analysis, critical method, diachronic method, quantitative method, etc. Throughout the research of we were guided by the following principles: the principle of objectivity, the principle of impartiality, the principle of truth, the chronological principle, the methodical principle, the principle of evaluation, etc.

Explaining the terms. Most of the authors concerned with the subject of the restoration of Soviet power in the MSSR use the term *state security bodies*, including when referring to the NKGB-MGB activity of the MSSR. While using this phrase, if we consider the bodies of the Union security, but also when we refer to the republican ones, we risk to be misled. However, using the term state security bodies in relation to the NKGB-MGB of the MSSR (People's Commissariat for State Security and the Ministry of State Security)¹, the uninformed reader can interpret that the MSSR was a true state. In order to avoid confusion and inconsistent interpretation, we consider it appropriate to explain that the thesis uses the term *state security bodies* with reference to NKGB-MGB-KGB of the USSR, and *Soviet security bodies / structures* in relation to NKGB-MGB-KGB of MSSR.

Scientific novelty and originality. This thesis is the first scientific paper in the field of history that elucidates the role and contribution of the state security organs in the restoration, institutionalization and consolidation of Soviet power in the MSSR in 1944 – 1946. The originality of the paper results from the fact that it was elaborated mainly on the basis of original documentary materials from the archives of the Republic of Moldova and Romania, for the first time introduced into the scientific circuit. Following the investigation of the activity, organization and transformation of the Soviet security organs in the MSSR, we can identify specific features of a secret police operating in the shadows for the construction, consolidation and protection of the totalitarian regime in the annexed territory, as was the NKGB-MGB for the Soviet regime re-established in this space in the early post-war years.

The untangled scientific problem resides in the scientific argumentation of the role of the Soviet security organs, which, through specific methods have contributed to the institutionalization and consolidation of Soviet power in the MSSR in 1944 – 1946, including by protecting the regime from internal and external "hostile" factors.

The theoretical importance of the paper consists in confirming and revealing the role of the Soviet security organs in the process of restoring, institutionalizing and consolidating the Soviet regime in the MSSR, as well as in establishing the relationship between the organization and the methods and means used by NKGB-MGB in 1944 – 1946, subjects researched for the

¹ NKGB (НКГБ – Народный Комиссариат Государственной Безопасности СССР) – Comisariatul Poporului pentru Securitatea Statului al URSS. Acronimul provine de la denumirea oficială a poliției politice secrete a URSS între anii 1941 (februarie-iulie), 1943–1946. Ulterior, din martie 1946 NKGB a fost transformat în Ministerul Securității Statului, cunoscut cu abrevierea MGB, care se tălmăcește în rusă ca Министерство Государственной Безопасности СССР. Pentru detalii a se vedea: Петров, Н. В., *Лубянка. Органы ВЧК-ОГПУ-НКВД-НКГБ-МГБ-МВД-КГБ. 1917 - 1991*. Справочник. Москва: Издание МФД, 2003, с. 7, 634.

first time in the local historiographical space. The theoretical significance of the research lies in the inclusion into the scientific circuit of definitions referring the methods and means used by the Soviet security authorities in their work in the MSSR and the highlighting of the conceptual distinction between "Soviet security organs" and "state security organs", misused and synonyms.

The applicative value of the paper. The results of the research can be used to develop university courses on the history of Soviet security organs in the MSSR, especially for the institutions and training centers specializing in the training and development of staff in the system of national security and defense bodies. Also, can be a scientific source of reference of writing bachelor's, master's and doctoral theses.

Approval of the obtained results. Various aspects of the researched issue were presented at 10 national and international conferences, reflected in 16 articles, studies and abstracts published in scientific journals and volumes in the Republic of Moldova, as well as abroad.

BASIC CONTENT OF THE THESIS

The doctoral thesis is structured as follows: annotations in Romanian, English and Russian, Introduction, three chapters, general conclusions and recommendations, bibliography, annexes and the author's CV. In the **Introduction** part focuses on the relevance and importance of the researched scientific problem, analyzes the framing of the topic in international and national concerns, defines the chronological and geographical framework, sets out the purpose, objectives and hypothesis of the research, presents the research methodology of the subject, and summarizes the thesis.

1. Reflecting the role and contribution of the NKGB-MGB bodies in the institutionalization of Soviet power in the Moldavian SSR 1944 – 1946 in scientific literature and historical sources

In first subchapter the author analyzes the historiography of the issue on the role and contribution of the Soviet security organs in the restoration, institutionalization and consolidation of Soviet power in the MSSR between 1944 – 1946, in order to elucidate the degree of reflection of our subject in the existing works, respecting the chronological principle.

The history of the Soviet secret services created and restored in the Bessarabian space reoccupied in March – August 1944 by the Red Army was possible to approach in the historiography of the Republic of Moldova for the first time after the disintegration of the USSR. Although few papers have been identified in the documentation process that address directly or tangentially some elements of the problem researched by the author, which have supported the effort to solve the proposed scientific problem, they can be classified into several groups:

- *Soviet historiography;*
- *The post-communist historiography that I divided, into general works and special works;*
- *Historical sources, which have been divided into: unpublished sources, published sources and memoirs.*

In *Soviet historiography*, the subject of state security bodies was investigated only into the system by specialists from the training and education centers of KGB officers. Research in the form of papers, textbooks, journals which included theoretical and practical articles, were intended only for the closed circuit, was not accessible until after the disintegration of the USSR and after the opening of archives in some ex-Soviet countries, the Baltic States².

Therefore, in the documentation process for the elaboration of our research two works published in the 1970s were identified, intended for the internal use of USSR KGB employees, one of which is a specialized dictionary³, and the other one refers to the history of the Soviet security organs for 1918-1971⁴, which were useful for the our scientific investigation of the researched problem. The first analyzed work is the "Dictionary of Counterintelligence Activity", published in 1972 in Moscow by the USSR's KGB Higher School "Felix Dzerjinski"⁵, which is a first attempt to systematize the Chekist terminology (in an alphabetical order) from various branches of the counterinformative theory and practice⁶. The Soviet dictionary served as a tool for deciphering specialized terms identified in archival documents and other specialized bibliographic sources, as well as elucidating elements of the methods and means used by the Soviet bodies NKGB-MGB in its activity in the MSSR between 1944 – 1946. Of course, when consulting the Dictionary, I looked from a critical point of view at the political-ideological aspects invoked, which were specific to the Soviet period.

The second work in this category is the textbook on the "History of Soviet State Security Bodies" marked as "Top Secret", and published in 1977 in Moscow by the USSR's KGB Higher School "Felix Dzerjinski"⁷. The textbook was useful for our research, as it showed and explained the organizational changes of the NKGB in the early post-war years, as well as, from the perspective of Moscow, the priority directions in the counterintelligence activity. These elements, corroborated with the data from the unpublished archive sources, allowed us to complete the picture of the evolution of the organizational structure of the Republican NKGB in the first post-war years. It should be mentioned that the Soviet textbook, without deducing the exact reasons, there are no references to the MSSR and the Republican NKGB-MGB in the context of the first post-war years, unlike other former union republics - Belarus, Ukraine and the Baltic States. There are only a few references to the MSSR's NKVD in the context of the outbreak of the German-Soviet war in June 1941 and the organization of NKVD special units to combat diversionists and paratroopers dismantled by the Nazi forces against the USSR⁸.

² Zeci de ediții ale revistelor de specialitate « KGB сборник», «Труды высшей школы КГБ », precum și alte lucrări despre activitatea organelor sovietice destinate pentru uzul intern și utilizate pentru educarea, instruirea și pregătirea ofițerilor KGB, pot fi consultate pe adresa indicată [citat 17.12.2021]. Disponibil: <https://www.kgbdocuments.eu/kgb-journals-and-books/>

³ *Контрразведывательный Словарь*. Москва: Высшая Краснознаменная Школа КГБ, 1972, 371 с.

⁴ Чебриков, Виктор М. (coord.), *История советских органов государственной безопасности: Учебник*, Москва: Высшая Краснознаменная Школа КГБ, 1977, 639 с.

⁵ *Контрразведывательный Словарь*. op. cit., 371 с.

⁶ *Ibidem*, с. 6.

⁷ Чебриков, Виктор М. (coord.), op. cit., 639 с.

⁸ *Ibidem*, с. 344.

The category of the *post-Soviet historiography* includes the works written after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the opening of the secret archives of the former security structures in the former socialist camp states and later in some ex-Soviet states. As a result of the analysis of works that refer tangentially or directly to some elements of our research, they were ordered and classified into two categories, depending on the degree and depth of the approach of the role and contribution of the NKGB-MGB bodies in restoring, institutionalizing and consolidating Soviets' power in the MSSR between 1944 and 1946: *general works and special works*.

The *works of general nature* refer to contemporary history and include the chronological segment of the end of the Second World War and the post-war period. The pages of these papers⁹ address a multitude of aspects (socio-economic, political, ideological, educational, repression, anti-Soviet resistance, denationalization, forced collectivization, famine, deportations) of the Soviet regime in the Bessarabian space, which support our effort to complete the general framework of our work. Moreover, in addition to the papers from which we have extracted the general data useful for this scientific endeavor, several papers have been identified in which some elements of our research problem are addressed¹⁰. Among the mentioned monographies in the last reference, we distinguish the works of academician Pasat Valeriu¹¹, which, although not aimed at our research, directly address some elements elucidated in the thesis: the role of the Soviet security bodies in overcoming the socio-political challenges facing the Soviet regime in the MSSR, in its infancy; some aspects of the USSR's personnel policy in establishing the NKGB-MGB in the MSSR in the first post-war years; perception of the Soviet security in the the MSSR towards the attitude of the Bessarabian priesthood in relation to the

⁹ Moraru, Anton. *Istoria românilor: Basarabia și Transnistria*. Chișinău: Editura Aiva, 1995, 559 p.; Gribincea, Mihai. *Basarabia în primii ani de ocupație sovietică, 1944 – 1950*. Cluj-Napoca: Dacia, 1995, 188 p.; Șișcanu N., Elena. *Basarabia sub regimul bolșevic (1940 – 1952)*. București: Editura Semne, 1998, 184 p.; Moraru, Anton, Negrei, Ion. *Reinstaurarea și consolidarea regimului comunist în RSS Moldovenească. Evoluția vieții politice (1944 – 1956)*. În: Cugetul, revistă de istorie și cultură, Chișinău, nr. 1-2, 1999, pp. 32-39; Stăvilă, Veaceslav. *De la Basarabia românească la Basarabia sovietică, 1939 – 1945*. Chișinău: Tipografia Centrală, 2000, 152 p.; Cașu, Igor. *"Politica națională" în Moldova sovietică, 1944 – 1989*. Chișinău: Cardidact, 2000, 213 p.; Petrencu, Anatol. *Basarabia în timpul celui de-al Doilea Război Mondial, (1939 – 1945)*. Chișinău: Prut Internațional, 2006, 224 p.; Cașu, Igor. *Începuturile resovietizării Basarabiei și starea de spirit a populației (martie-septembrie 1944)*. În: Diana Dumitru, Igor Casu, Andrei Cușco, Petru Negura (editori), *Al Doilea Război Mondial: memorie și istorie în Estul și Vestul Europei*. Chișinău: Cartier, 2012, pp.121-140; Cașu, Igor. *Dușmanul de Clasă. Represiuni politice, violență și rezistență în R(A)SS Moldovenească, 1924 – 1956*. Ediția a II-a, Chișinău: Cartier, 2015, 387 p.; Lisnic, Dumitru. *Elitele Moldovei Sovietice. Recrutare, rețele informale, identități sociale și etnice în Bălți, 1940 – 1941, 1944 – 1950*. Chișinău: ARC, 2019, 288 p.

¹⁰ Postică, Elena. *Rezistența antisovietică în Basarabia, 1944 – 1945*. Chișinău: Știința, 1997, 240 p.; Beniuc, Valentin. *Instituționalizarea puterii politice totalitare în Moldova postbelică (cercetare istorico-politologică). Monografie*. Chișinău: USM, 1998, 270 p.; Țurcanu, Ion. *Moldova antisovietică: Aspecte din lupta basarabenilor împotriva ocupației sovietice. 1944 – 1953*. Chișinău: Prut Internațional, 2000, 331 p.; Pasat, Valeriu. *Calvarul. Documentarul deportărilor de pe teritoriul RSS Moldovenești, 1940 – 1950*. Moscova: ROOSSPEN, 2006, 456 p.; Șevcenca, Ruslan. *Viața politică în R.S.S. Moldovenească (1944 – 1961): Monografie*. Chișinău: Pontos, 2007, 227 p.; Pasat, Valeriu. *RSS Moldovenească în epoca stalinistă, 1940 – 1953*, Chișinău: Cartier, 2011, 684 p.; Pasat, Valeriu. *Biserica ortodoxă și puterea sovietică în RSS Moldovenească (1940 – 1991)*. Chișinău: Editura Cartier, 2019, 565 p.

¹¹ Pasat, Valeriu. *Calvarul*, op. cit., 456 p.; Idem, *RSS Moldovenească în epoca stalinistă, 1940 – 1953*, Chișinău: Cartier, 2011, 684 p.; Idem, *Biserica ortodoxă și puterea sovietică în RSS Moldovenească (1940 – 1991)*. Chișinău: Editura Cartier, 2019, 565 p.

regime in the period 1944 – 1945. The works of historian Pasat Valeriu were an important source for investigating the problem of our research, making it possible to confront the information from the new archive sources and complete some aspects of the scientific problem investigated in the thesis.

The *special works* refer to the history of the Soviet security organs covering the years of the Second World War and the post-war period, in the Bessarabian space and some countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

In the same category of *special works*, from foreign historiography, we note the volumes of the Russian historian Petrov Nikita V.¹², considered one of the notorious specialists in the history of the security organs of the Soviet Union. multiple elements and important aspects were extracted from these works, that served as basis for comparison with the new archive information and the completion of our work, especially in terms of the NKGB and MGB institutional structure from the center (union) to the periphery and vice versa.

In the historiographical space of the Republic of Moldova, we can highlight the works of the historian Moraru Pavel, whose main concern is the history of the secret services in Bessarabia (Romanian secret services, Soviet security services, etc.)¹³. One of these works is the dictionary "Secret Services and Bessarabia 1918-1991"¹⁴, from which valuable information were extracted regarding the leadership of the NKGB, later the MGB of the MSSR and some aspects of the activity of these bodies. However, we note a consistent documentary base used by the author in compiling the dictionary on the history of the Romanian secret services in Bessarabia, especially for the years of World War II, in relation to the extremely limited documentary support on Soviet security organs from the Bessarabian space. Also, in other works of the historian Moraru Pavel dedicated to the history of the Soviet security organs in the MSSR¹⁵, he only summarizes some episodic references to the NKGB, MGB institutions for the 1944 – 1946, focusing primarily on the activity of the NKVD and SMERSH, probably, due to lack of access to relevant archive sources. The radiography of the works in this category and the identified historical gaps allowed us to conclude that the research undertaken so far on the activity of the Soviet security forces in Bessarabia during 1944 – 1946 are still quite modest in relation to the

¹² Петров, Н. В., Кокурин А. И. *ВЧК-ОГПУ-НКВД-НКГБ-МГБ-МВД-КГБ. 1917 – 1960*. Справочник. Москва: Издание МФД., 1997, 352 с.; Петров, Н. В. *Лубянка 1917 – 1991*, op. cit., 768 с.; Petrov, Nikita, Skorkin, Konstantin. *Кто руководил НКВД СССР 1934-1941, Справочник*. Москва: Zvenia, 1999, [цитат 17.01.2021]. Disponibil: <http://old.memo.ru/history/nkvd/kto/biogr/index.htm>; Петров, Н. В. *По сценарию Сталина: роль органов МВД и МГБ СССР советизации стран Центральной и Восточной Европы. 1944 – 1953 гг.* Москва: РОССПЭН, 2011, 351 с.

¹³ Moraru, Pavel. *Urmașii lui Felix Dzerjinski: organele Securității Statului în Republica Sovietică Socialistă Moldovenească. 1940 – 1991*. București: Institutul Național pentru Studiul Totalitarismului, 2008. 272 p.; Idem, *Serviciile Secrete și Basarabia, dicționar 1918 – 1991*. București, Editura Militară, 2008, 319 p.; Idem, *SMERȘ în Basarabia 1944 – 1954*. București: Editura Militară, 2013, 334 p.; Idem, *Serviciile de informații și siguranță românești din Basarabia în perioada anilor 1918 – 1944*. teza de dr. hab. în istorie. Chișinău, 2016, 342 p.; Idem, *Organizarea și activitatea structurilor securității statului din RSSM (1940 – 1991)*. În: Liliana Corobca editor, *Panorama Comunismului în Moldova Sovietică*. București: Polirom, 2019, pp. 305-335.

¹⁴ Moraru, Pavel. *Serviciile Secrete*, op. cit., 319 p.

¹⁵ Moraru, Pavel, *Urmașii*, op. cit., 272 p.; Idem, *Organizarea și activitatea structurilor securității statului din RSSM (1940-1991)*. În: Liliana Corobca editor, *Panorama Comunismului în Moldova Sovietică*. București: Polirom, 2019, pp. 305-335.

magnitude of the impact that these structures have had in multiple areas of the MSSR society, and which are still felt today.

The historiographical sources, mostly devoted to the abuses and repressions of the Soviet security structures in the MSSR in the first post-war years, determined to focus our attention on the scientific documentation of the lesser known activity of the NKGB-MGB bodies in Bessarabia. Thus, the elaboration of our research would not have been possible without the access to archival documentary materials that until now have not been registered in the scientific circuit. The documentary basis for the elaboration of the thesis comes mainly from the *unpublished sources* identified in the Archive of the Intelligence and Security Service of the Republic of Moldova from the administrative fund, inventory 6 and 8, which are included for the first time into the scientific circuit. From this fund some of files at the request and proposal of the author, were declassified; the documents includes directives and orders of the NKGB-MGB of the MSSR, for the period 1944 – 1949. orders and indications of the NKGB-MGB6 leadership of the MSSR regarding the organization of the NKGB-MGB operational activity in the first post-war years in the Bessarabian territory "liberated" by the Red Army, starting with the spring of 1944. We note that most of the documents in the files - " directives ", " orders "- were marked as "Strictly Secret "and signed by Mordoveț - the head of the NKGB of the Union Republic, and later in 1946 - MGB. The mentioned files of the inventory 6, constituted an important source of knowledge of some lesser known dimensions of the activity of the NKGB-MGB bodies.

Also, the mentioned files of inventory 6, for the chronological limits of our research, were an important source of knowledge of the lesser known dimensions of the activity of NKGB -MGB bodies: the means and methods of identifying and curbing the "hostile elements" of the Soviet regime. among the native MSSR population, the emphasis placed by the leadership in carrying out priority tasks by the staff, distinguishing and modifying the priority tasks of the NKGB both in war and post-war, infiltration and control of various social environments - peasants, youth, intellectuals, priesthood, the actions carried out by the NKGB-MGB in the detection and eradication of the "anti-Soviet elements", the investigation by the security organs of the state of mind of the population in relation to the socio-political measures of the Soviet regime in the republic. The information from the materials of the consulted files of the inventory 8 constituted a rich documentary source for the study of the personnel policy of the USSR in the formation of the NKGB-MGB staff of the MSSR in the first post-war years.

At the same time, the documentary funds from the National Archive of the Republic of Moldova (ANRM), the Archive of Social and Political Organizations of the Republic of Moldova (AOSPRM) and the Archive of the National Council for the Study of Security Archives in Romania (ACNSAS) were consulted.

In the Archive of the National Council for the Study of Security Archives in Romania (ACNSAS), we studied archival sources that refer tangentially to some aspects of the scientific problem of our work¹⁶, the identified materials being included for the first time into the scientific circuit. Documentation sources refer to the state of mind of the population of Northern

¹⁶ ACNSAS, Fond documentar, dosar nr. 008911, vol. 28; dosar nr. 013949.

Bessarabia during July 1944, the military situation in this area, information on the behavior of the Soviet authorities in relation to the locals, the imposition of compulsory requisitions, the crimes committed by the NKVD, forced mobilization in the Red Army, etc., elements with which we completed the picture of the socio-political context in the spring - summer of 1944 in Bessarabia.

Another part of the archival documents presented in this paper come from the funds of the National Archive of the Republic of Moldova (ANRM) and the Archive of Social - Political Organizations of the Republic of Moldova (AOSPRM). For our research, from the archives of ANRM, the author consulted the following funds R-2848, R-2948 and 680 from which he extracted information from the briefing notes of the Soviet of People's Commissars of the MSSR for 1944, regarding the temporary cantonment of the Soviet institutions in Soroca in March 1944; some elements related to the legislative framework extracted from the MSSR Constitution, adopted on February 10, 1941, with the support of which we were able to reconstruct the structure of the territorial bodies of the NKGB-MGB of the MSSR and their connection with the territorial-administrative division of the republic in the first post-war years; some aspects regarding the health situation in this area, which allowed to complete the reconstruction of the socio-political context in the region with the return of the Red Army and the withdrawal of the Romanian administration in March – August 1944 etc.

From the AOSPRM funds, the fund 51, from which we extracted information on the organization of the institutional activity of the security organs in the republic, after reinstatement in the MSSR, the irregularities in the institutional transfer of the NKGB from Soroca to Chisinau in September 1944, information on the typhus epidemic in the republic.

The *published sources* used for our research include collections of documents, published after 1991, which mostly contain declassified materials from the archives of the Federal Security Service (FSB) of the Russian Federation, as well as from other state archives in Moscow¹⁷, in which were found relevant information on the activity of the Soviet security forces in Bessarabia.

¹⁷ *Органы государственной безопасности СССР в Великой Отечественной Войне. Сборник документов.* Том I. Книга 1. Накануне (ноябрь 1938 г. – декабрь 1940 г.). Москва: А/О Книга и бизнес, 1995, 464 с.; *Органы государственной безопасности в Великой Отечественной Войне. Сборник документов.* Том I, Книга 2. Накануне (1 января – 21 июня 1941 г.). Москва: Книга и бизнес, 1995, 398 с.; *Органы государственной безопасности СССР в Великой Отечественной Войне. Сборник документов.* Том II. Книга 1. Начало (22 июня – 31 августа 1941 г.). Москва: Русь, 2000, 718 с.; *Органы государственной безопасности СССР в Великой Отечественной Войне. Сборник документов.* Том II. Книга 2. Начало. (1 сентября – 31 декабря 1941 г.). Москва: Русь, 2000, 670 с.; *Органы государственной безопасности СССР в Великой Отечественной Войне. Сборник документов.* Том III. Книга 1. Крушение «Блицкрига». (1 января – 30 июня 1942 г.). Москва: Русь, 2003, 704 с.; *Органы государственной безопасности СССР в Великой Отечественной Войне. Сборник документов.* Том III. Книга 2. От обороны к наступлению. (1 июля – 31 декабря 1942 г.). Москва: Русь, 2003, 716 с.; *Органы государственной безопасности СССР в Великой Отечественной Войне. Сборник документов.* Том IV. Книга 1. Секреты операции «Цитадель». (1 января – 30 июня 1943 г.). Москва: Русь, 2008, 814 с.; *Органы государственной безопасности СССР в Великой Отечественной Войне. Сборник документов.* Том IV. Книга 2. Великий перелом. (1 июля – 31 декабря 1943 г.). Москва: Русь, 2008, 810 с.; *Органы государственной безопасности СССР в Великой Отечественной Войне. Сборник документов.* Том V. Книга 1. Вперёд на Запад (1 января – 30 июня 1944 г.). Москва: Кучково поле, 2007, 728 с.; *Органы государственной безопасности СССР в Великой Отечественной Войне. Сборник документов.* Том V. Книга 2. Границы СССР восстановлены (1 июля – 31 декабря 1944 г.). Москва: Кучково поле, 2007, 896 с.; *Органы государственной безопасности СССР в Великой Отечественной Войне. Сборник документов.* Том VI. Победа (1 января – 9 мая 1945 г.). Москва: Кучково поле, 2014, 560 с.

Analyzing the volumes of mentioned documents, we can see the praise used by the authors in relation to the security and intelligence structures of the USSR during the years of World War II, which leads us to the idea that they were not impartial in the selection process of the published documents from the archives of FSB and other Russian archives.

One of the first volumes of documents published in the historiographical space of the Republic of Moldova in the first years of independence was by the academician Pasat Valeriu, published in 1994 in Moscow in Russian - "Трудные страницы истории Молдовы 1940–1950 гг." ¹⁸, which for the first time in historiography discussed some elements regarding the methods and means used by the NKGB-MGB in the first post-war years in the process of Sovietization of Bessarabia, a topic discussed in more detail in our paper. In the mentioned paper, the author noticed that for the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 very few documents ¹⁹ are included, which illustrates that the historian did not have multiple documentary sources to cover these years.

The memoirs consulted in the elaboration of our research belong to the same category of sources ²⁰. The volumes of papers and memoirs published in the last three decades, consulted for this thesis, have been an important source for the scientific investigation of our research, but they have not managed to fully cover the subject. This gap was overcome by researching and capitalizing on the unpublished documents in the archives of the Republic of Moldova and abroad, which were of fundamental importance in the elaboration of our paper.

2. Soviet security bodies in the Moldavian SSR 1944 – 1946

Based on archival materials, this subchapter concentrates on the, stages of the restoration and construction of NKGB bodies in the MSSR by the USSR, starting with March 1944, in order to understand how the institution was established and its contribution and role in the process of institutionalization and consolidation of the Soviet regime in the republic. With the support of the new archival documents identified in the ASISRM funds, we reconstructed, as far as the extracted information allowed, the process of creating the NKGB of the MSSR starting with March 1944, from the appointment of the security commissariat management, logistical organization and working conditions of the institution in the territory of the republic, until the transfer of its headquarters from Soroca to Chisinau.

In early March of 1944, with the occupation of northern Bessarabia by Red Army troops in Soroca, the designated temporary capital of the MSSR, the Communist Party apparatus was installed, along with its ideologies and Soviet security organs. Therefore, among the first Soviet institutions that were initially established with its headquarters in Soroca was the NKGB, led by the Ukrainian Iosif Larentevich Mordovets (1944 – 1955) ²¹.

¹⁸ Pasat, Valeriu. *Трудные страницы истории Молдовы 1940 – 1950 гг.* Москва: Terra, 1994, 800 с.

¹⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 789.

²⁰ Волков, Г. *Взгляд Через Десятилетия. Очерки генерал-лейтенанта КГБ о личной жизни и чекистских операциях в России, Западной Украине, Казахстане и Молдавии.* Кишинев: СИБ РМ 2004, 278 с.; Sudoplatov P., Sudoplatov A., Scheckter J. L., Scheckter L. P. *Misiuni speciale. Memoriile unui maestru al spionajului sovietic.* București: ElitLitera, 2013, 734 p.

²¹ Malacenco, Alexandru. *First directives of the Soviet NKGB in Bessarabia, March – August 1944.* În: Dumitru – Cătălin Rogajanu și Gherghina Boda (coord.), *Istorie, Cultură și Cercetare - History, Culture and Research*, vol. IV. Târgoviște: Cetatea de Scaun, 2020, p. 185.

For the construction and organization of the institutional apparatus of the NKGB of the MSSR, on May 25, 1944, the security commissioner Iosif Mordoveț signed the order no. 002 on personnel lists²², which “announces the distribution of personnel according to the official status of the State Security Commissariat of the MSSR. The document structures in a table the name of the position, the number of positions, the name and surname of the security guards, the rank and the position previously held”²³. Subsequently, in order to create and develop the communication infrastructure between the subdivisions and the peripheral bodies with the central apparatus of the security structure, on June 9, 1944, order no. 011, marked as “Secret” was signed, regarding the establishment of the Radio-Communications Section, which was to ensure the encrypted exchange of communications between the Commissariat and its peripheral bodies²⁴. The security structure was run with an iron fist from the very first months after its restoration, Iosif Mordoveț having the imperative desire to keep his hand on the pulse of the situation and be updated on the evolutions in the field. The institutionalization and organization of the institutional apparatus of the NKGB of the MSSR in the territory of the republic during 1944, took place during the war and imposed a number of specific conditions: The work schedule of the MSSR NKGB staff was extensive, and the working day schedule was subject to change, depending on the instructions of the MSSR NKGB chief; difficulty in securing the NKGB device with power supply; the need to save fuel for the vehicles under management; the need to save consumables (for example, saving paper) in order to centralize and organize internal correspondence with minimal resource expenditure²⁵.

While in northern Bessarabia the institutionalization of the NKGB was in full swing, the Red Army was preparing for the "liberation" of the central and southern Bessarabian territory and the advancement of the front line in August 1944. Provisional organs of the Soviet power that were established in the MSSR under war conditions, consisted of district, county, and city task forces, consisting of soldiers and workers of Soviet security organs, under the decision of the CC Bureau of the CP (b) M of 23 February 1944²⁶. Their role was to move into the territory of the republic together with the military units of the Ukrainian Fronts II and III. In particular, the NKGB and NKVD task forces were tasked with "purifying the territory" of hostile elements in order to ensure a favorable climate for the formation of party, Soviet and economic institutions in the space "liberated" by the Red Army²⁷. Thus, the NKGB leadership of the MSSR, by order no. 0034 of August 19, 1944, ordered the creation of an NKGB Task Force of the MSSR for the organization of the agency's operative activity on the territory in the process of "liberation" of the republic. The author's analysis reveals that the MSSR NKGB's sending the task force into the field in the "liberation" process was not a specific element only for the

²² ASISRM, F. a. inv. 8, d. 27, f. 2.

²³ Malacenco, Alexandru. *Serviciile de securitate în teritoriile „eliberate” de către URSS în primii ani postbelici*. În: Cristina Preutu, Anatol Petrencu (coord.) *Fațete ale Comunismului în România și în R(A)SS Moldovenească. Politică, Societate și Economie*. Iași: Editura Universității „Al. I. Cuza”, 2020, p. 70.

²⁴ ASISRM, F. a. inv. 8, d. 27, f. 31.

²⁵ ASISRM, F. a. inv. 8, d. 7, f. 8, 17, 24, 11; d. 27, f. 193; AOSPRM, f. 51, inv. 2, d. 45, f. 23.

²⁶ Șevcenco, Ruslan. *Viața politică*, op. cit., p. 14.

²⁷ *Органы государственной безопасности*, (1 января – 30 июня 1944 года), op. cit., c. 9.

reoccupation of the Bessarabian space, because the same model was applied in the process of territorial incorporation of other republics, in this case, RSS Latvia. This is confirmed by the information reflected in an edited document from the Central Archive of the FSB of the Russian Federation, which clearly illustrates that the respective pattern of action or the "fighting program" was similar for the (re) annexation of other territories by the USSR - Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic States, including Bessarabia, etc²⁸. Therefore, we deduce that the operative groups of the USSR state security organs formed the nucleus of the NKGB organs and its territorial subunits, both in the MSSR and in the Latvian SSR, in the context of the second Soviet occupation in 1944. After the Red Army Occupied the entire territory of Bessarabia, at the end of August 1944, the transfer of the MSSR institutions, including the Republican NKGB, took place from Soroca to Chisinau. From the researched documents, we deduce that the first directives signed by Iosif Mordoveţ at the NKGB residence of the MSSR in Chisinau date back to the end of August 1944. The transfer of the NKGB apparatus of the MSSR from Soroca to Chisinau at the end of August 1944 was carried out with multiple violations by the employees of the security commissariat against the Soviet civilian and local authorities, according to the investigated archival sources²⁹.

The construction and organization of the NKGB of the MSSR was inseparably linked to the transformations undergone by the state security organs of the USSR, both in the years of the Second World War and in the first post-war years. The archival sources reveal that the NKGB of the MSSR subordinated to the hierarchically superior entities: at the republican level - CC of the Moldavian CP (b), and at the union level - the NKGB leadership of the Soviet Union, constantly informing the mentioned structures about the situation in the republic.

The organizational structure of the People's Commissariat for State Security in the MSSR was a smaller replica of the USSR NKGB's organizational chart, adapted to the territorial size of the Union Republic, and the number, name and responsibilities of the MSSR's NKGB subdivisions were largely similar to the USSR NKGB. Based on the researched documents, the author found that from an organizational point of view, the structure of the territorial bodies of the NKGB of the MSSR consisted of the following subunits: *county units, district units and city units*. Therefore, the peripheral organs of the NKGB MSSR in the territory of the republic branched into 6 county units (Chisinau, Balti, Soroca, Orhei, Bender, Cahul), rayon units, and rayon units on the left bank of the Dniester and city units. The county units of the NKGB RSSM consisted of several district units. In hierarchical order, the district units were subordinated to the county units of which they were part of. The county units, in their turn, reported to the NKGB of the MSSR, both on their activity and on the district units they coordinated. However, the district units on the left bank of the Dniester were subordinated and reported directly to the NKGB of the MSSR³⁰. The difference between the reporting and subordination of the territorial subunits on the right and left banks of the Dniester to the Chisinau NKGB headquarters of the MSSR shows

²⁸ *Органы государственной безопасности*, (1 января – 30 июня 1944 года), op. cit., с. 9, сс. 5-9.

²⁹ AOSPRM, F. 51, inv. 2, d. 62, f. 21-21v; ASISRM, F. a. inv. 8, d. 7, f. 17; inv. 6, d. 1, f. 84.

³⁰ ASISRM, F. a. inv. 6, d. 1, f. 99, 41; inv. 8, d. 27, ff. 100-101, 104v.

a privileged attitude towards the left-wing districts of the left bank of the Dniester NKGB, which can be explained by the different historical course of the two banks of the Dniester.

In the archival materials and the historiographical sources researched and discovered by the author show that the institutional structure of the NKGB of the MSSR did not undergo significant changes from 1944 until 1946. At the same time, it gave the possibility to deduce that the institutional restructuring in March 1946 - the transformation of the NKGB into the MGB - was carried out in accordance with the Moscow directives. The priority counter-intelligence and intelligence tasks of the Soviet security forces also underwent changes, being adapted to the new post-war realities, both at the central level and at the level of the union republics. The analyzed archival sources reveal that in 1946 for the MGB of the MSSR, the number one opponents of the USSR's counterintelligence services were already the American and British intelligence services, their former allies of World War II, and the exposure and countering activities of the intelligence agency of Romania, Nazi Germany, etc., a priority in the war years, in 1946 is relegated to the background³¹.

The analysis of the evolution of the organizational structures of the NKGB-MGB during the years 1944 – 1946, reveals that the numerical succession of the subunits of the institution lacks the 3rd Military Counterintelligence Unit, which, in author's opinion, is specific to an authentic, independent state with its security structures and military forces, capable of protecting its national security and territorial integrity. Thus, the very organizational structure of the NKGB-MGB, which lacks this component, illustrates once again the occupational character of the Soviet regime restored in the Bessarabian space.

Although, most often, the shadow of anonymity dominates the activity of security and intelligence personnel, in case of this paper, due to author's efforts dictated by the interest of enriching historical knowledge, new documentary sources were identified and declassified, constituting a valuable tool in the research and elucidation of personnel policy in the formation of the NKGB-MGB staff of the MSSR in the first post-war years.

Thus, in the context of the NKGB restoration on the territory of Bessarabia, reoccupied by the Soviets, starting with the spring of 1944, on May 25, Commissioner Iosif Mordoveț signed the Order no. 002 on the personnel lists, marked "Strict Secret", announcing the "distribution of personnel according to the official status of the People's Commissariat for State Security of the MSSR"³². Analyzing the data presented in the mentioned document, it cannot go unnoticed that at the stage of the Soviet NKGB resettlement the North of Bessarabia, in the spring of 1944, there were around 288 positions, and only 164 were occupied. Corroborating the new archive materials with those from published works³³, the author deduced that in 1945, the Soviet security staff in the MSSR was increased by 25.6% of positions, and 17.98% by the number of the *de facto* staff, compared to May 1944³⁴. The increase in the number of NKGB staff of the MSSR in this relatively short period reveals that in January 1945 the Soviet security

³¹ ASISRM, F. a. inv. 6, d. 4, f. 74, 253.

³² ASISRM, F. a. inv. 8, d. 27, f. 2.

³³ Pasat, Valeriu. *RSS Moldovenească în epoca*, op. cit., pp 185 - 187.

³⁴ ASISRM, F. a. inv. 8, d. 27, f. 2, ff. 2-19.

forces were already well anchored structurally in MSSR, with about 18% more staff than in 1944, working on the institutionalization and consolidation of the Soviet regime the republic.

Although the archival materials³⁵ and historiographical sources³⁶ analyzed did not provide absolutely complete information on the NKGB-MGB staff of the MSSR, the information identified in the unpublished and published documentary sources allowed to decipher the key elements of the USSR's personnel policy in the formation of the NKGB-MGB staff of the MSSR, in the early post-war years³⁷. The fact that most of the identified personnel was of Slavic origin shows a trend towards the formation of the Soviet security force in the MSSR, in the first post-war years, mostly from foreign personnel brought from the Soviet Union, and the maximum limitation of the number of staff from the native population of Romanian-Moldovans³⁸. This fact can be explained by the need of the Soviet regime to have within its security apparatus in the MSSR loyal persons, free from any national-cultural affinities with the native population of the republic, to be able to perform without any moral constraints the tasks NKGB-MGB of the MSSR in order to indigenize and consolidate the Soviet power. Another illustrative argument that consolidates the above-mentioned arguments brought by the author, is the indication of Iosif Mordoveț dated November 21, 1944, by which all the operative force was obliged to attend the courses on the study of the “Moldavian language”. Therefore, the author comes to the conclusion that, at least during 1944 – 1945, the operative personnel of the NKGB of the MSSR, *in corpore* was imported from within the Soviet Union. With regard to the quality and professionalism of the personnel imported from the USSR to complete the NKGB-MGB personnel lists of the MSSR in the first post-war years, the identified archival sources present a series of orders and directives, through which the head of the republic's security Iosif Mordoveț marks the lack of discipline and his dissatisfaction with the execution of tasks, indications and of the legal framework by the chekists. Therefore, besides the numerous dissatisfactions expressed by Commissioner Iosif Mordovets towards the heads of the institution's subdivisions regarding the incompetent manner in which his instructions and the NKGB directives of the USSR and the MSSR were executed, the NKGB chief reports a modest level of peripheral investigative activity by the peripheral bodies, abuses and violations committed. Thus, it can be concluded that the process of institutionalizing and consolidating the Soviet power in the MSSR was accompanied by multiple abuses against the native population and constant violations of Soviet law by the NKGB-MGB personnel, which fueled the hostile spirit against the Soviet regime in the republic. In its turn this aroused dissatisfaction in the leading circles of the MSSR³⁹.

³⁵ ASISRM, F. a. inv. 6, d. 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, vol. 18; 15, vol. 30; inv. 8, d. 27, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10.

³⁶ Петров, Н. В. *Лубянка 1917 – 1991*, op. cit., pp. 249-300; Петров, Н. В. *Справочник, Кто руководил органами госбезопасности 1941–1954*. Москва: Звенья, 2010, pp. 133-960.

³⁷ Malacenco, Alexandru. *Poliția secretă a RSS Moldovenești – efectiv și sarcini în primii ani postbelici*. În: *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae, Revistă științifică, seria științe umanistice*, 2019, nr. 10 (130) p. 177.

³⁸ Malacenco, Alexandru. *Serviciile*, op. cit., p. 71, 74.

³⁹ ASISRM, F. a. inv. 6, d. 3, ff. 31-33; inv. 6, d. 1, f. 11, 38, 45, 51, 56, 60, 61, 75, 102; d. 3, f. 137

3. Contribution of the state security bodies to the institutionalization and consolidation of the Soviet power in the Moldavian SSR

The role and contribution of the NKGB-MGB bodies in the institutionalization and consolidation of Soviet power in the Bessarabian area cannot neglect the referral to the socio-political context that marked this territory between March and August 1944. The multiple changes that took place in Bessarabia in this relatively short period, March – August 1944 (the approach of the front line between the belligerent parts of World War II, the evacuation of Romanian authorities, the imminence of the Soviet regime restoration), had a direct and major impact on the life of the Bessarabian population.

The proximity of the German-Soviet front to the territory of Bessarabia in the early spring of 1944 prefaced the transformation of the province into a theater of war with serious consequences for the population and the future of this land.

At the end of March – beginning of April 1944, the German-Soviet front on the territory of Bessarabia stabilized on the alignment of Sculeni - Orhei - Dubasari - Dniester River and up till the Black Sea⁴⁰, which required a short-term division of the Bessarabian territory into two separate parts between the belligerent camps: Northern Bessarabia under Soviet occupation, where the MSSR was re-establishing, with the temporary capital in Soroca, and the remaining Bessarabian territory in the area of Romanian administration with the administrative center in Chisinau. This situation on the battlefield lasted until the end of August 1944, after which Bessarabia was reoccupied *in corpore* by the Soviet troops.

In March of 1944, together with the Red Army, “the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Moldavian R.S.S., headed by F. Brovko and CC of the CP (b) of Moldavia, headed by the second secretary, N. Salagor made its way back to Soroca. These superior state and party bodies began their work by creating the local governing bodies. On July 1, 1944, in all the villages in Bălți and Soroca counties, the organs of the Soviet power and 145 basic party organizations, economic and public bodies were formed”⁴¹. From the new documentary sources identified in the Chisinau archives, it is worth mentioning that the city of Soroca was not large enough for the cantonment, even on temporary basis, for all Soviet institutions, some of them being transferred to Balti and Floresti.

Based on the unpublished archive documents, but also the published ones studied by the author, the mood of the native population and the socio-political context in Bessarabia in the middle of the process of restoring Soviet power (March – August 1944) were characterized by the following: At the beginning of March 1944, the Bessarabian population was marked by concerns about the situation on the battlefield, if it approached the country's borders; Dissatisfaction with the evacuation of Romanian authorities and the chaos that characterized the process (speculation, loss of assets, theft, wrongdoing, etc.); Dissatisfaction and violent confrontations between the locals and the Soviet authorities in the context of the forced displacement of the population near the front line; Withdrawal of the Romanian administration

⁴⁰ Moraru, Pavel. *Serviciile de informații și siguranță românești din Basarabia în perioada anilor 1918 – 1944*. Teza dr. hab. în istorie. Chișinău, 2016, p. 205.

⁴¹ Moraru, Anton. *Istoria românilor*, op. cit., p. 403.

and phased reinstatement of the Soviet administrative system similar to that of 1940; Opposing the collectivization organized by the Soviet authorities; Dissatisfaction with the forced mobilization in the Red Army of men and women without family duties; Subjecting the population to devastation, robbery, arrest, rape and wrongdoing by the Soviet authorities; Dissatisfaction with the forced requisitions and in-kind donations imposed by the Soviet authorities; Delayed and sabotaged actions of grain collections by the state, imposed by the Soviet authorities on the Bessarabian population; Active manifestations in the anti-Soviet spirit from the social segments of "culaci", priesthood and representatives of religious denominations towards the restoration of the Soviet regime; Sympathy for the (re)turn of the Soviet power to Bessarabia was manifested in minority cases, mainly by the people with precarious social conditions - "namely those down and out"; The precarious health situation in the Bessarabian territory was marked by the epidemic of typhoid fever and other venereal diseases, escalated due to the measures taken by the Soviet authorities during the forced, hasty and disorganized evacuation of the population near the front line, without undertaking and respecting basic sanitary rules. In the spring-summer of 1944 the Soviet authorities in the MSSR blamed the Romanian authorities for the escalation of the typhus epidemic in the republic; Comparing the records of the Soviet authorities, in the process of reoccupying Bessarabia, with those presented by the Romanian Security Offices in southern Bessarabia regarding the health situation, it can be stated that in the Bessarabian territory, under the Romanian administration, although the epidemic, the numbers were low. However, in the northern Bessarabia and in the districts on the left bank of the Dniester the epidemiological situation remained a critical one, marked by an increase of infected cases; The Soviet authorities' concern on preventing the illness and vaccination of their own personnel (in this case the NKGB and NKVD bodies) who came to the Bessarabian territory with the Red Army in connection with the escalation of the typhus epidemic and other diseases, in the context of the restoration of the Soviet regime.

In conclusion, the dominating atmosphere in the Bessarabian space between March and the end of August 1944, which was the first stage of restoring Soviet power, with the temporary establishment of the MSSR capital in Soroca, is characterized by a general state of dissatisfaction of the population with the alternation and continuous transformation policies that took place in the Bessarabian territory, the withdrawal of the Romanian administration and the imposition of the Soviet order.

Parallel to restoration, construction and organization of the institutional apparatus of the Soviet security in the MSSR, as early as March 1944, orders and directives were issued, many of them at the express indication of Moscow, which set out the priorities and tasks of the NKGB in recently "liberated" Bessarabian territory. One of the first concerns in the work of the NKGB bodies, immediately after the resettlement in the MSSR, is reflected in the "agent handling directive"⁴² dated 25 May 1944, which from the outset expressed the NKGB Commissioner of the MSSR's concern over the modest counter-intelligence performance within the two months, on the liberated territory of Moldavia: "despite the fact that our bodies operate for two months on

⁴² ASISRM, F. a. inv. 6, d. 1, f. 5.

the liberated territory of Moldavia, the agent operative activity in the republic is at a low level"⁴³. The NKGB leader of the MSSR expressed his dissatisfaction with the formalist approach and the insufficient efforts of the peripheral bodies in the process of setting up the agent networks. The concern of the NKGB leader of the MSSR with the boost the agent operational activity was most likely dictated by the war conditions in Bessarabia, and the imperative need to obtain timely information to take measures to "purify" the captured territory of hostile elements, in the context of the restoration of Soviet power.

One of the first directives issued by the Soviet Union NKGB, targeting the Bessarabian area and, implicitly, outlining the priority tasks in the NKGB MSSR activity, was the "NKGB USSR Directive no. 1211 / M of 31 March 1944, on the purge of the MSSR territory from the adversary agents, accomplices and protégés of the German-fascist occupiers". According to this directive, "all the protégés, traitors and accomplices of the German-fascist occupiers, whose hostile activity was quite clear and documented", were to be arrested immediately⁴⁴. This directive represents the key document for the Soviet security forces in their "purging" activity of the MSSR territory from the adversary agents and the elements hostile to the regime, not only for the period of 1944, but also for 1945, as evidenced by the repeated references to the mentioned directive by Iosif Mordoveț in his instructions to the staff.

Given that the re-establishment of the MSSR's NKGB apparatus in the spring-summer of 1944 was taking place under war conditions, the primary tasks assigned to the operative force were dictated by the realities that emerged from this context. Thus, for the carry out of strategic tasks under war conditions, the NKGB of the MSSR also cooperated with other repressive organs of the regime - NKVD and SMERSH. Throughout the "purification" activity of the Bessarabian territory for the period spring – summer 1944, the Soviet security structures were primarily concerned with identifying and exposing enemy agents, paratroopers, spies, opposing partisan troops, diversionists, "terrorists", presenting obstacles to the Soviet authorities relocating to Bessarabia⁴⁵.

The multitude of Soviet security tasks affecting almost all social segments in Bessarabia sparked constant discontent among the population by their intrusive and coercive nature. In this context, nine months after "liberation", at the end of 1944, the aspirations to immigrate to Romania increased among the Bessarabians. From the perspective of the NKGB of the MSSR, those who intended to immigrate to Romania were considered as "anti-Soviet elements", and a series of repressive measures had to be taken against them⁴⁶.

From the analysis NKGB directives of the MSSR for 1944, the Soviet security force began to carry out tasks aimed at "purging" the territory of the republic of hostile and anti-Soviet elements, in order to avoid actions of sabotage and endangerment to the reinstatement process in the MSSR of the Soviet structures and imposed regulations by the regime. Therefore, although in

⁴³ Ibidem, f. 5.

⁴⁴ ASISRM, F. a. inv. 6, d. 3, f. 20, 21.

⁴⁵ Malacenco, Alexandru. *Conlucrarea NKGB cu NKVD și SMERȘ în RSS Moldovenească (1944)*. În: *Akademios, Revistă de știință, inovare, cultură și artă*, nr. 4(51), 2018, p. 91.

⁴⁶ ASISRM, F. a. inv. 6, d. 1, ff. 126-127.

1944 the NKGB tasks of the MSSR were determined by this early stage of the restoration of Soviet power in Bessarabia, in the years 1945-1946, when the Soviet regime was already well entrenched throughout Bessarabia, some of the NKGB MSSR objectives and tasks were adapted to the new post-war realities, while others remained unchanged and were further improved.

Among Soviet security organs' priority tasks in 1945, in the MSSR we can distinguish the eradication of open opponents of the regime or of the so-called "terrorist groups" opposing the Soviet regime in armed ways. The archival sources point out that by the end of 1945, there was a growing concern of the Soviet security against the phenomenon of the anti-Soviet armed demonstrations in the MSSR, the struggle with which, at that stage, had already become of political importance. Also, during 1945, the circle of priests and religious representatives continued to be a priority in the work of Soviet security. The unpublished archival sources explicitly illustrate the MSSR Soviet authorities' concern regarding the return of Romanian returnees to their place of residence in the first post-war years. In this sense, the NKGB of the MSSR, together with the NKVD, had a new priority task for 1945, checking and sorting returnees returning to their permanent place of residence within the republic.

In the context of the USSR Supreme Soviet elections, scheduled for February 1946⁴⁷, upon the USSR NKGB ordered, a series of instructions and tasks were issued to the NKGB MSSR for the preparation of the election campaign and process since 1945, as well as for early identification and termination of the enemy's attempts to sabotage the elections. The analyzed directives on Soviet security tasks, in the context of the USSR Supreme Soviet elections of February 10, 1946, reveal the importance that the Soviet regime attached to legitimizing and institutionalizing its power in the early postwar years and the role of the NKGB in this process. Therefore, in order to be sure that the electoral process, in the MSSR, would go smoothly and without disturbance from the elements considered as hostile to the regime, the entire apparatus of the Soviet repressive structures was involved in the process. At the same time, the researched documents prove the Soviet authorities' concern, both at the Union and Republican levels, the activation of elements hostile to the regime, as well as the intense concern of repressive structures to prevent any destabilizing challenges in the electoral context. Therefore, the Soviet structures - NKGB and NKVD - since 1945 had a multitude of tasks that aimed at obtaining deep knowledge and from all social strata of the political predispositions of the Bessarabian population.

In the context of the new state of affairs, both internally and externally, with the end of World War II, the Soviet Union "organized its security structures in such a manner, as to be able to exercise control over an extensive number of social living environments"⁴⁸ in the annexed territories. One of these environments was the youth and intellectuals of the MSSR, who were the essential elements in the social shaping of the republic's population in the spirit of the "Soviet canons" of formation and education of the "new man" - *homos sovieticus*. When we refer

⁴⁷ Alegerile pentru Sovietul Suprem în RSSM au avut loc peste un an în luna februarie 1947. Царанов, Владимир И. (ред.). *История Молдавской ССР с древнейших времен до наших дней*. Кишинев: Штиинца, 1984, с. 393.

⁴⁸ Krzysztof Persak, Łukasz Kamiński (eds.). *A handbook of the communist security apparatus in East Central Europe 1944 – 1989*. Warsaw: Institute of National Remembrance, 2005, p. 7.

to the youth and intellectuals of the MSSR in the first post-war years, we mean high school students, FZO (School of Factory Training), students of higher education and technical institutions, as well as teachers of secondary and vocational schools, FZO, from higher education institutions.

In the context of research, the author identified and introduced into the academic circuit several archival documents, three of which have the same generic subject - "operative agents' work activation among the youth and intellectuals, which allowed to elucidate the methods and means used by the NKGB-MGB in institutionalizing and consolidating the Soviet power in the MSSR. These three documents were issued by the NKGB leadership of the MSSR, the first two documents being dated 1945, the third – 1946.

Following the research of archival documents on the instructions of the security commissioner Iosif Mordovets, we deduce that *the modus operandi* elements, through which the NKGB worked with the youth, were fully used with obvious emphasis on: creating and consolidating the network of agents and informants among all segments of youth, the creation and expansion of the network of agents in the field of intellectuals, especially among teachers, pedagogues and organizers of various extracurricular circles, the infiltration of cultural, literary, philosophical organizations created during both the Romanian administration, including those active at the time, recruitment and cultivation of informants specialized in identifying the German and Romanian agents⁴⁹ among the youth in the MSSR, as well as selection and recruitment of residents, ensuring the conspiracy in the work. The author infers that, in the first post-war years, the NKGB-MGB in the MSSR sought to penetrate the most intimate strata of the youth environment, from education, extracurricular activities, to private life; with the aim of eradicating "from start" any anti-Soviet movements and form of a fertile ground for the upbringing and education of a new deeply Sovietized generation. Also, from the studied documentary sources, the author revealed a unique detail, which defines the intrusive nature of the Soviet security in the MSSR activity in the first postwar years, namely that, if necessary, allowing the recruitment of minor students, including those of under 16 years of age.

⁴⁹ ASISRM, F. a. inv. 6, d. 4, f. 253.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After studying the proposed documentary material from the national and foreign archives, as well as historiographical sources on the role and contribution of the NKGB-MGB in restoring, institutionalizing, and consolidating the Soviet power in the MSSR between 1944 and 1946, we came to the following general conclusions:

1. Following the analysis of historiography, the author came to the conclusion that there were no extensive scientific papers devoted to elucidating the issue of the role and contribution of the NKGB-MGB to the institutionalization and consolidation of Soviet power in the MSSR in 1944 – 46. One of the causes justifying this lack is the limited access to relevant documentary sources. Very few researchers, studying the history of the Soviet security organs in the MSSR approach the subject of Soviet security organs in the MSSR mainly from the perspective of their repressive role. Following the literature analysis, a historiographical gap was attested for the year 1944. This impediment was surpassed by the initiative and personal effort of the author to propose for declassification a series of files from the SIS archive of historical value for the scientific research on the history of NKGB-MGB in the MSSR bodies in the first post-war years. Also, in the Soviet and Western historiography, no works have been identified that address directly the issue of the presented scientific approach, than just some elements. The documentary basis in the research of the proposed scientific problem, were the unpublished archival sources, especially those from the ASISRM fund, as well as from ACNSAS, ANRM, AOSPRM.

2. As a result of research, the author periodized the process of the Soviet power in the MSSR's institutionalization with the contribution of state security bodies in two stages:

- The first stage, dating March – August of 1944 – the institutionalization of the Soviet power under war conditions, that was marked by the advancement of the NKGB, NKVD and the CP (b) M task forces into the Bessarabian space, along with the Ukrainian Fronts I and III, in order to "purify" the reoccupied territory from "hostile elements" and preparing the ground to building and restore the Soviet institutions and party organs.
- the second stage, September 1944 – March 1946, marked by the complete restoration on the Bessarabian territory, arbitrarily, of the MSSR with the capital in Chisinau; restoring and organizing the apparatus of the security organs in the republic; readjusting the NKGB's priority tasks in a peaceful manner; institutionalization and consolidation of Soviet power in post-war conditions; the institutional transformation of the NKGB into a MGB in March of 1946; changing the priority tasks of the Republican MGB in line with Moscow's orders.

3. The restoration of the MSSR's NKGB apparatus in the spring-summer of 1944 took place under war conditions. The Soviet security apparatus trained all its repressive organs in the process of "purging" the newly "liberated" territory, in order to ensure the re-establishment of the Soviet regime in Bessarabia, in an environment as favorable as possible, and in a short period. Within this period, the Soviet security structures focused primarily on identifying, exposing, and spotting enemy agents, spies (Romanians and Germans) stationed across the front line, opposing partisan troops, diversionists, "terrorists," paratroopers posing major threats and endangering the

re-establishment of the Soviet regime in Bessarabia. In order to carry out strategic tasks under war conditions, the MSSR's NKGB cooperated with other repressive organs of the Soviet regime - the NKVD and the SMERŞ.

4. An essential role in the restoration and institutionalization of the Soviet NKGB in the territory of the MSSR in March – August 1944 fell to the NKGB task forces, consisting of the military and workers of the Soviet security organs responsible for the formation of the provisional organs of the Soviet power, in conditions of war. Their purpose was to organize the agency's operational activity, to "purify" the territory in the process of "liberating" the MSSR from "hostile elements", to prepare the ground, the institutional and logistical infrastructure, as well as to create a favorable atmosphere for the cantonment of a republican-level NKGB in the context of the restoring the Soviet power. The restoration pattern of the NKGB bodies in the MSSR contains multiple similarities to the same processes in the Latvian SSR and other Union Republics, such as the Baltic States, Belarus, and Ukraine, as confirmed by the documents published by the Central Archive of the FSB of the Russian Federation. The author comes to the conclusion that the operative groups of the USSR state security bodies formed the nucleus for the establishment and multiplication of NKGB bodies in the MSSR, the Latvian SSR and the other mentioned republics, in the context of the second Soviet occupation in 1944.

5. As a result of researching the new documentary sources, the author states that the socio-political situation in Bessarabia and the state of mind of the native population in the midst of the process the Soviet power restoration (March – August 1944) under war conditions, were characterized by permanent dissatisfaction and concerns due to the continuous political transformations that were taking place in this space. The main grievances concerned the following issues: the imminence of the approach of the German-Soviet front line, the transformation of the Bessarabian space into a theater of military operations, violent clashes between locals and the Soviet authorities in the context of forced displacement of the population near the front line, dissatisfaction with forced mobilization into the Red Army, locals oppose against organized collectivization, forced requisitions and gifts in kind, subjecting the population to devastation, robberies, arrests, rapes and lawlessness. At the same time, the precarious health situation caused by the epidemic of typhoid fever and other venereal diseases that occurred after the return of the Red Army escalated due to the actions taken by the Soviet authorities for the forced, hasty and disorganized evacuation of the population near the front line, without ensuring and respecting the elementary sanitary measures. Elementary sanitary ware. The MSSR's NKGB and NKVD personnel were subjected to immediate vaccination, in order not to allow any delays in the Soviet security staff performing their tasks. The Sympathy for the (re)turn of the Soviet power to Bessarabia was manifested in minority cases, mostly by the people with precarious social conditions - "namely those down and out".

6. If the 1944, the NKGB tasks of the MSSR were determined by the early stages of the restoration of Soviet power in Bessarabia, in the context of the war in 1945-1946, when the Soviet regime was already accommodated in Bessarabia, some of the NKGB of the MSSR objectives and tasks have been adapted to the new post-war realities, while others remained

unchanged and were further improved. A priority task of the NKGB of the MSSR for 1945, was to "check and sort the returnees returning for permanent residence" into the republic. The Soviet regime expressed great importance to the legitimization and institutionalization of its power in the early postwar years, meaning in which the Soviet repressive structures - NKGB and NKVD - since 1945, had a multitude of tasks aimed at deepening the political predispositions of the Bessarabian population, including the prevention of any destabilizing challenges, in the context of the elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet of February 10, 1946.

7. In terms of organizational structure, the NKGB-MGB of the MSSR was a smaller replica of the Soviet "secret police" of the USSR, being determined by its territorial size and territorial-administrative division during 1944 – 1946. The number, names and attributions of the NKGB-MGB subdivisions of the MSSR were largely similar to those of the NKGB-MGB of the USSR, with some exceptions. One of the significant differences between the NKGB-MGB of the USSR and the NKGB-MGB of the MSSR was that the organization chart of the "secret police" in the Union Republic did not include Unit 3 of the Military Counterintelligence. The studied archival sources do not reflect any data that would attest the possible similar establishment of the 3rd Military Counterintelligence Unit within the MSSR of the MGB in 1946. In author's opinion, the 3rd Military Counterintelligence Unit is specific to an authentic, independent state, in which sovereignty is held by the people, free to determine their country's internal and foreign policy, with their own security structures and armed forces, capable of protecting its national security and territorial integrity. Taking into consideration that the MSSR was created as an artificial state entity on August 2, 1940, from the Bessarabian territory annexed by the USSR, which did not have its own armed forces and other attributes inherent in a sovereign state, the presence of the military counterintelligence subunit (Unit 3) in the NKGB-MGB structure of the MSSR was not desirable from the point of view of the Soviets. Therefore, the organizational structure of the NKGB-MGB of the MSSR clearly illustrates that the Soviet regime was undoubtedly an occupation regime, and the role of the security organs was to consolidate and protect the Soviet power established in the republic, by both "hostile" internal as well as external factors.

8. The declassified materials from the SIS archive of the Republic of Moldova show that the institutional restructuring in March 1946 - the transformation of the NKGB into the MGB - was carried out in accordance with the Moscow directives. The new research documents illustrate that the counter-intelligence tasks and priorities of the MGB of the MSSR, since 1946, have focused primarily on exposing, infiltrating and suppressing the Anglo-American intelligence agents. This gave ground to establish that from 1946 the Anglo-American agents began to be considered the number one opponents of the counter-intelligence bodies of the MGB of the MSSR, and the agents of the intelligence services of Romania, Nazi Germany, etc. - who were the number one priority for the NKGB of the MSSR during the war years, in 1946 became secondary. These changes in the MGB priorities of the MSSR, in accordance with the orders of the Union MGB in 1946, marked the entry of the USSR into a new era of confrontations on the international arena - the beginning of the Cold War. The transformations were determined by the need to adapt the Soviet security organs at the central level to the level of the union republics, to

the post-war realities, in the context of the imminence of new confrontations of the USSR on the foreign arena. In other words, the metamorphosis of the NKGB into MGB in March 1946 marks a milestone in the transition to a new historical stage of the institution, which determines the need for a new scientific research to elucidate this topic in a separate paper.

9. As a result of some calculations made on the basis of new archival data, corroborated with those extracted from historiographical sources, the author established that, at the beginning of 1945, the Soviet security staff in the MSSR increased by 25.6% according to the number of positions, and by 18 % according to the number of the *de facto* employed staff, in comparison to May 1944, when the given institution was going through the process of re-establishment. The information extracted from the published and unpublished documentary sources permitted to identify the multiple staff of the NKGB-MGB of the MSSR, but the number of which does not claim to be exhaustive. However, the fact that most of those identified by the author were of Slavic origin, shows the tendency to form the Soviet security force in the MSSR, in the early postwar years, mostly from allogeneic personnel (Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Jews, etc.), brought from the Soviet Union, as well as the maximum limitation of the number of staff among the local population - Romanian-Moldovan. The few people from the native population of the MSSR, who were employed in the NKGB-MGB of the republic, held exclusively hierarchically inferior positions: security guards in the penitentiary, porters, drivers, auxiliary staff, typists and translators. This tendency is explained by the need for the Soviet regime to have loyal persons within its MSSR security apparatus, free from any national-cultural affinities with the native population of the republic, in order to perform, without any moral or other constraints, the tasks of the NAGB-MGB MRRS, to indigenize and consolidate the Soviet power in this land in the shortest period possible. At the same time, the studied archival sources reveal that the process of institutionalizing the Soviet power in the MSSR was accompanied by multiple abuses against the native population and constant violations of the Soviet law by NKGB-MGB staff, a fact that fueled the hostile spirit against the Soviet regime in the republic, which in its turn was causing dissatisfaction even among the leadership of the MSSR.

10. The researched archival sources gave the possibility to establish that to achieve the USSR's strategic goal of forming a social base in the territory of the republic, in order to facilitate the rooting and legitimization of the Soviet regime with the participation of the native population of the MSSR, among the social segments, the NKGB's efforts were targeting the youth and intellectuals of the MSSR. The "Moldavian" NKGB-MGB's attention directed at these social environments is explained by the fact that the youth and intellectuals represented a valuable source of human capital, being one of the most progressive social categories, and their loyalty and transformation into "natural allies" was essential for the institutionalization and rooting of the Soviet regime in the MSSR. Thus, in the first two years after the war, the Soviet security in the MSSR used a wide range of special methods and measures (recruitment of informants, informants, prophylaxis, development of agent networks etc.) to penetrate the most intimate strata of the youth environment, aiming to eradicate any "anti-Soviet" uprisings, on the one hand, and to form a fertile ground for the upbringing and education of a new, deeply

Sovietized generation, on the other. Therefore, the youth and intellectuals were gradually transformed into emissaries of Sovietization, which in their turn triggered the process of self-sovietization of the native population of the republic, creating, a *de facto*, false impression that the established Soviet regime was a "true emanation of the power of the people". Moreover, the author comes to the conclusion that the same measures and tactics were also used by the NKGB-MGB-KGB of the MSSR in relation to other social groups of the society, for example, peasants, priesthood and representatives of other religious denominations, etc. These aspects have been analyzed in this paper, without the claims of completeness, thus leaving room for a separate scientific research on the given topics.

11. As to conclude, the methods and means of Soviet security were discreet levers of social control of the regime over the youth environment and intellectuals to shape the social architecture in the republic and pursue the secret policies behind the institutionalization and consolidation of Soviet power in the MSSR. In other words, the NKGB-MGB bodies had the role of "shadow engineers" of the regime, responsible for organizing, directing and supervising, upon the Party's orders, through various socio-economic, political, ethno cultural transformation mechanisms, in order to build and protect the Soviet power from the "internal and external dangers" in the MSSR.

Based the thesis research and the scientific results, we can formulate the following **recommendations**:

1. Continuation of scientific research to study the history of Soviet security bodies in the MSSR in the post-war period and up to 1991 in terms of capitalizing and identifying new archival materials, to complete the picture of the Soviet regime in the MSSR's history from the perspective of understanding the overall role of the security bodies in maintaining the continuity of the regime for decades.
2. Development of university courses on the history of the Soviet security bodies in the Bessarabian territory, especially for the specialized institutions and training centers - for the training and development of staff from the national security and defense bodies.
3. Contribution to the dynamization of the dialogue and interaction between the civil society and the intelligence services of the Republic of Moldova to promote the culture of security in the society of the Republic of Moldova.
4. The theoretical results of the proposed scientific approach can be used in the elaboration of bachelor's, master and doctoral theses in the field of history, security and defense.

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5. Malacenco, Alexandru. *Comisariatul poporului pentru securitatea statului al RSS Moldovenești: structura organizatorică (1944 – 1946)*. În: *Revista de Istorie a Moldovei*. 2020, nr. 1-2(121-122), pp. 118-132. ISSN 1857-2022 (**categoria B**).

b) Articles in scientific publications:

1. Malacenco, Alexandru. *Serviciile de securitate în teritoriile „eliberate” de către URSS în primii ani postbelici*. În: Cristina Preutu, Anatol Petrencu (coord.) „*Fațete ale Comunismului în România și în R(A)SS Moldovenească. Politică, Societate și Economie*”, Editura Universității „Al. I. Cuza”, Iași, 2020, pp. 57-76.

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c) Materials at scientific forums:

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ADNOTARE

Malacenco Alexandru, „Instituționalizarea puterii sovietice în RSS Moldovenească în anii 1944 – 1946: contribuția organelor de securitate a statului”, teză de doctor în istorie, specialitatea 611.02 – Istoria Românilor (pe perioade). Chișinău, 2022.

Structura tezei: lista abrevierilor, introducere, 3 capitole, a câte 3-4 subcapitole, concluzii generale și recomandări, bibliografie cu 122 titluri, 142 pagini de bază, anexe, declarația privind asumarea răspunderii și CV-ul autorului. Rezultatele obținute sunt publicate în 16 lucrări științifice (9 articole științifice, studii, precum și 7 rezumate).

Cuvinte-cheie: organele sovietice de securitate, organele securității statului, Basarabia, RSSM, NKGB, MGB, elemente „ostile”, instituționalizare, puterea sovietică, URSS.

Scopul și obiectivele tezei. Scopul: cercetarea și estimarea rolului și contribuției organelor securității statului în restabilirea, instituționalizarea și consolidarea puterii sovietice în RSSM, în perioada 1944 – 1946. Obiectivele: analiza istoriografiei și a surselor istorice; reconstituirea procesului de restabilire a organelor sovietice de securitate în RSSM în martie – august 1944; stabilirea interdependenței dintre modificările în structura organizatorică a serviciilor sovietice de securitate în RSSM, politica de cadre și sarcinile NKGB-MGB în RSSM în 1944 – 1946; identificarea sarcinilor organelor sovietice de securitate în RSSM și argumentarea schimbărilor priorităților în activitatea NKGB-MGB de la o perioadă la alta; stabilirea măsurilor și mijloacelor de acțiune ale organelor NKGB-MGB și analiza specificului aplicării lor în procesul instituționalizării și consolidării puterii sovietice în RSSM; estimarea rolului și contribuției organelor NKGB-MGB în procesul de instituționalizare și consolidare a puterii sovietice în RSS Moldovenească în primii ani postbelici.

Noutatea și originalitatea științifică. Teza este o primă lucrare științifică în domeniul istoriei care elucidează rolul și contribuția organelor securității statului în restabilirea, instituționalizarea și consolidarea puterii sovietice în RSSM în 1944 – 1946.

Problema științifică soluționată rezidă în argumentarea științifică a rolului organelor sovietice de securitate, care, prin mijloace și metode specifice, au contribuit la instituționalizarea și consolidarea puterii sovietice în RSSM în anii 1944 – 1946, inclusiv prin protejarea regimului de factorii „ostili” interni și externi; evidențierea tiparului comun aplicat de URSS în restabilirea organelor NKGB și a regimului sovietic în RSSM și în RSS Letonă, precum și în alte republici unionale reanexate în 1944; analiza metodelor și mijloacelor securității sovietice utilizate ca pârgșii discrete pentru modelarea arhitecturii sociale în RSSM în primii ani postbelici.

Importanța teoretică a lucrării constă în confirmarea și relevarea rolului organelor sovietice de securitate în procesul restabilirii, instituționalizării și consolidării regimului sovietic în RSSM, precum și în stabilirea coraportului dintre modul de organizare și metodele și mijloacele utilizate în activitate de NKGB-MGB în 1944 – 1946, subiecte cercetate în premieră în spațiul istoriografic autohton; în includerea în circuitul științific a unor definiții privind modul de operare a organelor sovietice de securitate în activitatea lor în RSSM, în evidențierea distincției conceptuale dintre noțiunile utilizate eronat ca sinonime – „organele sovietice de securitate” și „organele securității statului” și altele.

Valoarea aplicativă a lucrării. Rezultatele cercetării pot fi utilizate la elaborarea unor cursuri universitare privind istoria organelor sovietice de securitate din RSSM, în special pentru instituțiile și centrele de instruire specializate în pregătirea și perfecționarea cadrelor din sistemul organelor securității și apărării naționale, pot servi ca sursă științifică de referință la scrierea tezelor de licență, de masterat și de doctorat în domeniul istoriei, securității și apărării.

Aprobarea rezultatelor obținute. Aspecte ale problemei cercetate au fost prezentate la 10 conferințe naționale și internaționale, reflectate în 16 articole, studii și rezumate publicate în reviste științifice și volume în Republica Moldova, precum și în afara țării.

ANNOTATION

Malacenco Alexandru, "The institutionalization of Soviet Power in the Moldavian SSR in 1944 – 1946: the contribution of state security bodies", PhD thesis in history, specialty 611.02. History of Romanians (by periods). Chisinau, 2022.

Thesis structure: list of abbreviations, introduction, 3 chapters, 3-4 subchapters each, general conclusions and recommendations, bibliography contains 122 titles, 142 basic pages, Appendices, 1 table, statement of assumption of responsibility, author's CV. The obtained results have been published in 16 scientific papers (9 scientific articles, studies, as well as 7 abstracts).

Keywords: Soviet security bodies, state security bodies, Bessarabia, MSSR, NKGB, MGB, "hostile" elements, institutionalization, Soviet power, USSR.

The purpose and objectives of the thesis. Purpose: researching and assessing the role and contribution of state security bodies in the restoration, institutionalization and fortification of Soviet power in the MSSR, during 1944 – 1946; **Objectives:** to analyse the historiography and the relevant historical sources; to reconstitute the process of re-establishing the Soviet security organs in the MSSR in March – August 1944; to establish the connection between the changes in the organizational structure of the Soviet security services in the MSSR, the personnel policy and the tasks of the NKGB-MGB MSSR in 1944 – 1946; to analyze the socio-political context and the military situation in Bessarabia between March and August 1944; to establish the tasks of the Soviet security organs in the MSSR and explain the changes of priorities in the activity of the NKGB-MGB; to identify the measures and methods used by the NKGB-MGB bodies and to analyze the specifics of their application in the process of institutionalization and consolidation of Soviet power in the MSSR; to assess the role and the contribution of the NKGB-MGB bodies to the institutionalization and fortification of Soviet power in MSSR between 1944 and 1946.

Scientific novelty and originality. The thesis is the first scientific work in the field of history, which outlines the role and importance of state security bodies in the restoration, institutionalization and fortification of Soviet power in the MSSR in 1944 – 1946, mainly on the basis of unclassified archival materials included in the first time in the scientific circuit.

The scientific problem solved concerns the scientific reasoning of the Soviet security bodies' role in the institutionalization and fortification of Soviet power in the MSSR in 1944 – 1946, through specific means and methods, including the protection of the regime from internal and external "hostile" elements; highlights the common pattern of the USSR in re-establishing the NKGB bodies and the Soviet regime in the MSSR, in the Latvian SSR, as well as in other re-annexed union republics in 1944; analyzes the methods and means used by Soviet intelligence as discrete levers for modeling the social architecture in the MSSR, in the first postwar years.

Theoretical importance of this paper is to confirm and highlight the role played by the Soviet security bodies in the restoration, institutionalization and fortification of the Soviet regime in the MSSR, as well as to acknowledge the methods and means used by the NKGB-MGB for this purpose between 1944 – 1946, topics that were studied for the first time in the local historiographical field; the importance also stems from the inclusion into the scientific circuit of definitions of the methods and means used by Soviet security bodies in their work in the MSSR, highlighting the conceptual distinction between the notions misused as synonyms "Soviet security bodies" and "state security bodies".

The applicative value of the paper. The results of the research can be used to develop university courses on the history of Soviet security bodies in the MSSR, especially for institutions and training centers specialized in the training and capacity building of personnel in the national security and defence system, but can also serve as a scientific source for writing bachelor's, master's and doctoral dissertations in the field of history, security and defence.

Approval of the results obtained. Some aspects of the researched matters were presented within 10 national and international conferences, published in 16 articles, studies and abstracts in scientific journals and volumes in the Republic of Moldova, as well as abroad.

АННОТАЦИЯ

Малаченко Александру, «Институализация советской власти в Молдавской ССР в 1944-1946 гг.: вклад органов госбезопасности», докторская диссертация по истории, специальность 611.02. История румын (по периодам). Кишинёв 2022.

Структура диссертации: Список сокращений, введение, 3 главы, общие выводы и рекомендации, библиография из 122 наименований, 142 базовых страниц, приложения, 1 таблица, сведения об ответственности, автобиография. Опубликовано 16 научных статей (9 научных статей, проведенные исследования, 7 резюме). **Ключевые слова:** Советские органы безопасности, органы государственной безопасности, Бессарабия, МССР, НКГБ, МГБ, «враждебные» элементы, институализация, советская власть, СССР.

Цель и задачи: исследование и оценка роли органов государственной безопасности в восстановлении, институализации и укреплении советской власти в МССР в 1944 – 1946 гг.; **Задачи:** анализ историографии; воссоздать процесс восстановления советских органов безопасности в МССР в период 1944 г.; установить взаимозависимость изменений в организационной структуре советских органов безопасности МССР, кадровой политики и задач в 1944 – 1946 гг.; выяснение общественно-политической и военной ситуации в Бессарабии в период 1944 г.; выявить задачи органов НКГБ-МГБ в МССР и аргументировать смену приоритетов в их деятельности; установить меры и средства действий органов НКГБ-МГБ и проанализировать особенности их применения в процессе институализации и укрепления советской власти в МССР; оценить роль и вклад органов НКГБ-МГБ в институализацию и укрепление советской власти в МССР. **Научная новизна и оригинальность.** Диссертация является первой научной работой, в которой освещается роль и вклад органов государственной безопасности в восстановление, институализацию и укрепление советской власти в МССР в 1944 – 1946 гг., с использованием рассекреченных архивных материалов. **Решение научной проблемы** - научное обоснование роли советских органов безопасности, что конкретными средствами и методами способствовали институализации и укреплению советской власти в МССР в 1944 – 1946 гг., защищая режим от внутренних и внешних «враждебных» факторов; подчеркивается общая модель, применяемая в СССР при восстановлении органов НКГБ и советского режима в МССР и Латвийской ССР, в других республиках, повторно аннексированных в 1944 г.; произведен анализ советских методов и средств органов, что служили незаметными рычагами в формировании социальной архитектуры в МССР в первые послевоенные годы. **Теоретическая значимость** работы состоит в подтверждении и выявлении первичной роли органов госбезопасности в восстановление, институализации и укреплении советского режима в МССР, в установлении соотношения между спецификой организации НКГБ-МГБ и методов и средств, использованных в их деятельности в 1944 – 1946 гг. – вопросы, впервые исследованные в нашей историографии; во включении в научный оборот дефиниций, методов и средств, используемых органами госбезопасности в работе в МССР; в определении концептуальных различий между понятиями, ошибочно используемыми ранее как синонимы «советские органы безопасности» и «органы государственной безопасности». **Практическая значимость.** Работа может использоваться при разработке университетских курсов по истории МССР, а также учреждениями, специализирующимися на обучении персонала в системе органов национальной безопасности и обороны; может быть использована как научная и теоретическая база для написания бакалаврских, магистерских и докторских диссертаций. **Утверждение полученных результатов.** Концепты были представлены на 10 национальных и международных конференциях, отражены в 16 статьях, исследованиях и рефератах, опубликованных в научных журналах и сборниках в Республике Молдова и за рубежом.

MALACENCO ALEXANDRU
THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF SOVIET POWER IN THE MOLDAVIAN SSR IN
1944 – 1946: THE CONTRIBUTION OF STATE SECURITY BODIES

611.02. HISTORY OF ROMANIANS (BY PERIODS)

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