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**OPERATIVE SURVEILLANCE (TRACKING) AND INVESTIGATIONS  
BY SECURITATE BETWEEN 1948–1958  
(Summary)**

*Keywords:* Securitate, stakeout, investigation, informer.

The operations of stakeout and investigation were the task of the 5<sup>th</sup> Operative Division, which had the right to monitor any person that might interest the Securitate.

Stakeout was, actually, a secret surveillance performed on the persons on whom informative actions were carried out by the Political Police and was meant to uncover their connections (entourage), visited addresses, to know the lifestyle, habits and behaviour of the person concerned, the moments considered more important being clandestinely photographed. The persons carrying out the stakeout gave a lot of attention to the dispatch places of the letters by those monitored, in order to be intercepted by the Service of Postal Censorship. Targeted by the stakeout were the individuals that were informatively followed by the Security, the ones who were to be arrested, the officials of the legations, missions or consulates of the western states, citizens of those countries who were in transit through our country, Romanians visiting the embassies of the western states, as well as the agents (informants) of the Securitate, suspected of duplicity.

The investigation was an operation through which information that was of interest for Securitate regarding the persons verified, tracked or informatively followed or on whom actions of operative surveillance were initiated was obtained, secretly. The efficient guiding of the informative actions depended on the way in which the results were obtained.

In order to complete their investigations, the Officers of the Securitate used a number of categories of sources, more precisely the informers and the persons not recruited (when in the sector where investigations needed to be carried out the Securitate lacked secret agents verifications were made among people who resided near the followed individual, the Officer establishing both the persons from whom he could find something and a plausible reason to cause a discussion with them, that he channelled so as to obtain the necessary data.

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