'A Star Is Calling Earth'

THE inhabitants of a distant star are trying to signal the world, according to two Russian scientists.

They say that the star of the 61st Cygnus—known only to mathematicians—sent powerful radio or light signals which reached us in 1882, 1898 and 1908.

But they claim the rays were so strong that they caused near-disasters after penetrating our atmosphere.

GREEN LIGHT

It started this way, according to the astronomers Genrikh Altov and Valentina Zhuravleva, writing in the Lenigrad magazine *Zvezda* (*Star*):

Back in 1882, a Greenwich astronomer named Monder and other scientists noted a greenish luminescent disc which they could not explain.

This, they claim, was the first signal from the hidden star in the Constellation of the Swan. And they are convinced now that on it are intelligent people whom they describe as the "signal people."

Just a year after this greenish disc was seen, the volcano Krakatoa erupted near Indonesia, drawning 35,000 people with tidal waves and creating a dust blanket which girdled the earth.

SIBERIAN BLAST

Cygnus is so far away that it took 11 years for the flash from the explosion to reach it. But the "signal people" took this as a message from Earth and promptly replied.

Sure enough, another greenish disc was seen by astronomers 11 years after Krakatoa, again just the time it would take for such a signal to reach the Earth.

But, since they got no reply to this signal, they sent a really powerful message next time.

The result was the enormous explosion in Siberia long known as the Tunguska Wonder. The huge hole it created is still there, with trees blown down for hundreds of miles all around.

THE BEAM

The two Leningrad scientists said that the explosion was caused by a stream of laser-type light.

They advised the creation of an international group to study the possibility.

A spokesman at Jodrell Bank said this afternoon: "This claim needs more investigation, especially on the time lag between signals aspect."

But the two Russians did not speculate on what might happen if each signal exchanged in future were to blast a hole in the earth as big as a city.—AP and Reuter.