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**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOVIET ADMINISTRATION  
IN THE CARPATHIAN REGION THROUGH THE USE  
OF THE OPEN FORMS OF PUNISHMENT (1944 – 1954)**

**Summary.** *The purpose of this research is to reveal the peculiarities of the use of the public forms of the punishment and the intimidation (open trials and executions, exposing of the victim bodies to the general survey, the rebel graves destruction) of the nationalists and local residents who supported the Ukrainian liberation movement in the Carpathian region (1945 – 1954) by the Soviet repressive and punitive bodies. The research methodology is based on the principles of historicism, systematic, scientific approaches, verification, the author's objectivity, as well as the use of general scientific methods (analysis, synthesis, generalization) and special-historical (historical-genetic, historical-typological, historical-system) methods. The scientific novelty consists in the fact that for the first time on the basis of the unknown and less-known archival documents, the forms of conducting the open trial processes*

and the executions, exposing of the victim bodies to the general review, and the destruction of the rebel graves have been considered comprehensively. **Conclusions.** Consequently, the Stalin's regime used the most brutal measures to overcome the opposition to its policy. The terror against the liberation movement and the local population was encouraged by the supreme leadership of the state. One of the forms of the establishment of the Soviet administration and the struggle against the Ukrainian liberation movement was the policy of intimidating members of the OUN and the UPA and the local population: the open trials and the executions, the exposition of the victims' bodies to the public, and destroying the rebellious graves. A special importance of the Soviet administration was give to the open trials of the OUN members and the UPA members and the executions aimed at discrediting the activities of the OUN, to form a negative attitude towards the nationalists. However, neither the public executions nor other force and propaganda forms were able to deprive the nationalists of the support and the population assistance, to keep them in fear, as the regime sought for; but it did not contribute to the formation of the pro-Soviet mood. The perspectives of the research is the studythe peculiarities of conducting the open court trials in Volyn region.

**Key words:** open trials, public executions, Soviet administration, Carpathian land.

### УТВЕРДЖЕННЯ РАДЯНСЬКОЇ АДМІНІСТРАЦІЇ У КАРПАТСЬКОМУ КРАЇ ЧЕРЕЗ ВИКОРИСТАННЯ ВІДКРИТИХ ФОРМ ПОКАРАННЯ (1944 – 1954)

**Анотація.** *Мета дослідження* – розкрити особливості використання радянськими репресивно-каральними органами публічних форм покарання та залякування (відкриті судові процеси і страти, виставлення тіл загиблих на загальний огляд, руйнування повстанських могил) націоналістів і місцевих мешканців, які підтримували український визвольний рух у Карпатському краї (1945 – 1954). *Методологія дослідження* ґрунтується на принципах історизму, системності, науковості, верифікації, авторської об'єктивності, а також на використанні загальнонаукових (аналіз, синтез, узагальнення) та спеціально-історичних (історико-генетичний, історико-типологічний, історико-системний) методів. **Наукова новизна** полягає у тому, що вперше на основі невідомих та маловідомих архівних документів комплексно розглянуто форми проведення відкритих судових процесів та страт, виставлення тіл загиблих на загальний огляд, руйнування повстанських могил. **Висновки.** Отже, сталінський режим використовував найжорстокіші заходи для подолання спротиву своїй політиці. Терор над визвольним рухом і місцевим населенням заохочувався найвищим керівництвом держави. Однією з форм утвердження радянської адміністрації та боротьби із українським визвольним рухом була політика залякування членів ОУН і УПА та місцевого населення. Особливе місце радянська адміністрація відводила відкритим судовим процесам над членами ОУН та УПА і стратам, які мали на меті дискредитувати діяльність ОУН, сформувати негативне ставлення до націоналістів. Проте ні публічні страти, ні інші силові та пропагандистські форми не змогли позбавити націоналістів підтримки та допомоги населення, втримати його в страху, чого прагнув режим, та аж ніяк не сприяли формуванню прорадянських настроїв. Перспективним напрямом дослідження є вивчення особливостей проведення відкритих судових процесів на Волині.

**Ключові слова:** відкриті судові процеси, публічні страти, радянська адміністрація, Карпатський край.

**Problem statement.** The Soviet administration used various forms and methods of establishment in the western Ukrainian region. However, the main focus was made on power measures, which was accompanied by a large-scale discrediting, ideological campaign. The first years of confrontation with the Ukrainian liberation movement dispelled the hopes of the Soviet authorities to eliminate it quickly and completely. The government actually recognized the OUN and the UPA as a serious military-political adversary, addressing them repeated appeals in the middle and the second half of the 1940-ies in the XXth century. A forceful and ideological influence of a powerful state did not make the desired result, as the nationalist

underground continued to get a broad support of the population, providing them with success in confronting the Soviet totalitarianism. That is why, following the instructions from the senior state government, the local leaders of the party and repressive, punitive bodies treated the local population with a particular cruelty. The local population refused to accept the Soviet reality and supported the liberation struggle.

**The analysis of sources and recent researches.** The Soviet administration in the Carpathian region of the OUN did not have a special focus on using public forms of punishment and intimidation of nationalists and local residents, who supported the Ukrainian liberation movement in the Carpathian region (Ivano-Frankivsk region, Transcarpathian region, Chernivtsi region and the southern of parts of Lviv region). However, this question was occasionally outlined in the generalized works on the history of the Ukrainian national liberation movement. In particular, the use of various forms and methods by the repressive and punitive organs during the Sovietization was reflected in the works of A. Kentii, Y. Kyrychuk, I. Patryliak, A. Rusnachenko (Kentii, 1999a; Kentii, 1999b; Kyrychuk, 2000; Patryliak, 2012; Kyrychuk, 2003; Rusnachenko, 2002). Some aspects of this problem were highlighted in I. Bilas's work on the history of the formation and functioning of the repressive and punitive system in Ukraine (Bilas, 1994). T. Vronskaya reveals the use of the deportation measures against the families of the anti-Soviet resistance movement (Vronskaya, 2009). Various scientists considered the deportations in a broad context, for instance, O. Bazhan, V. Ilnytskyi, J. Nadolskyi (Bazhan, 2012, Ilnytskyi, 2014, Nadolskyi, 2008). The authors of the collective monograph, devoted to the activity of the OUN and the UPA (Kulchytskyi, 2005), did not overlook this problem either. The peculiarities of the post-war Sovietization of the Western-Ukrainian region were considered by R. Popp, O. Stasyuk in their works (Stasiuk, 2018; Popp, 2018). The authors of this study, consider repressions against the families of the Ukrainian insurgents as one of the forms of the intimidation of the local population (Ilnytskyi, Kantor, 2018).

**The publication's purpose.** The purpose of this article is to reveal the peculiarities of the use of the public forms of the punishment and the intimidation (open trials and executions, exposing of the victim bodies to the general survey, the rebel graves destruction) of the nationalists and local residents who supported the Ukrainian liberation movement in the Carpathian region (1945 – 1954) by the Soviet repressive and punitive bodies.

**Statement of the basic material.** The leadership of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR believed that the OUN and the UPA could only be neutralized through a cruel repression, intimidation. During the leadership of M. Khrushchev the demand was set up to destroy the Ukrainian liberation movement completely. Following the instructions of the center (Moscow), he went on a control, inspection trip to the western regions. According to its results, on November 15, 1944, M. Khrushchev sent a letter to J. Stalin, in which, among the other things, he proposed the introduction of the military-field courts in the internal forces of the NKVD: «I consider it necessary to introduce military courts in the NKVD forces. In order to intimidate the bandits, the prisoners sentenced to death should not be shot but hanged in accordance with the sentences of these military court courts. The courts should be held openly with the involvement of the local population. The court verdicts should not be highlighted in the press. The execution of military courts sentences to be carried out publicly in villages, if possible, where the convicted offender committed a crime» (Central State Archive of Public Associations of Ukraine in Kyiv – CSAPAU, f. 1, d. 23, c. 1060, pp. 13, 16–18). According to M. Khrushchev, the consideration of the arrested members' cases of the anti-Soviet

struggle was unjustifiably delayed (sometimes for three or four months), therefore, he suggested establishing the temporary special triky under the regional departments of the NKVD of the western regions of Ukraine, consisting of: the secretary of the party's regional committee, the head of the regional department The NKVD and the regional prosecutor, giving them the right to examine cases «of the Ukrainian-German nationalists and their accomplices and to use the highest standards of punishment against the perpetrators – the immediate execution sentence» (CSAPAU, f. 1, d. 23, c. 1060, pp. 14). That is, the courts were obliged to carry out the political decisions of the state leaders.

In December 1944, two military colleges of the Supreme Court (one in Lviv, Stanislav, Drohobych and Chernivtsi regions, and the other in Rivne, Volyn, and Ternopil regions) started the Circuit Court of Session in the western regions of Ukraine (CSAPAU, f. 1, d. 23, c. 1060, pp. 92), which sentenced 128 executives of nationalists to death by hanging. The death sentence was announced publicly, with a large number of the residents of the cities and the villages (Artyzova, 2012, p. 558).

In accordance with the practice of the Soviet leadership, the local officials often brought in more radical ideas in comparison to those officials of the center in order to show their loyalty to the system. The ideas of a severe punishment of the nationalists were expressed by the regional leaders. For instance, on September 29, Mikhailo Slonch, the secretary of Stanislavskiy regional committee of the party, in the information on behalf of Demyan Korotchenko spoke for more brutal measures (Kulchytskyi, 2005, p. 353; Shapoval, 2004, p. 185).

After the arrest to obtain confession to the alleged crimes from a suspect, the inquest authorities used tortures, in particular a physical and psychological pressure. The confession to the crimes, the accused did not commit, was often required. After obtaining evidence and completing the record, a closed court was held without the defendant's participation. The judges trinity quickly made the decision and formulated the sentence. During the investigation process, even at the final stage of the struggle in 1952, when the number of cases decreased, and, let alone 1940-ies, the educational and professional level of the repressive staff and punitive apparatus grew, but the investigation was carried out poorly, as a result, the cases were returned to be done an additional research. Only in May 16.6% of cases were returned to be reinvestigated by the prosecutors and courts. During a half a year period, there were 19 of them. This figure indicated serious drawbacks in the investigative work, the main reasons for which were violations of the «socialist legality», the non-compliance with terms, etc. Some investigators sent the cases unexplored, giving the following arguments: the USSR MGB established directives (Nos. 206 and 314 of March 1952) set the terms for conducting investigations in all cases, except of particularly complex cases (Sectoral State Archive of Security Service of Ukraine – SSA SSU, 71, d. 6, c. 296, 2–3). For instance, only in April 1945 in the UNCCD of Chernivtsi region about 40% of cases that were in progress, the terms of the case investigation were violated (Kentii, Lozytskyi, & Pavlenko, 2002, pp. 433). In the other areas of Carpathian region in April-May 1945 the situation was even worse: the percentage of completed cases was 45.9% in Chernivtsi, 41.2% in Drohobych, 35.3% in Stanislavskii (Kentii, Lozytskyi, & Pavlenko, 2002, p. 434). Among the serious drawbacks in 1952, the main ones were the poor quality investigation, that evidenced the amount of returned cases to the reinvestigation (SSA SSU, 71, d. 6, c. 296, pp. 2–3). Thus, in 1952, more cases were returned for the reinvestigation than in 1950 – 1951. The percentage can be illustrated in the following way: in 1950 – 2,8%; 1951 – 5,2%; 1952 – 8,8% (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 296, pp. 49–50).

Besides the violation, there was an overt falsification. Thus, in March 1952, the military prosecutor's office in Stanislavskiy Region Department of the MGB exposed the facts of the falsification of the investigative materials. There were recorded cases of the submission to the military prosecutor of unreasonable materials for the arrest sanctions of citizens. Only during the first quarter of 1952, the military prosecutors denied the arrest warrants for 18 people in Ukrainian western regions. The terms of the investigation cases of the first quarter of 1952 did not decrease and remained unsatisfactory: in the third quarter of 1951, in terms of more than two months, according to the UMDB of the western regions, 33.4% of cases were completed, in the fourth quarter of 1951 – 40% and in the first quarter of 1952 – 42% of cases. Due to the incompleteness of the investigation, various courts returned to reinvestigation in the third quarter of 1951, 6.7% of cases; in the fourth quarter of 1951 – 7% and in the first quarter of 1952 – 9.3%. In particular the investigative work was unsatisfactory in UMDB of Lviv region (10,3% of cases were returned to the reinvestigation in the first quarter of 1952, 20% to Rivne, 10,4% to Stanislavskiy region and 11,6% to Ternopil) (Serhiichuk, 1998, p. 848).

Hence, if such lawlessness occurred in the 1950-ies, then it is logical to assume the level of the violations at the initial stage of the struggle. The practical result of the NKVD «triples» was fabricated by hundreds of thousands of people accused of various political crimes (espionage, sabotage, the anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda, secret preparation for a coup, terrorism), and therefore the hanged, shot or sent to prisons.

To the execution were the verdicts of the Circuit Court of Session of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR sentenced to death penalty by hanging. Soon there was the wave of public executions. Drohobych Regional Party made the first reports on the implementation of the instructions of the Central Committee: 14 hanged in different districts of the region. As a result, on January 9–11, in Drohobych region, 14 people were executed publicly with the involvement of tens of thousands of people (in Drohobych on January 9, 1945, on the market square publicly, in the presence of 8,000 people two people were hanged (Mykhail Stetsyk and Ivan Ryhusa) (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 51, pp. 12; c. 35, pp. 12; Kentii, Lozytskyi, & Pavlenko, 2002, p. 309; Kyrychuk, 2003, p. 191; Vorotylenko, 2007, p. 112; Veselova, Hrynevych, & Serhiichuk, 2015, p. 120); on January 9, 1945, in Boryslav, Drohobych region, Volodymyr Lysyk was hanged in public of 5,000 local residents (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 51, pp. 14, 15, rev 35; CSAPAU, f. 1, d. 46, c. 787, pp. 2; Kylchyttskyi, 2005, p. 381, Lialka, Korytko, & Onyshkevych, 1997, p. 29; Kentii, Lozytskyi, & Pavlenko, 2002, p. 309), in Stryi on January 9, 1945, three (Zynoviy Hoysaka, Mykhailo Zheshkovych, Petro Stefaniv) (Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine in Lviv region – ASAUL, c. p-24076, pp. 147–149zv; Sprv. 44883, arch 4, 6–7, 13, 15, 42, 49–50), January 11, 1945 – two (Pavlo Hadyak and Pavlo Babiy; according to the recollections of the witnesses, the executed were shot at night from the 13<sup>th</sup> till the 14<sup>th</sup> of January and buried in an unknown place (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 35, pp. 12; c. 51, pp. 13; Kyrychuk, 2000, p. 140; Kyrychuk, 2003, p. 191; Kulchyttskyi, 2005, p. 381; Lialka, Korytko, & Onyshkevych, 1997, p. 29); January 11, 1945 – in Zhydachiv, Drohobych region – two (Hrehoriy Valytskyi and Vasyl Hamziy) (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 51, pp. 13; c. 35, pp. 12 p.); January 19, 1945 in the village of Dublyany – two (Mikhailo Kupchyk and Vasyl Artymovych) (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 51, pp. 15). However, this was not enough. Drohobych District Party Committee in its report to the Central Committee of January 11, 1945 informed: «In the coming days, up to 20 sentences of executions of the nationalist gangs active members by hanging are foreseen in various cities and regions» (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 48, pp. 32–33; Kentii, Lozytskyi, & Pavlenko, 2002, p. 309; Serhiichuk, 1998, p. 195).

The public insurgents incidents took place in Chernivtsi. On January 17, 1945, the Circuit Court of Session of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR, in a closed session, sentenced to death Vasyl Bidnyak, Dmytro Horodetskyi, Mykola Hordey and Hrihoriy Voyeridka by hanging the inhabitants of the village Lenkivtsi, Sakhirskyi district. They were sentenced for the attack on the house of the village council chairman (Novosilka village, Kitsman district), burning a village council building and robbing shops in the village Shubranets of Sakhirskyi district and village Bila, Chernivtsi district. On January 18, 1945 at 17.00 in the village Novosilka of Kitsman district there were hanged H. Voyeridko and M. Hordey, and at 17.30 in the village of Shubranets – V. Bidnyak and D. Horodetskyi (Fostii, 2004, p. 244; Pavliuk, Fostii, & Teren, 2007, p. 106). At the same time, two other nationalists were hanged on the main road of Chernivtsi – Snyatyn to frighten the local population (Bukovyna in the struggle, p. 35). In some places, even students were sent to witness the execution death.

The frank negligence also happened. On January 23, 1945, the Military Tribunal of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Chernivtsi region condemned to the execution P. Bilan, I. Hordey, D. Tymchuk and V. Kostyniuk. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on March 17, 1945, replaced the death penalty for 20 years of a hard labour. However, on March 30, as a result of the secretary's mistake of captain Kurchenko, all four were shot. Kurchenko was transferred from the tribunal to the general military personnel division for this crime (Fostii, 2004, p. 246).

The higher party leadership, trying to take over the situation, required the reports on the implementation of public sentences and the population's reaction to them, and the party leadership, in order to flatter the center (Moscow), gave mostly positive feedback. Thus, in the report «On the reaction of the population in connection with the hanging of active members of the OUN in Drohobych and Stryi, Drohobych region», the People's Commissar of the State Security of the Ukrainian SSR, Serhiy Savchenko, wrote that on January 9–11, 1945, in Drohobych and Stryi there were made the verdicts of the Circuit Court of Session of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR, Z. Hoysak, M. Zheshkovych, P. Hadyak, P. Stefaniv and P. Babiy were sentenced to prison (SSA SSU, f. 2-N, d. 54 (1953), c. 3, vol. 1, pp. 209). It was noted that during the execution e about 17,000 people were present, namely, the hangings were accompanied by applause. In addition, the execution of sentences was used for the propaganda purposes (SSA SSU, f. 2-N, d. 54 (1953), c. 3, vol. 1, p. 209). Along with this, the local officials had to make negative statements. Thus, the resident of Stryi Podlevalov said: «Do not believe they are guilty, people have lied them about, that's why they have been hanged» (SSA SSU, f. 2-N, d. 54 (1953), c. 3, vol. 1, pp. 212). Preferably, after such statements, these individuals were the objects of KGB agent's work.

The reports on the attitude of the population to the execution of sentences were written by the leaders of other regions. In particular, in a special report «On the reaction of the population of Stanislav region on the verdict of the Circuit Court of Session of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR», it was noted that on January. 14, 1945, at 13.00 in Stanislav, the sentence was made on the market square of the Circuit Court of Session of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR. Three active rebels were sentenced to death by hanging, in the presence of almost five thousand people: the local residents and peasants who came to the market place. Significantly The positive perception of the execution by the population was marked. However, the informant «Olena» noticed that after the execution, most of the people, who came from the villages, kept themselves closed

and did not speak with the strangers on this topic (SSA SSU, f. 2-N, d. 54 (1953), c. 3, vol. 1, pp. 217–219; f. 13, c. 376, vol. 81, pp. 266).

It should be noted that the majority of the decisions were taken to the satisfaction of senior authorities to carry out the instructions on conducting the open court trials and the execution of sentences. There were no real grounds for sentencing those arrested to death. The public executions continued in the future (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 51, pp. 15; Kyrychuk, 2000, p. 144).

M. Slon, the secretary of the Stanislavsky Regional Committee of the Party with a special initiative, who reported to M. Khrushchev on the execution of the sentences of the Circuit Court of Session of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR, concerning those sentenced to death by hanging. On February 23, 1945, he noted that, simultaneously with other repressive measures in the course of the struggle with the rebel movement «in the region, there have recently been sentenced to death by hanging 28 nationalists, of which 25 bandits were hanged in 18 districts of the region and three bandits – in Stanislav» (SSA SSU, f. 2-N, d. 54 (1953), c. 3, vol. 1, pp. 208, 220–223; Borys, 2002, p. 48). The two captured deserters who tried to avoid the service in the Red Army were sentenced to death by hanging (Mykhailo Hultaichuk, Ivan Kanuschak) (Tomenchuk, Lukian, & Doroshenko, 2000, pp. 24–25, 30). That was done in order to intimidate the local population finally and to show what a terrible punishment awaits anyone who dares to avoid the service in the Red Army or go to the rebels.

It should also be noted that, along with the open executions, the special services practiced such measures on their own initiative (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 88, pp. 236). So, on March 8, 1945 in the village Zeleniv Vashkivets district, the NKVD members hanged Ivan Mykolaychuk «The Sword» in the center of the village of Stanychne (Bukovyna v borotbi, p. 37). There were also curious cases. Thus, Vasyl Nakonechnyi, who was sentenced to death by shooting, in March 1947, escaped during the process of execution (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 136, pp. 27).

At the meeting of the regional chiefs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs the following issues, concerning the intimidation of the local population and underground members, were discussed: «To conduct court hearings on the cases of the captured underground members directly in the villages where they committed crimes. Do not strive for the creation of some special public processes, but conduct public trials, publicly announcing sentences. The trial should last no more than two – three hours». The meeting was held on January 8, 1947 (SSA SSU, f. 2-N, d. 36 (1960), c. 3, pp. 53). Thus, the judgments of the courts were subjected to a political decision.

At the final stage of the national liberation struggle, the repressive and punitive system tried not only destroy physically, but also exerted moral and psychological pressure on the nationalists and those who supported them. At the same time, the leaders of the Soviet administration continued to hope that the open court trials would help to eliminate the Ukrainian liberation movement, turning away from it the support of the local population. In particular, on September 5, 1949, the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CP (b) of Ukraine adopted the resolution «On conducting the open trials in the western regions of Ukraine over individual members of Bandera-terrorist groups». That is, in the USSR from May 1947 to January 1950, the death penalty was abolished, however, the open trials continued, and the death sentences were imposed (Kulchytskyi, 2005, p. 429).

According to the instructions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (b) of Ukraine, on September 27, 1949 at 12.00 in the village Putila in the premises of the dis-

district club there was organized an open trial on Ilya Matsiopa. The meeting was attended by more than 500 local residents. The court sentenced 25 years to the prison-camps. During the preparation of the reporting documents, the Chekists noted the significant advantages of the open trial process (SSA SSU, f. 2, d. 59 (1953), c. 5, vol. 5, pp. 50, 58; Vovk, Pavlenko & Cherchenko, 2001, p. 378). Another open trial took place on November 28, 1949 (from 12.00 till 19.30) in the premises of Vyzhnytsia village local club. All the defendants were sentenced to 25 years in prison by the Military Tribunal. With a special enthusiasm about this event, the head of the UMDB, Chernivtsi region, colonel Mykola Reshetov (SSA SSU, f. 2-N, d. 59 (1953), c. 5, vol. 5, pp. 253–254) reported this event.

The open trials were also held in Stanislavskiy region. So, on December 24, 1949 (at 11.00) in the town of Kosiv, the court in the case of the OUN members Dmytro Rabynyuk and Petro Tomyuk started. The trial process was broadcasted live on the radio in the district center and in the villages of Sokolivka and Old Kosiv, Kosivskiy district. The hall was attended by 350 inhabitants of Kosiv, Yablunivskiy, Kutskiy and Zabolotiv districts. More than 600 people gathered near the radioreproducer in the district center. There was a significant number of agents at the meeting who monitored the attendees' position carefully, observed their behaviour and reported (SSA SSU, f. 2-N, d. 59 (1953), c. 6, vol. 7, pp. 362). In particular, the informant of the district department MBB «Familiar» reported that an unknown citizen in a buffet with an interlocutor, said: «The court is all nonsense, I wanted to join the underground movement». The unknown person was a citizen of the village Utorop, Yablunivskiy district, Stanislav region, Dmytro Kolodiy, on whom the operational measures began to be carried out (SSA SSU, f. 2-N, d. 59 (1953), c. 6, vol. 7, pp. 363).

The open court proceedings against the members of the underground movement occurred in the subsequent years. In accordance with the decision of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (b) of Ukraine dating back to October 1951, it was supposed to hold the open trials of participants in the liberation movement in Lviv in the case of the murderer of Yaroslav Galan, as well as the military tribunals in Drohobych, Mykolaiv, Chortkiv. The center's instructions were implemented instantly and precisely at local places. Ivan Pikhotskiy, Ivan Ivanovskiy, Myron Helner and Oleksandr Kalchenko were arrested in Drohobych region and chosen for the open court trials. The open trial of the Military Tribunal in the case of I. Pikhotskiy and I. Vanivskiy was to take place on October 20, 1951 in Drohobych, in the premises of the regional drama theater. After that, on October 27, 1951, an open trial of the Military Tribunal in the case of M. Helner and O. Kalchenko was planned in the local club in Stryi (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 245, 95 pp.; c. 269, pp. 14; f. 13, c. 372, vol. 47, pp. 173–174; Vovk, Pavlenko, & Cherchenko, 2001, p. 437; Serhiichuk, 1996, p. 823). In the 1950-ies the open court trials were prepared carefully. The first secretaries of the City Department and District Department CP (b) together with the heads of the City Department and District Department of MGB selected from each collective farm of the region two collective farmers, from Borislav, Stryi, Sambir – for 25 people, and from Drohobych – 60 workers, employees and students, provided them with transportation to the regional center to hear the trial at 10.00 on October 20, 1951. In order to give a certain service to these listeners, an employee of the City Department and District Department of MGB, who was chosen and obliged to stay with them. The heads of the city, district police departments of the MGB were supposed to provide the persons who were delegated to the court process with incident supervision, including at least four or five persons from the checked agents sent from each district. An officer was required to provide regular contact with the agent. At the same time,

in the course of the process, he was supposed to convey to Major Shemarov in the UMDB a written statement about the mood and the reaction to the trial of those, present at it at least twice a day (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 269, pp. 18). The editor of the regional newspaper the «Radyanske Slovo», Senzyuk was obliged to provide the coverage of the court proceedings in the regional and district newspapers (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 269, pp. 15, 17). The director of the broadcasting network Krytsyn provided the radio system in the courtroom hall (SSA SSU, f. 71, d. 6, c. 269, pp. 1–24; c. 246, pp. 1; f. 2-N, d. 61 (1953), c. 2, vol. 2, pp. 127; f. 13, c. 372, vol. 95, pp. 185, 189; vol. 47, pp. 175–176). The open court trials continued. Thus, in 1954, in Rivne, Lviv, Stanislav, Volyn and Ternopil regions 14 open trials were conducted over 51 former OUN members, of which 24 were sentenced to the VMP (Lytvyn, 2006, p. 399; Vovk, Pavlenko, & Cherchenko, 2001, p. 582).

Some barbaric acts of the arrived staff who had unlimited powers and sought for intimidating as many as possible persons, resembled the actions of inhumane people. Yes, on January 14, 1946 in the village of Ust Putyla of Putyla district the ENKVD members revealed the ‘kryivka’ of Vasyl Mamutka – «Iskra», in which he was shot, and then he was beheaded. The head was brought to his wife (Bukovyna v borotbi, p. 39). In Stanislav region, the ‘providnyk’ Kosivshchyna «Pidhirskyi» and his guard «Kolos» died, at the battle place, the chekists cut off their heads and took them to the district center, and the bodies were buried in the place of the battle in two weeks (SSA SSU, f. 13, c. 372, vol. 18, pp. 151).

According to the former Head of the Oryavskiy Junior High School, Pavlo Haranyuk, which was recorded by Hryhoriy Demyan, it was said that the chekist Kyrylov brought to him the cut off heads of eight rebel guys and two girls with his group in the winter of 1947. All died in the forest near the village of Smozhe. Due to the fact that there were no horses, the NKVD members decided to make things easier: «When they saw the heads in the soldiers’ tents in the morning, and the bloody floor below them in the school hall, Pavlo Haranyuk glanced at Kurylov astonished, and the latter cynically explained that for this you would be able to drink much vodka» (Demian, 1992, pp. 26–28).

In Chernivtsi region, the NKVD members treated the local population with superiority, consequently, committed various crimes. On March 28, 1945 in the village of Kyselytsi of the Putyla district during the raid the chekists killed Dmytro Karapka – «Boyaryn». His body was brought to the village of Putyla and crucified on the wall. All the villagers were driven out for this «event». After the outrage, the body was thrown into a ravine and it was banned to bury it. However, despite the prohibition, the local residents stole the body and buried it (Bukovyna v borotbi, p. 37). On April 15, 1945 in the village of Yablunytsia of Putyla district on the Vivchyna valley in the battle with the force authorities there was killed the district NKVD leader Oleksiy Lubomyrskyi – «Beria», who was beheaded, brought to the district, and in order to frighten the local population his body was thrown at the entrance of the NKVD building (SSA SSU, f. 13, c. 376, vol. 81, pp. 4).

Quite often, during the interrogations, the NKVD members showed the remains of the skulls to the arrested. The skulls were scattered at the walls of the District Department of the NKVD building. The NKVD members boasted about it during the interrogations, highlighting that those skulls were «the heads of all the rebels who did not obey voluntarily» (Bukovyna v borotbi, p. 38).

One of the forms of intimidation of the local population was also the insurgents’ graves vandalism, which, incidentally, took place in the entire Carpathian region throughout the period of the existence of the underground movement (SSA SSU, f. 13, c. 376,

vol. 80, pp. 237). The Chekists made enormous efforts to ban any commemorative processions (SSA SSU, f. 13, c. 376, vol. 80, pp. 238).

**Conclusions.** Consequently, the Stalin's regime used the most brutal measures to overcome the opposition to its policy. The terror against the liberation movement and the local population was encouraged by the supreme leadership of the state. One of the forms of the establishment of the Soviet administration and the struggle against the Ukrainian liberation movement was the policy of intimidating members of the OUN and the UPA and the local population: the open trials and the executions, the exposition of the victims' bodies to the public, and destroying the rebellious graves. A special importance of the Soviet administration was give to the open trials of the OUN members and the UPA members and the executions aimed at discrediting the activities of the OUN, to form a negative attitude towards the nationalists. However, neither the public executions nor other force and propaganda forms were able to deprive the nationalists of the support and the population assistance, to keep them in fear, as the regime sought for, but it did not contribute to the formation of the pro-Soviet mood. The perspectives of the research is the studythe peculiarities of conducting the open court trials in Volyn region.

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