

# Report from Ljubljana, Slovenia

*Milos Krmelj*

THE members of NLP\* Drustwo SOLT are mostly students in the high schools and technical colleges of Ljubljana, capital of our Federal Republic of Slovenia. Our task is no easy one, for there is an average of only approximately one UFO report per newspaper per year in Yugoslavia, and such publicity is invariably accompanied by complete ridicule. Our aim is to combat this ridicule to the best of our ability, and to provide a thorough record of the UFO scene not only in our own Republic of Slovenia but, insofar as we can, in the other Republics of Yugoslavia.

The following cases are from the period 1969-1972.

## Case No. 1: Moste, near Ljubljana

This episode dates from 1969 or 1970. Unfortunately neither of the two eyewitnesses recalls the date or the year. The time was about 10.00 p.m. on a summer's evening, when the two brothers Janez and Anton Gorsic (both known to me personally) observed an unusual sky phenomenon. They were accompanied by two other witnesses at the time, but these other two I have not yet succeeded in seeing.

The first thing observed was a light in the sky, and then a ball-shaped UFO with a trail (or, as one of the eyewitnesses described it, a *tail*). The colour of the ball was a vivid white, and the trail or tail bluish-violet to one witness, but apparently bright yellow to the other. The whole sighting lasted about one minute. The UFO seemed to be noiseless. No smell or other effects were observed. The white ball travelled in a slight parabola,

The author of this report—which has been edited by Gordon Creighton—lives in Ljubljana, in the Yugoslav Federal Republic of Slovenia. He is a student of biology and chemistry and has already contributed an article, *UFO Landing Reports in Yugoslavia (FSR Case Hist. 12)*. He informs us that besides being a subscriber to FSR he is the Yugoslavian representative for both APRO and NICAP. With a few friends, he has recently established (March 1972) the NLP Drustwo SOLT (UFO Investigation Society of Students in National Technical Colleges), and the cases dealt with in his article have all been the subject of direct enquiry by him and his co-workers. Mr. Krmelj tells us that the job of investigating such matters in Yugoslavia is by no means easy, for his is the only serious investigative body in the whole country, so far as he knows, and the normal way in which the Yugoslav newspapers deal with UFO reports is to give them the ridicule-treatment familiar to us from the accounts of our other correspondents in all parts of the world.

We wish the young Slovenes all success in their valiant endeavour.

EDITOR.

and the place where they saw it was Moste, on the outskirts of Ljubljana.

Anton, the younger of the brothers, is a student of Engineering in the Ljubljana Technical College. He had

\* **Note by Gordon Creighton:** NLP = abbreviation of Slovenian for *UFO*.

(Continued on page 12)

## HIGH ALTITUDE OBJECTS OVER ROMANIA—(Continued from page 10)

to me that this theory of temporary coupling is more probably correct.

This new piece of photographic documentation from Cluj thus constitutes important proof that the plastic which "disguises" the external aspect of the UFOs is inherent in the construction of these marvellous craft and serves a precise functional purpose for the occupants, though what this purpose is still remains an enigma. More detailed sightings may throw light on this in due course.

Now I also want to draw attention to a further interesting detail, namely that the rim of the large lower saucer seems, on the right-hand side of the photo, to be segmented. But we are wont to regard this rim as *continuous* around all saucer-shaped flying objects. What has happened then in this case? I want to draw special attention to this point, because I was in fact greatly intrigued by a similar detail in the series of three photos taken of the UFO near Cluj on August 18, 1968, as shown in my article in FSR for November/December 1969. Can it be that there is in fact a portion of the saucer rim which is withdrawn into the interior of the object during certain functional manoeuvres? And do

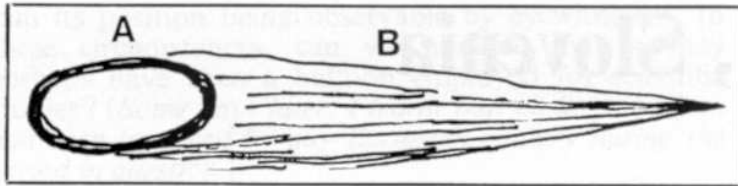
these manoeuvres perhaps explain the inversion of the shadow in the second photo of August 18th?

I am drawing special attention to this point, and to all these related questions, in the hope that they will receive more study in future, so that we may perhaps arrive at a clarification of the important technical problems involved in the operation of the UFOs.

## V. General Considerations

The wave of flying objects seen over Europe in the summer and autumn of 1968 clearly extended to Romania too. The numerous investigations which I made into sightings in the Cluj area during that period culminated in the excellent photographs taken on August 18, and were then augmented by the remarkable documentation secured on September 19.

It is my earnest hope that the effort I have made in analysing these cases may constitute a small Romanian contribution towards the immense task confronting us in the technical problem of the UFOs. As Dr. James McDonald showed, in case after case, the problem of the UFOs still remains the greatest scientific problem of our times, and for all peoples.



previously heard tales of "flying saucers" but never took them seriously.

He provided this sketch. Janez also provided a sketch differing in no details.

#### Case No. 2: Siska, near Ljubljana

This occurred in October 1971 in Siska, my own suburb on the outskirts of Ljubljana. The two witnesses, a young man and his girl-friend, both known to me personally, wish to remain anonymous. For close to half-an-hour they observed an object which they describe as "apparently larger than the Moon." They then went indoors and when they came out again, on to the fourth-floor balcony, some ten or fifteen minutes later, the UFO had vanished.

In their opinion, it was at a distance of about 1 kilometre from them, and at a height of some 50 metres from the ground and no more than 10 metres above the top of a tall building. They noticed no sound or other effects. Their first thought on seeing the thing was that it must be a balloon, but when they perceived how absolutely stationary it was and how it *glowed*, they were convinced that it could not be a balloon or any natural phenomenon with which they were familiar.

#### Case No. 3: Uskovice

This took place at 1.00 a.m. one night in mid-October of 1971, at Uskovice, above Bohinj, in Slovenia. There were at least seven eyewitnesses, of whom I have managed to question one, Andrej Pedicek, a student of Physics, and the object was under observation by them



for a period estimated at from ten to twenty minutes.

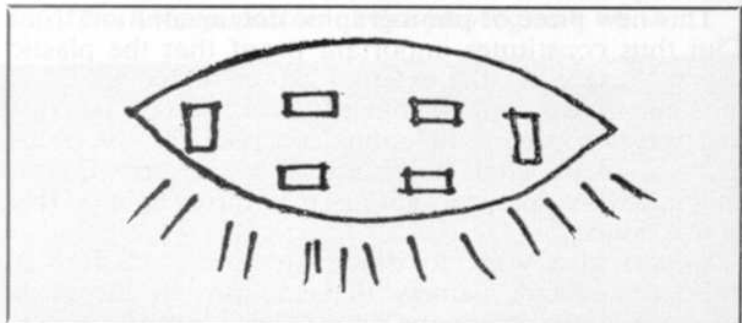
At first their attention was drawn to a bright spot in the sky, varying between orange and reddish-orange in colour. Then it began to move, at times erratically. All the witnesses agreed that the light seemed to be attached to some three-dimensional body. The whole party became terrified when at one point the object came very close to them.

There was snow on the ground at the time. The UFO lit up the snow-covered hillsides, which appeared to glow under it. It flew to and fro between two mountains called Komna and Vogel. No sound or smell or other effect was noticed. Finally the object seemed to become smaller and smaller and disappeared over the horizon, still flying very low. Pressed by me for a description of the shape of the object, Pedicek could only say that it was a strange light, but that it seemed to be three-dimensional.

#### Case No. 4: Podpec, near Ljubljana

This took place at 11.00 p.m. one night in the autumn of 1971 at the small village of Podpec, some ten miles from Ljubljana. There were three witnesses, Dusan Sinkovec, aged 15; Pavel Pristavec, aged 17; and Srecko Pristavec, aged 40.

I interviewed two of them. They said they had been in a car at the time, and at first thought they were merely observing an aircraft. Then however they perceived that it was oval or lens-shaped, of a glowing red colour, was performing a spiral movement, and did not have the navigation lights required on an aircraft. Then their transistor radio was blanketed out with static just as the UFO made a sweep in their direction. The three occupants were seized with panic and felt breathless. As the UFO came closer they could see that its colour was now yellow, but when it arrived right above the car and took up a stationary position there, it became orange-red. They estimated its length at between 7 to 10 feet, or roughly the size of a small passenger car such as the *Fiat 750*. After hovering briefly above the car, the UFO flew off again in the direction from which it had come. They estimated the duration of the experience at some 15 seconds or so.



(In either July or August of 1971 there seems to have been another sighting in the same area. It was at around 8.00 p.m., and there were 20 eyewitnesses. The UFO, an orange-red object, also lens-shaped, seemed to be about a kilometre from them and was flying on a level course. The sighting lasted about a minute.

Two of the people who saw the UFO were Darko Sinkovec and his brother Dusan. I questioned them and felt that they were telling the truth. At a school near the village of Podpec there was a good deal of talk

among the children about a weird glowing mass seen flying about there, and also about a strange fire seen in the forest on the hills some 5 km. above the school. As I once spent six months as a teacher at Podpec myself I plan to go back there and make further enquiries.)

#### Case No. 5: Sphere over Visnja Gora

The time was 6.30 to 7.00 p.m. on January 26, 1972. At Visnja Gora, some 20 miles from Ljubljana, two eye-witnesses, Miss Franciska Slapnicar and Mr. Anton Omahen, observed something which the former describes as "a ball with some squarish additions," while the latter says that to him it appeared to be merely perfectly spherical. The object was in sight for several minutes, moving very slowly through the sky. As they watched, it suddenly performed a "jumping movement," and the sky at once became filled with light resembling the light emitted in arc-welding, and they smelt what seemed to be *sulphur*.

I interviewed both the witnesses. Miss Slapnicar says she was terribly frightened, and literally shaking. She had never seen such a sight in her life. Mr. Omahen, giving further details, said that the very weird, perfectly round ball—which is how he saw it—was white and yet had a certain reddish glow about it. In his estimate it was about 2-3 km. from them, and its apparent size was half the size of the Moon. (When I asked if he had ever in his life seen anything similar he said yes. He said that in the summer, three years ago, at about 5.00 a.m. one morning when it was already daylight, he was working in the fields when he saw a similar round white object.)

Both witnesses emphasised that they had noticed the sulphurous smell, and said that the UFO lit up half the valley beneath it.

When I asked Miss Slapnicar whether she too had ever seen anything similar before, she said that she had in fact seen a spherical object last year, but at a much greater distance. It had remained stationary for some time and then vanished suddenly. She was uncertain of

the date of that sighting, but in July 1972 she saw another "strange object" flying about over the same region. This object was elongated, of an orange-red hue, and carried many lights. She was not certain whether it had emitted any noise, owing to the nearness of a very busy and noisy highway. The time was 9.00 p.m. and the object was high in the sky. Its lights were in a straight line along what appeared to be the outline of an oblong body. The lights, she said, were of an orange-red.

I checked with the airport authorities to find out if any special aircraft corridor passes over Visnja Gora. The answer was in the negative, though they added that of course they could not express an opinion as regards the possible movements of military aircraft.

At 1.00 a.m. on August 1 or 2 of 1972, in the same general area near Visnja Gora, Mr. Anton Zajec states that he saw a "strange light," which illuminated the whole neighbourhood.

#### Case No. 6: Triangular UFO over Bosnia-Herzegovina

According to a report dated February 7, 1972, from Sarajevo, much excitement had been caused by a triangular unidentified flying object observed, over Bosnia-Herzegovina, at between 7.00 and 8.00 p.m. a few days before. At the Sarajevo Airport, where the thing was picked up on the radar, they said it was travelling at a speed of 1 km. per minute and that it was of the size of a small aircraft. But when a Yugoslav Airlines (JAT) Convair made an approach towards it, the object at once accelerated and vanished at a tremendous speed. Quoted in the newspaper *Delo* of February 8, 1972, the rocket engineer Enver Dupanovic commented: "If it is correct that the UFO was travelling, as reported, at a height of 3,000 metres, then there is no possibility whatsoever that this could have been either a satellite or a commercial balloon."

One wonders what precisely a rocket engineer was doing in an airport control room or in a flight-control tower?

---

#### ALLEGED LANDING IN RICHMOND PARK—(Continued from page 4)

resident to have been seen descending over Richmond Park in the early hours of Saturday. Mrs. Joan J. Kinneir, of 10, Ham Farm Road, spotted it from her window. She told the *Surrey Comet* yesterday, "I saw a bright, flaming object, falling steeply, and quickly disappearing behind the landscape. It made no sound."

"Mrs. Kinneir said it seemed close to the earth, not distant, as in the case of a shooting star. The object was yellow, and a great deal bigger than a shooting star. The object came and went in less than two seconds. It appeared to fall into Richmond Park, but there was no sound of anything falling.

"A spokesman for the Air Ministry told the *Surrey Comet* that there was usually a reasonable explanation for such phenomena. Regular reports were received concerning unidentifiable flying objects, and further investigations had to be made before any decision could be reached."

We would certainly agree that, on the face of it, this 1962 report might very well have concerned the fall of a

meteorite. In addition to the two main meteor-showers which regularly hit the earth with their peaks at August 12 (the *Perseids*) and December 12 (the *Geminids*), the radar investigations inaugurated at Jodrell Bank in 1946 revealed that there is in fact a great summer shower of meteors which lasts all the time from May until August and reaches its maximum in the middle of June, i.e., right at the time of both these "UFO" reports of 1962 and 1972.

However, it may be thought that the Devereux story may well involve something more than meteoritic material, in which case the previous fall of "something" in Richmond Park might acquire importance. It must be borne in mind that the Royal Park of Richmond, a very extensive tract of open country studded with trees, near to London, is closed to the public during the hours of darkness. Such an area might therefore offer remarkable scope for "unusual" happenings or phenomena, and might provide cover for landings by any number of UFOs.