

# WHO IS WATCHING US?

*Miloš Krmelj (Ljubljana, Slovenia)*

**We are grateful to our Yugoslav correspondent Miloš Krmelj for this account of a recent sighting which comes, however, not from Yugoslavia, but from the neighbouring republic of Czechoslovakia.**

ON February 22, 1984, our Yugoslav weekly *ARENA* carried an interesting article about a recent widespread UFO sighting throughout the whole of Czechoslovakia.

At 7.45 p.m. on Friday, December 2, 1983, when the streets of Prague, Karlovy Vary, Pilsen and other Czechoslovak cities were filled with the usual end-of-week crowds, the sky being clear and studded with stars, suddenly an intensely brilliant many-coloured object appeared, moving silently right across the country from north-west to south-east, and the telephones on the desks of newspapers and radio stations and Police headquarters began to ring, and ring incessantly, as thousands of members of the public called in and clamoured to know what was going on.

Not until the second half of January, 1984, when sufficient time had elapsed for all the reports to be gathered in, was the Czech youth journal *Mlada Fronta* in a position to publish a composite account of what had been seen.

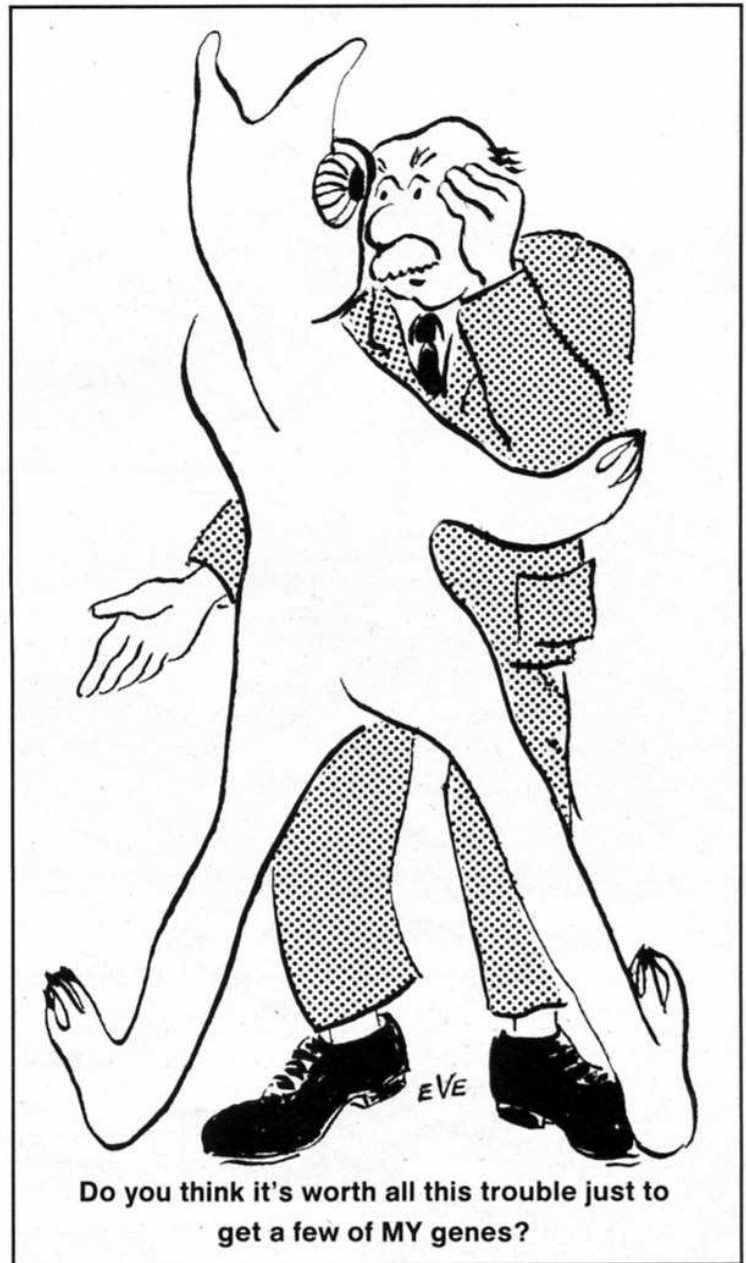
Most representative and precise were some of the accounts from people in the high mountainous regions of the country who, well away from the city lights, and commanding a good view of the skies, described the passage of a silent, "phantom craft" with lights fore and aft, flying at a height of only 300 metres or so, and estimated to be about 30-40 metres wide. It was observed in flight for at least one minute.

A group of soldiers at Karlovy Vary reported:—

"A point of light suddenly appeared on the western horizon at about 7.30 p.m. At a certain stage in its passage it separated into two lights, one of which was followed by a luminous trail very similar to the trail of a rocket. The other luminous point slowly assumed a triangular shape, and the whole object maintained the same speed in its passage overhead. The intensity of the individual lights on the object was greater than the luminosity of the stars, and did not vary. Beneath the lights, vaguely seen, was the body of the object, resembling the tail of a comet. Duration of entire sighting: about 1½ minutes."

Another eyewitness, engineer L.K., said:- "Only the forepart was clearly visible, and as it passed over we could see at times that it blotted out the stars. On the invisible part of the thing there were three lesser sources of white light, set vertically. The object did not change height or direction, but its roundish lights seemed to change their shape to elliptical."

A Prague engineer, J.V., was in Krkonoši at the time. He said he thought at first that it was an aircraft with landing lights turned on. Then, he said, when the object passed over a certain stream, "new lights began to come on, and for a moment he discerned a vivid sparkling effect. There were in all nine points of light of varying intensity, either white or yellow or orange. No contours of the object were visible. There was the general impression of a "pear-shaped" something, through which stars were intermittently visible. This "pear" was followed by a sort of luminous trail, one part shorter and clearer, the other part less distinct."



**Do you think it's worth all this trouble just to get a few of MY genes?**

The phenomenon was observed throughout the entire territory of the Czechoslovak Republic, some eyewitnesses of it even being on the borders of Poland and of East Germany.

The general duration of the phenomenon was described as varying from about ten seconds to a maximum of 3 minutes.

Eyewitnesses who watched the entire passage of the phenomenon said they first saw a single light, then a dazzling brightness, and then several luminous points of various hues, sometimes glittering. The most frequently reported colours were, as the Prague engineer said, white, yellow and orange.

Scientists and experts in various fields were asked by the press for their opinions, but none could give a satisfactory explanation.

Some folk argued that it was an American 'plane-rocket' gliding down from the "SPACELAB" station, but it could not have been so, for the American craft in question was known to have passed over Czechoslovakia at 4.47 the same day, in other words three hours earlier.

Czechoslovak scientists ruled out the possibility that it was a meteor. The Astronomical Section of the Czech Academy of Sciences said no meteorites at all were recorded that night. The British scientists who monitor the artificial satellites put into orbit reported that on that night none of the 5,000-odd bodies or bits of debris in orbit were recorded as coming down or disintegrating.

One expert emphasised that, for eyewitnesses all over Czechoslovakia to have seen it, the object cannot have been low at all, but very high. If so, then this means that it must have been an immense object.

*Mlada Fronta* called upon readers to organize a special watch in future for such phenomena and to report on them.

Despite the attempts of scientists to find some sort of explanation, their answers cut little ice with those who experienced this visitation.

As one Czech newspaper observed: "If extraterrestrial beings really are operating here, above our heads, we probably shan't learn anything about it unless they themselves are so kind as to tell us!"

## "GREAT WHITE HOLES" AGAIN IN THE HAMPSHIRE CORN

IN FSR Vol. 29, No. 1 (*Nature Notes: Hedgehogs from the Cosmos or Tidy Whirlwinds?*) we reported on the huge rings allegedly left behind by lovelorn hedgehogs in the wheatfield at Cheese Foot Head, near Winchester, during the night of June 19/20, 1983.

According to a new report by David Thurlow this year (*Daily Express*, London, July 16, 1984) another set of five of the same pesky near-perfect circles has now turned up in a crop of barley in Dogleg Field on a farm owned by Mr. Dennis Kendell and lying not more than a mile from Cheese Foot Head. And, moreover, they were found almost precisely one year after the ones at Cheese Foot Head. (*See Photo No. 1*)

### Explanations

The statutory explanations are already being dished out — helicopters, freak exploding whirlwinds, "Druids carrying on weird ceremonies with stakes and chains", and so on.

What is very interesting however is that, although we had previously never heard anything about Mr. Kendell's farm (it did not figure in our two articles on the subject of all these rings, in FSR 27/5 and 29/1) it is now revealed by Mr. Kendell that this is not the first time on his property, for he says: "*This is the fourth year out of five that we have had them on the farm, but in different places.*"

### Found from the Air

And, what is even more interesting is the fact that this new nest of rings *can only be seen from the air, and, far from being "caused by helicopters", were in fact only discovered when four farm managers went up in a helicopter to inspect the crops.*

From the ground the circles are completely hidden from view, which, as the *Daily Express* observes, would mean that they can hardly have been intended to be seen by the public. (In other words, the hedgehogs or the Druids were thankfully at any rate no exhibitionists).

### Size of Marks

The new set of marks consists of the usual large central circle, 42 ft. 6 inches in diameter. The four surrounding 'baby circles', 45 ft. distant from the large one, are all 13 ft. 6 inches in diameter. (We have no exact estimates for the 1983 rings at Cheese Foot Head, except that our correspondent Mr. Pat Delgado thought they were all smaller than the 1981 set, for which his figures, rough visual estimates only, were "at least 52 ft. for the large central ring and about 17 ft. for each of the two smaller rings.")