Wilhelm Reich, Orgone Energy, and UFOs By Peter Robbins © 2011

All of Wilhelm Reich's many books begin with this particular quotation: "Love, work and knowledge are the wellsprings of our Life. They should also govern it." This lecture is dedicated to living that idea. It is fair to say that the past century saw more scientific advances than any preceding it. But perhaps its most important single, unified body of scientific knowledge remains its most controversial. The common functioning principle unifying this science, which its pioneering founder, Dr. Wilhelm Reich, named orgonomy, is the study of how energy functions in the living and the nonliving realms. Orgonomy offers us groundbreaking applications in fields as diverse as biology, psychology, meteorology, cancer research, sociology, human sexuality, child rearing, political science and ufology, among other areas of study. But orgonomy was not well received into the times it was born. Some of its key findings challenged the basic precepts and physical laws our existing scientific order is built upon, while its bio-energetically based critique of mystical and mechanical thinking would have made it anathema to the majority of people in Western culture. So, it should not surprise anyone to learn that orgonomy has been ignored, distorted, attacked and confounded since it was first codified, by both the scientific mainstream and by establishment thinking.

The perceived threat it represented was so pronounced during the Eisenhower Administration, that more than eight tons of Reich's hardcover books, monographs and other original literature were consigned to government incinerators because bureaucrats at the Federal Drug Administration had targeted him as a medical fraud. This, to the best of our knowledge, without ever having attempted to replicate any of his published experiments - the prevailing thinking being: Why bother? He was a "quack." During his lifetime Dr. Wilhelm Reich was the target of attacks from both the right and the left; but his work and his findings were especially reviled by uncomprehending liberals, communists and active Soviet agents, who more than understood the danger his work represented to their cause, especially as articulated in such books as *The Mass Psychology of Fascism*. Reich's blasts at Soviet-style communism have often been dismissed as the paranoid delusions of a great mind finally unhinged, but we can confirm that such observations were hyper accurate, and some even prophetic.

But it was Reich's acceptance of UFOs as a physical reality that dealt his professional reputation its most stunning blow. When you study the progression of his scientific work and thinking, it becomes obvious that his investigation into the phenomenon was merely the logical extension of a common functioning principle that had guided him throughout his almost forty years in professional life; that is, how energy functions in the living and non-living realm.

Nonetheless, one of ufology's most significant chapters continues to remain one of its least known: in the early nineteen fifties Reich developed the cloud-buster, a simple yet effective apparatus which, when properly employed, was capable of altering weather patterns in the surrounding atmosphere. More, some of these weather modification operations attracted UFOs - first over southern Maine in 1953, then above Arizona in 1954. On December 14 of that year, this series of cloud-busting operations culminated in what can only be characterized as a "battle" in the skies over Tucson. Wild as these allegations may sound, they were well documented and multiple-witnessed.

What were the scientific dynamics that allowed such a deceptively simple apparatus to alter entire weather fronts? And why did this activity seem to attract the appearance of UFOs? What were the documented specifics of his contacts with the United States Air Force, and of his relationship with Albert Einstein? Is there any reason to suspect that MJ-12 was aware of - or interested in – Reich's work? And are there any realistic reasons to suspect foul play in his death? This paper draws from a number of printed, archival and human sources (all noted), including correspondence with A.S. Neil and Albert Einstein; Reich's final book, *Contact With Space*; and *Wilhelm Reich and the Cold War*, by my friend and colleague Jim Martin, who is also founder of Flatland Books. I am also indebted to Reich biographer Dr. Myron Scharaf, and to Reich's long-time first assistant, Dr. Elsworth F. Baker, for having taken the time and for having had the patience to answer many of my questions.

Jerome Eden was an author, educator and ufologist, and used to refer to UFOs as the idiot child of the media. If this characterization is accurate, and many of us would maintain that it is, then I respectfully submit that the truth about Dr. Reich's UFO-related observations, findings and conclusions are the idiot child of ufology. The intention of this paper is to help familiarize the reader with the specifics of this remarkable episode in Post-War History.

To best appreciate this account, however, it is important that we view it in some context. More, that we have a basic understanding of how Reich came to arrive at that quietly historic moment in 1953 when he first pointed a series of long metal pipes at an unknown object high above his rural Maine property and observed that the object reacted as a direct result, then upon reaiming, react again, and again.

Background

Wilhelm Reich was born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1897. His father was a stern government bureaucrat, his artistic mother, was a piano teacher. "Willi" and his brother Robert grew up on the family's rural estate observing nature and natural-functioning first hand on a daily basis; and both received educations from private tutors. In 1914, the Balkans erupted in flames, and over the next four years World War One swept the empire and the rest of old Europe into oblivion. Reich served with distinction as an artillery officer in the Austro-Hungarian Army until war's end. With all of the family's property and holdings vaporized in the empire's defeat, Reich made his way to Vienna where he enrolled medical school, supporting himself as a tutor for the duration of his studies.

Reich was drawn to Vienna in part because of his intense interest in the pioneering work of Dr. Sigmund Freud. Following his graduation from medical school he became a pupil of Freud's, then went on to work as Freud's assistant for the next six years. They parted ways in 1929 when Reich, after much clinical work and observation in the early psychoanalytic tradition, presented case findings to Freud supporting his view that literally all human neurosis were, at the deepest levels, rooted in some form of sexual dysfunction, a radical notion for Victorian Vienna and mental health professionals of the 1920s. Freud and his followers believed that many neuroses had a sexual basis, but certainly not all of them. Reich's radical view that the social problems of individuals and governments were caught up in the dynamics of sexual repression estranged him from his analyst colleagues. Reich's departure from the Freudian ranks created a backlash of resentment and the origin of the myth of his mental instability. After all, why else would he have split with the great Freud? The rumormongering and the innuendo begun by former psychoanalytic colleagues would follow him for the remainder of his life.

It was about 1927 when Reich first became involved with the Austrian

Communist Party, his intention being to marry the revolutionary mission of their already-existing mental health clinics to those of healthy sexual functioning for workers. Here, responsible sex-education and contraceptives were freely disseminated. The popularity of these "Sexpol" (sex/politics) clinics extended into Germany and then the Soviet Union, and, for a time, they were allowed to thrive. Much to the disappointment and upset of the communists, however, sexually healthy workers and party members tended to put their personal happiness and goals above those of the party, a travesty that could not be allowed to stand: by 1934 Reich had been expelled from the Communist Party, their rationale for his expulsion being that, yes, the once-brilliant young scientist was now manifesting symptoms of insanity. The essence of his alleged mental illness is reflected in this obviously unhinged statement: "This is what I am fighting for: the prevention of emotional human misery by the establishment of a normal and natural - that is, orgastically satisfying - human life in the masses of people." To any group or individual intent on controlling the lives and thoughts of others, these are the words of a truly dangerous man. The party never forgave him this travesty and efforts to damage his reputation and impugn his work became commonplace from 1934 on.

Later that year, Reich immigrated to Scandinavia. Here he continued with his experiments and therapeutic practice with a core group of colleagues, devoting much of his experimental work and study to the dynamics of cancer formation. His outstanding books *The Impulsive Character*, *Character Analysis*, *People In Trouble*, *The Mass Psychology of Fascism* and *The Cancer Biopathy* all came out of this period. Reich immigrated to the United States in 1939 and was invited to join the faculty of New York City's New School for Social Research the following year. He settled in Forest Hills, a then-quiet district in the Borough of Queens where he went into private practice, wrote, and refined his character analytic therapy, or medical orgone therapy as it became known. Energetic functioning in people was now his primary interest and his key efforts were directed toward dissolving the chronic muscular contractions of his patients: this human "armoring" served to block natural feeling and hold neurotic behavior in place.

The Orgone Energy Accumulator

It was during this time that he discovered the specifically biological energy that he called orgone, and a deceptively simple therapeutic and experimental device that could concentrate the energy and allow it to be measured in a laboratory setting. He named it

the orgone energy accumulator, or ORAC. Thinking individuals in many cultures had long pondered this energy. Early Hindu texts referred to it as the "Prana," while Victorians named it the "ether," but the former tended to mystify the concept while the latter mechanized it. The size of the accumulators Reich and his associates constructed over the years varied, from that of a small box up to a large room. However, the ORAC most people are familiar with was designed to hold a single person and was about the size of a small phone booth. A properly constructed accumulator is made up of alternating layers of organic and inorganic material; steel wool and fiberboard were found to be ideal for the purpose. The non-metallic (organic) material tends to attract and hold the atmospheric energy, while the metal (inorganic) also attracts the energy, but unable to absorb it, rapidly reflects the energy. Simply put, the accumulator works on the basis of what Reich termed the orgonomic potential. That is, unlike the conventional energy systems we are accustomed to thinking in terms of, i.e.: electromagnetic energy moves from the stronger system (the source) to the weaker - orgone energy flows from the weaker system to the stronger one.

Sitting in an accumulator has a most perceivable result for many, including myself. The weaker energy field radiating from the inner layer (organic) is drawn to the stronger field of the individual inside. The flow of the field is experienced as a warming or tingling sensation. An individual with a naturally high energetic charge may begin to feel uncomfortable fairly quickly, possibly experiencing some dizziness, or the sensation of some pressure in the head. Any such feelings quickly dissipate when you exit. A person with a low energy charge, however, can remain in an accumulator much longer while feeling little if any difference. The number of layers used in the device's construction contributes to its relative power; the more layers, the higher the energetic potential. Depending on the person, effects can be felt within a few minutes. A small accumulator can be used to germinate plant seeds at an accelerated rate while a slightly modified version speeds the healing time of wounds and burns. I speak here from many welldocumented user and investigative accounts, as well as from personal experience. Therapeutically, sitting in an ORAC has an expansive effect on the organism, especially in terms of the blood vessels. It also increases the bio-energetic level of the person undergoing the experience by charging the tissues and the blood. There is no set or prescribed length of time for its use, though fifteen minutes to half an hour once or twice a day is not an unusual

routine.

Reich persevered with experiments designed to isolate and confirm the reality of orgone energy, but, aware of the controversy the announcement of such a discovery might create, he continued to verify his findings without fanfare or public acknowledgement. One of the experiments was calculated to measure the heat inside an ORAC and compare it with the temperature inside a control box. The experiment was named To-T (T oh minus T). Reich and his colleagues observed that a change in the atmosphere would alter the temperature differential, and To-T is a reliable predictor of changes in the weather. If there is a conventional explanation for this temperature differential, one that can be demonstrated under laboratory conditions, I am not aware of it.

The Einstein Affair

In late December 1940, Reich sent a carefully worded letter about his work to Albert Einstein. The letter, written in German, said, in part: "Several years ago I discovered a specific biological energy which in many ways behaves differently from anything that is known about electromagnetic energy. The matter is too complicated and sounds too improbable to be explained clearly in a brief letter. I can only indicate that I have evidence that the energy, which I have called orgone, exists not only in living organisms, but also in the soil and in the atmosphere; it is visible and can be concentrated and measured (emphasis his), and I am using it with some success in research on cancer

therapy." The physicist responded by letter six days later, apparently intrigued enough to invite Reich to demonstrate the existence of this energy in person. The meeting was arranged through Einstein's secretary-assistant, Helen Dukas, and set for January 13, 1941.

The two men met for more than four hours that afternoon to discuss Reich's work and findings. He had brought several experimental devices with him to demonstrate his findings, and Einstein observed the glowing orgone energy for himself through a laboratory apparatus designed for that purpose. Seemingly unwilling to believe his own eyes, the great physicist acknowledged the decided glow, but refused to rule out what he described as "the subjective element." It was toward the end of their meeting that Reich told Einstein of the measurable heat created inside the ORAC. Conversation then shifted to the implications of such a discovery, something not lost on either scientist. Reich noted in his diary that Einstein's reaction had been:

"That is impossible. Should this be true, it would be a great bomb (to physics)." An understandable reaction, given that the heat differential that had been repeatedly observed by Reich and his assistants during To-T violated the Second Law of Thermodynamics - that is, that equal volumes tend to equalize in temperature. In anticipation of the meeting Reich had noted in his diary: "Orgone constitutes the 'field' that Einstein is searching for. Electricity, magnetism, gravitation, etc., depend on its functions."

Einstein wanted to verify this temperature differential for himself, and Reich returned to Princeton the following week to deliver the necessary equipment. We do not know what Einstein wrote about this meeting, or about Reich. Author Jim Martin noted that Einstein's archives never responded to any of his information requests, making them the only archive to ignore a research inquiry during the preparation of his book, *Wilhelm Reich and the Cold War*.

It is fair to say that in 1941 Albert Einstein was the best-known scientist in the world; he had been so since his Theory of General Relativity first began to make worldwide scientific news in 1919. Einstein arrived in America from Germany in 1933, along with his assistant and secretary Helen Dukas. While the FBI was aware of the physicist's left-leaning sympathies, they strongly suspected Ms. Dukas of being an active asset of Soviet intelligence since at least 1929. Both Ms. Dukas and Dr. Einstein were put under fairly close observation by the FBI from the time that they entered this country. (The FBI would soon begin to build a huge file on Reich as well). Surveillance increased following his joining other physicists in signing a secret letter dated December 30, 1940 advising President Roosevelt to authorize development of an atomic bomb project, this as the Germans might be moving ahead on just such a venture (they were).

Einstein spent a week conducting and studying To-T, and on February 7 wrote Reich that he had confirmed (and reconfirmed) that the accumulator registered an average 0.3-0.4 degree temperature (centigrade) higher than the control box, confirming Reich's assertion, and the observations of numerous others of the past sixty years. But then one of Einstein's assistants offered a simple explanation. The differential was caused by "convection" - that is, the difference between the air temperatures under and above the table the accumulator had been placed on: Einstein had set one box on a table and suspended another in the air. He closed the letter, "I hope this (explanation) will awaken your sense of skepticism, so that you will not allow yourself to be deceived by an illusion that can be easily explained. Please have someone

pick up your instruments, since they are of some value. They are undamaged. With friendly greetings, A. Einstein."

Stung, Reich wrote back imploring Einstein to re-conduct the experiment, but this time following the strict protocols devised to eliminate such a false explanation. Reich even describes his having repeatedly and successfully conducting To-T with both boxes buried underground, thus eliminating any possibility of "convection," but Einstein would hear none of it. Reich thought it as memorable that Einstein had been so willing to accept the first rationale that had come along, as his expressing no interest in re-conducting the experiment under more controlled conditions. The letter ended with a moving plea for some respect and consideration, but no direct response was ever forthcoming. We do not know if Einstein even saw this letter: at the time, all of his mail would have been screened by Helen Dukas, who may have had her own reasons for not wanting Einstein to confirm Reich's findings. Letters from Reich and his colleagues, and Einstein and his assistants continued to change hands over the next few years, but no resolve was ever achieved.

Jim Martin writes in *Wilhelm Reich and the Cold War*: "Reich's letter to Einstein in response to 'convection' is the most eloquent example of scientific dialogue I have ever read. Indeed, Reich's description of the issues involved, the experimental protocols to test the objection, and the design of new experiments to shed light on the question, so inspired me when I first read *The Einstein Affair* that I set up the experiment at home. I confirmed the basic fact, for myself, and have sought a rational explanation that fit into established physical science, without success. Like so many of Reich's discoveries, this has been completely ignored, but never experimentally refuted."

Anyone interested in learning more about this equally compelling and frustrating footnote to the scientific history of the Twentieth Century can secure a copy of *The Einstein Affair* from the Wilhelm Reich Museum bookstore in Rangeley, Maine. The publication, which contains the complete Reich-Einstein correspondence, includes all the protocols necessary for conducting the To-T experiment; it is written in a manner that will allow any interested layperson to conduct the experiment for his or herself.

Mrs. Brady and the FDA.

The Federal Drug Administration began to build its case against Reich in 1947. The red flag that alerted them to the danger Reich and his work posed to the American people was an extraordinarily vicious smear article written by a far-left-leaning journalist, Mildred Edie Brady. The Strange Case of Wilhelm Reich appeared in the May 26, issue of The New Republic; other biased and distorted articles followed. Time Magazine's offering was entitled The Marvelous Sex Box. Brady's article was a masterpiece of distortion that attacked Reich's "sex racket;" while trumpeting an out-andout lie - namely, that he had stated the orgone accumulator was a cure-all. Mrs. Brady was not your routine freelancer; she was, among other things, a respected member of the drug regulation elite and actively helped to create FDA legislation as early as 1938. She was also a founder of Consumers Union, a communist-dominated organization that had broken away from Consumers Research, Inc. in 1935. Brady was also professionally associated with one of Reich's lawyers: Arthur Garfield Hays was a Sponsor of Consumers Union. Former Consumers Research board member, J.B. Matthews, wrote that in the nineteen thirties Hays was known to support the Communist Party via its "united front" organizations. Reich was unaware of his attorney's politics, and of his association with Mrs. Brady.

There is no question that The New Republic article was clearly libelous, and Reich instructed Hays to initiate libel action against Mrs. Brady and the magazine. His medical colleagues agreed and likewise wrote to Brady in support of Reich's decision. Incredibly, Hays talked his client out of pressing the action, and the scientist, unfortunately, took his counselor's advice. This proved to be a crucial misstep and other scurrilous articles followed over the years that the FDA quietly went about building its case. Hays never told Reich that he knew and worked with Brady, but in an equally pronounced travesty of justice, one of Reich's other lawyers, Peter Mills, would go on to become the prosecuting attorney when Reich finally came to trial. But there were greater factors at play here as well. Jim Martin's tenacious investigative scholarship has established that The New Republic's owner, Michael Straight, was deeply connected to the members of the Cambridge Five Soviet spy ring, and a legal action against Brady and the publication might well have put Straight on the stand. With Hays successfully convincing Reich to waive any legal action, a trial-based opportunity to reveal the degree to which Soviet intelligence had penetrated British intelligence was lost.

Wilhelm Reich and UFOs

"What do they want for Proof? There is no proof. There are no authorities whatsoever. No president, no academy, court of law, congress or senate on this earth has the knowledge or power to decide what will be the knowledge of tomorrow. There is no use in trying to prove something that is unknown to someone who is ignorant of the unknown, or fearful of its threatening power. Only the good, old rules of learning will eventually bring about understanding of what has invaded our earthly existence."

Wilhelm Reich: Contact With Space

Reich moved from New York to an area just outside the town of Rangeley in rural southern Maine in the early nineteen fifties. Here he built a new home and laboratory personally designed to integrate home and laboratory into a single, brilliantly practical building, now the home of the Wilhelm Reich Museum. Another laboratory was added soon after for students. This structure was the setting for the so-called Oranur Experiment, a chilling example of the accumulator's undeniable ability to concentrate energy. The experiment called for the placing of a very small amount of radium in an accumulator, the unexpected result of which was to toxify a surprisingly large area of southern Maine surrounding his home and laboratory, one that took several months to dissipate.

And so we come to it: Reich's interest in UFOs dates from 1953. Why did he become interested in them, and how did he arrive at his conclusions concerning them? Until 1953 there is no written or anecdotal indication that he had paid any attention to all the publicity surrounding "flying saucers," even when, in 1952, some visitors to his home and laboratory reported seeing shining objects in the sky that were decidedly not stars. In November 1953, though, he read one of the best books available on the subject at the time, Flying Saucers from Outer Space. The author, a retired Marine Corps Major named Donald Keyhoe, was a highly respected and decorated World War II fighter pilot and pioneered much of the basis for modern scientific UFO studies. Reich's writings indicate he was intrigued by Keyhoe's observation that the maneuverability, speed and silence of the unknowns repeatedly defied conventional laws of mechanical flight. At the time, Reich wrote: "I had not studied anything on the subject: I knew practically nothing about it. But my mind, used to expecting surprises in natural research, was open to anything that seemed real."

Keyhoe's book was followed by E. J. Ruppelt's book: *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. Ruppelt was a retired USAF Captain who had headed the Air Force's ongoing UFO record-keeping (and public relations) program, Project Blue Book, and his book prompted Reich to note: "The Ruppelt *Report on UFOs* clearly reveals the helplessness of mechanistic method in coming to grips with the problems posed by the spacemen. The cosmic orgone energy, which these living beings are using in their technology, is beyond the grasp of mechanistic science since cosmic laws of functioning are not mechanical but what I term 'functional.' The helplessness of mechanical thinking appears in the tragic shortcoming of our fastest fighter jets to make and hold contact with UFOs. Being unavoidably outdistanced is not a flattering situation for military pride. The conclusion seems correct: Mechanistic methods of locomotion must be counted out in coping with the spaceship problem."

One night as he sat on the steps outside his home in Maine, something flashed by at great speed, its behavior not suggestive of a comet, meteorite, or shooting star. Reich reported the sighting to the Air Force Base at Presque Island, Maine; it was the first of many sighting reports he would forward to the Air Force. Following his report, he was asked to fill out an official questionnaire. In March 1954, Reich sent a copy of his survey on UFOs to the Air Force. The survey was actually a manuscript detailing his theoretical conclusions of them as spacecraft.

The questionnaire came out of AFR 200-2, the Air Force's regulation regarding the reporting of UFOs that had gone into effect in August of that year. Reich had filled out copies of the form following a number of sightings. His daughter, Dr. Eva Reich, now a retired physician living in Maine, recalled that: "The interest of the Air Force in UFOs was being totally suppressed at that time. When you reported a UFO, they came to you with this questionnaire, and told you it was secret, and had you fill it out. Then they took it away; what happened with it, nobody knows. When Reich published the questionnaire in *Contact With Space*, he revealed a big secret."

Basic to this scientist's understanding of the universe was the pervasive presence of energy (which he termed orgone energy), implying the possibility of life in space. At this time his questioning encompassed the galactic currents, the formation and destruction of star systems, and the origin of the universe itself. Along with his deepening involvement in cloud-

busting, Reich now began a careful examination of the stars and set about proving that some "stars" did not behave like others. The method he used was nocturnal, time-lapse photography. In this investigative technique, the camera is carefully set to face the night sky with the shutter open: the experiment proceeded with unexpected results. Some of the stars did not produce the white lines caused by the Earth's rotation. These stars simply vanished indicating they were something else. He now began to wonder in earnest what they might be, and specifically what they were doing in the skies over Maine.

Reich saw the Oranur Experiment, with its massive pollution of the Maine area, as the cause of their immediate interest in the region. Considering his own observations, those of a number of co-workers, and independent reports of UFO activity over Maine, it was hardly egoistic that he should assume that his activities might be the subject of their special attention. If these craft had harnessed the sea of energy pervading the universe, what might be the effect of training a cloud-buster on one? . The results of this action were both profound and disturbing. He writes in Contact With Space: "I hesitated for weeks to turn my cloud-buster pipes toward a 'star' as if I had known that some of the blinking lights hanging in the sky were no planets or stars but space machines. With the fading out of the two 'stars,' the cloud-buster had suddenly changed into a space-gun. When I saw the 'star' to the west fade out four times in succession, what had been left of the old world of human knowledge after the discovery of orgone energy, tumbled beyond retrieve. From now on everything, anything, was possible. Nothing could any longer be considered 'impossible.' I had directed the draw-pipes connected with the deep well towards and ordinary star and the star had faded out four times. There was no mistake about it. Three more people had seen it. There was only one conclusion: The thing we had drawn from was not a star. It was something else - a UFO. The shock of this experience was great enough not to repeat such an action until 10 October 1954."

Preceding this, on October 5 and 6, three large, yellow UFOs hung low over the southern horizon with another over the observatory on Reich's property. On October 10, a large reddish UFO hovered just to the south of the property. At this point, the cloud-buster was trained on it and it moved. The unknown became less red as the device kept its aim, then moved higher, and later sank down below the horizon. Shortly thereafter, a second light (yellow) appeared in the west. After two minutes of direct drawing, it faded, came back, flashed, pulsated, and wobbled while moving irregularly from

south to north. There was for Reich the distinct, subjective impression of a struggle. It came back again shortly after, and again, became fainter and smaller after drawing on it. The remaining four unknowns (to the north, south and west) then removed themselves, disappearing from sight.

On October 10, for a second time, Reich dimmed "stars" and induced them to move, "as if in flight in different directions." He again concluded they were machines, and not ones of terrestrial origin. While it might seem naive to some, Reich choose to direct his written concerns regarding this likelihood directly to President Eisenhower. The White House response asked him to send such communications to the Air Force, and to the CIA. As a result, a letter articulating his observations of, and concerns about UFOs was sent to the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, a career Naval Intelligence officer named Roscoe H. Hillenkotter. Reich would have had no way of knowing, but in more rarefied circles the Director was sometimes referred to by another title: MJ-1.

Not only had Reich inadvertently made contact with a member of the President's Ultra Secret UFO working group, he had reached out to its top man. Was the information Reich supplied a contributing factor in Hillenkoetter's becoming such a vocal opponent of UFO secrecy following his stepping down as Director, or was this simply part of a plan to allow an extremely highly placed operative to insinuate himself smack in the center of civilian UFO counterculture? I cannot say, but I am convinced that if the members of MJ-12 were not aware of Reich's UFO-related activities prior to October 1954, they were from that time on, and would have identified him as a man whose actions bore monitoring, and possibly worse.

In Wilhelm Reich and the Cold War, Jim Martin identifies one other plausible link between Reich and MJ-12, and his name was Lewis W. Douglas. Reich refers

to him briefly in *Contact With Space* as the Director Savings and Loan, and as a close associate of President Eisenhower. He was also Director of Research for the Institute of Atmospheric Physics in Tucson and a man very interested in weather control. Their first contact dates from 1954 when Reich had his assistant, William Moise, attempt to contact Douglas and arrange a meeting with him. It had not been Reich who suggested to Moise that he get in touch with Douglas; it had been Charles Gardner, Jr., Executive Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Weather Control for the government; and the National Weather Bureau's liaison with the Institute of Atmospheric

Physics. Gardner had actually written to Moise on March 21, 1955 saying: "We appreciate being informed of your activities." Douglas's secretary wrote up Moise's calls in the form of memos. The first one read in part: "He {Moise} had just come from Washington and had spoken to people in the Dept. of Agriculture, Weather Bureau and in Mr. Gardner's office about weather control. They suggested that Mr. D {Douglas} might be interested in information he had." But no answer was forthcoming until July 27 when Douglas cabled Moise, and Reich and Douglas began to correspond. They likely would have met in Tucson later that year, but Douglas had to be hospitalized for major surgery during the time Reich visited Arizona.

My colleagues Jim Martin and Kenn Thomas (archivist, author and conspiracy-related publisher) have engaged in some educated speculation on the possibility of a link between Lew Douglas and MJ-12, and it is worth relating here. I draw directly from Martin's published comments in doing so. Douglas was known to be very close to Eisenhower and had a well-known interest in weather control. The Douglas-Moise Memo is dated July 14, 1954, only ten days prior to the seminal National Archives' MJ-12 document, the Cutler-Twining Memo. Thomas reminds us that Robert Cutler had been with the CIA as a psy-ops (psychological operations) expert, and instrumental in bringing Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" to completion. In his memo, Cutler informs USAF General Nathan Twining (MJ-4) that a scheduled meeting is being changed, and that the "Special Studies Project" would now meet "during the already scheduled White House meeting of July 16, rather than following it as previously intended." What the actual reason for this change, it insured that President Eisenhower would be in attendance.

Quoting Martin: "Thomas suggests that the timing of this sequence of events might indicate that Douglas, as a member of Eisenhower's 'kitchen cabinet,' may have been privy to or associated with the MJ-12 group. I agree that Douglas, one of the most powerful men in American politics at the time, would have known about MJ-12 if it existed. Thomas argues that Douglas, having been briefed about the meeting of MJ-12 members on July 16 at the White House, developed a more serious interest in Reich's planned operations in Tucson on the basis of Reich's observations of UFOs. This would have explained the sudden change in attitude on July 27, 1955, when Douglas sent a telegram to Moise inviting further correspondence. After all, Douglas had hired a 'UFO nut,' James E. McDonald, to head the IAP in 1954."

Conspiratorial musings or grounded, informed speculation? Personally, I

subscribe to the latter. For the record, Martin establishes that Reich drove through Roswell on his way to Tucson. There is some intriguing anecdotal evidence that he returned there, but it is not inconclusive.

Reich's point of view on UFOs shifted between 1953 and 1957. At first he theorized they were benign observers, but gradually became convinced that, either by intention or accident, they were contributing to the pollution accumulating in the atmosphere. *Contact With Space*, privately published after his 1957 death, documents early weather modification, or CORE (cosmic orgone engineering) operations and the 1954-55 cloud-busting expedition to Arizona. The book, published in an edition of only five hundred, details a great deal more information than this paper is designed to cover, and it is not my intention here to synopsize this sweeping text, only that Reich's scientific observations of, interactions with, and findings on UFOs chronicled in *Contact With Space* made it indispensable in the preparation of this article.

The following day, October 11, Reich authorized his friend, research associate and son-in-law (who was a trained cloud-buster operator), to call the Air Technical Intelligence Command (ATIC) in Dayton, Ohio, and make an appointment to discuss the disabling of the UFOs the previous day. Moise was in Ohio on his way to Arizona at the time. A meeting with a General Watson was agreed upon on for October 14. Over the phone Watson asked Moise, if necessary, could their conference be continued into the evening, and how did Reich know that the UFOs had been disabled? Moise arrived at the facility early on the 14th, where he was met by a Dr. Byers, who was a physicist employed by the command. Byers escorted Moise to the conference, also attended by a USAF Captain Hill and a civilian named Harry Haberer (6:8). Asking where General Watson was, Moise was told that he was unable to attend. Angered, Moise left and returned to his Dayton motel. The next day Moise received a phone call from Captain Hill conveying Watson's apologies, and was asked if the report could be made to ATIC Deputy Commander Colonel Wertenbaker. Moise agreed and they met later that day. Present were Captain Hill, Dr. Byers, Haberer and the Colonel. Moise gave an oral presentation and all took notes except the Colonel. Feeling that this had been a significant meeting, that at least some breakthrough had been made in interesting a branch of the government in Reich's observations of the involvement with UFOs, Moise wrote that: "The contact with Col. Wertenbaker was excellent throughout the conference. He was serious, intent and looked at me while I talked. He was the only one

who did. His excitement increased as the report progressed."

Several days later, the Colonel wrote to the Director of Intelligence for the Air Force - somehow this note ended up in the Food and Drug Administration's case file on Reich. It read in part: "General Watson did not talk personally to Mr. Moise, I am happy to say, but I interviewed this person...the information given us by Moise defies description and I'll not attempt to give you the details...the Air Force will do well to avoid entanglements but what is absolutely necessary from the standpoint of good public relations."

Dr. Byers, the physicist, told Moise that he was familiar with Reich's work. Harry Haberer, the civilian in attendance, was described as working on the history of UFOs with the Air Force. Leaving Ohio, Moise continued on to Arizona. Meanwhile, Reich, his son Peter, and several others were driving west as well. Each vehicle carried an appropriate assortment of laboratory equipment and had a cloud-buster in tow. They arrived at the leased property ten miles outside of Tucson on October 19, 1954. Once settled in, they commenced drawing operations, regularly observing the atmosphere with their meteorological instruments. Records were kept in accordance with strict scientific method. Individual journals were also kept.

Robert McCulloch, another trained cloud-buster operator, assisted Reich and Moise in the operation. Drawing began at the end of October and many UFOs were observed during the nights of October 31 and November 1 over the area. By November 7, moisture in the atmosphere had risen from the usual 15% to 65%, an unheard of relative humidity for Tucson. Drawing continued, mostly from the southwest direction. On November 7, the first clouds were forming thickly and soon covered the sky, indicating rain. Then, without apparent explanation, the clouds began to decompose. That evening, a large, bright UFO was seen coming up from the north. It moved slowly southwest until it stopped and hovered for several hours ten to fifteen degrees above the southern horizon. A connection between the dissipation of clouds and the presence of UFOs in the skies seemed unavoidable after this sequence of events continued to repeat.

Weather modification was a subject of genuine interest to a number of military and civilian offices within the Eisenhower Administration, and the Tucson-based Institute of Atmospheric Physics was founded in 1953 as a direct result of the President's 1953 Advisory Committee on Weather Control. An atmospheric physicist with a background in Naval intelligence

was appointed to the committee as Associate Director, and at some point during that November or December he might have met Reich. His name was Dr. James E. McDonald, and we know him to be another scientist of great courage and passion, one who, like Reich, had the temerity to work toward bringing the subject of serious UFO studies to the American public, much to the detriment of both their careers. Eva Reich recalled that McDonald had visited the cloud-busting site when a TV crew came to film their operations, and that both he and Reich had been interviewed for the report. But the footage was never aired. From what we know of Dr. McDonald, there is likelihood that he would have had cause for serious interest in at least two areas of Reich's work. Still, we do not know conclusively whether the two actually met, and possibly talked that day, or whether their paths had merely crossed on the edge of that desert. But there is the additional factor to consider as well - that at the time McDonald was working closely with, and for, the previously discussed Lew Douglas.

By November 13, the relative humidity had risen to 67% and rain seemed imminent in a location that had seen none in five years. But by that evening the humidity had dropped twenty points to 47%. The next day, two bright, pulsating and flashing UFOs were seen low in the eastern sky. Upon direct draw, the first dimmed after an initial stronger blinking, then remained dim. The second wobbled, then it too, dimmed markedly. Suddenly, a third came up in the east, as if from nowhere. Early on the morning of the 18th, a UFO was seen on the horizon and within two hours an Air Force aircraft was seen circling the area. More UFOs continued to be observed in direct relationship with the destruction of the relative humidity.

On the morning of November 29, Reich, looking at the eastern sky through a three-and-a-half inch refracting telescope, observed a fully articulated cigar-shaped craft. In his notes he writes that he first refused to accept the notions, but windows were clearly observed on the object and recorded in his drawings. The ship was observed, as cloud cover would allow, off and on between December 1 and December 17. Charts of its movements were kept.

By December 14, the atmosphere in the area of the base camp, and indeed, in Tucson itself was oppressive and deadening. Just prior to this Reich's associate, Dr. Silvert, had transported a small amount of radioactive material that had been exposed in an accumulator from Maine to the Tucson site. The material had to be towed

on a cable one hundred feet behind a hired airplane, as its lead shielding was

unable to contain its altered reaction. At about 4:30 PM, a huge black cloud formed over the Tucson area, gradually turning deep purple with a somewhat reddish glow. The background radiation count in the area jumped to an alarming one hundred thousand counts per minute. The usual background count had been holding at six to eight hundred counts per minute. Twelve Air Force planes over flew the base camp and their contrails (made of water vapor) quickly dissolved. Twenty minutes after both cloud-busters began drawing, the skies cleared. At 5:30 PM, four B-56 bombers flew in low over the area. Reich felt that this "cloud" masked the presence of other UFOs. If so, this incident was indeed properly categorized as a battle. Interest in the newly arrived and highly aggravated radioactive material was a suspected cause of their appearance.

As these historic events were transpiring, the University of Arizona's weather modification study was ongoing and in process. Part of the study involved the time-lapse photography of jet planes contrails. As recorded, Reich had observed and reported their presence during various cloud-busting operations, and had observed the disintegration of their contrails during operations in Arizona. He even wondered: "Whether the Air Force had actually such problems in mind, I cannot tell."

Investigative author Jim Martin was able to locate color film from the fifties in the University of Arizona's Physics and atmospheric Science Building showing Air Force jets being used in weather modification experiments, as Reich himself had wondered about. These and other such findings led me to believe that our government had a very real interest in Dr. Reich's UFO observations and findings, as well as in his weather modification work - from the President on down. By way of one last example (or coincidence) we should take note that on November 22, 1955, President Eisenhower's proposal for the peaceful use of atomic energy was accepted by the United Nations. It was called "Atoms for Peace." Some months prior to this, Reich had sent Eisenhower a copy of his paper documenting the Oranur Experiment, and the operations and experiments that had sprung from it. The paper was entitled "Atoms for Peace."

The literature generated about Reich's contempt trial is considerable and any treatment here must oversimplify its many complexities. While interested readers should try and locate a copy of Jerome Greenfield's book, Wilhelm Reich versus the USA, among other works on the subject, the basics are as follows. The Federal Drug Administration had begun accumulating information toward building a case against the scientist shortly after Mildred

Brady's article appeared in 1947, but it had been slow going. None of Reich's past or current patients or any of those with the physicians he'd trained in medical orgone therapy had registered a complaint with the FDA, or any other authority for that matter. Reich and his associates had broken no laws, but given that the FDA knew he was a quack and orgonomy a fraud, it stood to reason there was no need to put any of his alleged experiments to the test. Their responsibility was to bring this sex-obsessed medical menace to justice and they remained undeterred in their efforts. And so the FDA went to the federal court and brought a complaint against the interstate shipment of accumulators or any components thereof. Their break came in 1955 when one of Reich's physicians, Dr. Michael Silvert, did just that, and Reich, then involved in the Tucson cloud-busting operation, took legal responsibility for the injunction's violation. Silbert felt that allowing the matter to go to court would be the equivalent of admitting they were in the wrong. Reich, after due consideration, agreed and wrote to the judge explaining his decision noting that his argument might be rejected; they did, and the complaint became an injunction.

FDA agents began showing up on Reich's property, but he refused to allow them access to any of his apparatus, or written materials, and continued with his experiments. This resulted in a contempt of court citation; and while their original legal parry had been civil, it had now graduated to a criminal and a court date was set. Given the betrayal of his lawyers, Reich decided to represent himself, and against the advice of some of those closest to him, chose to make the trial a forum for the validity of his research and findings. Eloquent though he was, the judge would have none of it and he was convicted and sentenced to two years in Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. He was fifty-nine years old.

Once in prison Reich underwent psychiatric evaluation. Staff psychiatrists noted that he "gave no concrete evidence of being mentally incompetent," but diagnosed him as being a paranoid schizophrenic, this while admitting their finding was "not based on physical evaluation." Early release was denied and the Supreme Court chose not to comment on his final writ. He was found dead in his cell on November 3, 1957, just seven days before his scheduled release date.

Conclusions

Since his death, most accounts of Dr. Wilhelm Reich's life and work, be

they supportive or otherwise, follow a similar logic: that the level of importance which he ascribed to his UFO observations (and his allegations that the communists were out to get him) were, in themselves, a means of "proving," or at least suggesting that he had gone quite mad during his last years. Such material is often presented in a manner suggesting that a good deal of "fairness," objectivity and patience were spent in "sorting all this out' for the reader. Some writers don't even bother. With no real interest in fair scientific inquiry or method, and no serious grounding in UFO studies, orgonomy, or the documented specifics of the conspiracy to destroy his reputation and discredit his work, Reich's detractors accuse and rant, exposing the madness they perceive. Often written in angry displays of public-spirited concern, they warn the good reader away, like police at the scene of an accident. Other accounts are simply inaccurate.

In Contact With Space, Dr. Wilhelm Reich's reflections on the possible implications of an extraterrestrial reality are often moving, profound and disturbing. He dares, as a scientist, to exercise a most precious right: the right to challenge an established and accepted belief, the right to think a thought, no matter how others might perceive it, recording that thought for publication and standing by it in the face of almost universal criticism. Read out of context - that is, without benefit of any serious study of his previous writings, methodology or discoveries - even the most intelligent and perceptive reader may find it preferable to dismiss his observations and conclusions as bearing witness to a great mind finally derailed, rather than even considering them seriously. The very act of claiming to have observed UFOs, and, over time, their behavior, interacting with them via the cloudbuster, ascribing to them intelligence and intention, keeping the Air Force, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Bureau and the Office of the President appraised of his activities, and finally, the posthumous publishing of Contact With Space, proved intolerable to all by a few.

Even A. S. Neill, the distinguished British educator who was Reich's loyal friend and colleague of many years, seemed convinced these findings would only prove to be an embarrassment to orgonomy. But not at first: in March of 1955, Neill wrote to Reich as follows, "Thanks for the saucer book which came a few days ago. It sure made me sit up. So much Air Force testimony can't be ignored. Inclined to accept your opinion that they are benign (an opinion which changed markedly), the only problem I can imagine would be their arrival here to stop the inevitable atomic destruction of all life. Mutual fear won't stop war. Almost looks as if Freud was right in saying there is a

death instinct when one sees the whole mass of people thinking of football and radio etc. at a time when the sinking of a U.S. aircraft carrier off Formosa or the enthusiasm of a U.S. pilot might set the light to the gunpowder barrel. Hence I say: let the spacemen come; they might save us and if they came as destroyers they could not be more dangerous than man himself."

I should stress here that Reich had few friendships or professional relationships of such duration and depth; and it is not my intention to put a particular cast on Neill here. It is just that he articulated the prevailing attitude so well. In December 1957, a month after Reich's death, Neill wrote this to Ilse Ollendorff, Reich's former wife and co-worker:

"The difficulty will not be to separate what's valuable from what isn't. The idea that the trial was orchestrated from Moscow is just bunkum, and we have no proof of flying saucers anyway. Why should Reich's great work be mixed up with either factor? That Reich later had some illusions I think right, but they don't so anything to lessen his work. We all have illusions and maybe the greater we are, the greater the illusions. But that Eva {Reich's daughter}, Moise (his son-in-law) and Steig (cartoonist and illustrator of Reich's book *Listen Little Man*, and a financial backer of the Arizona expedition) should go on having illusions is bad, bad for the future of Reich's acceptance as a scientist."

And there's the rub: "Bad for the future of Reich's acceptance as a scientist" - a consideration not taken lightly by Neill and others deeply concerned about the future of orgonomy. I can only wonder how Neill would have reacted had he been in the room when students and faculty members at his beloved Summerhill school described the UFO sightings they had had from the Summerhill property in Leiston, Suffolk on the occasions I was a speaker there. Author David Boadella sums the conundrum up: "Why did the orthodox scientists and psychologists condemn Reich? Why did they dismiss him as a paranoiac while Raknes (a Norwegian colleague) and Dr. Hoppe of Israel and lots of the sane American surgeons and physicians and I thought him to be the most important thinker of our time? I must face the question that was so often raised by his enemies - his sanity...Apparently he believed that flying saucers were from other worlds without due proof. Yet when the judge ordered him to be examined by a board of psychiatrists, they pronounced him sane."

They were not alone. The great Reich scholar, Professor Paul Matthews of New York University observed in his 1973 review of Boadella's book, Wilhelm Reich: The Evolution of His Work: "Reich's scientific integrity,"

creativity, and genius, even to the end of his life, need no defense or confirmation from me; nor does his sanity need defense in the opinion of those who were closest to him and in a position to gauge his mental status, character structure, and work capacity at that time."

But does all this really come down to a question of Wilhelm Reich's sanity? Medical researcher Ludwik Flek notes in his 1979 book, *The Genesis and Development of*

a Scientific Fact: "What we are faced with here is not so much a simple passivity or mistrust of new ideas as an active approach which can be divided into several stages. A contradiction to the system appears unthinkable. What does not fit into the system remains unseen. Alternatively, if it is noticed, either it is kept secret, or discredited. Laborious efforts are made to explain an exception in terms that do not contradict the system. Despite the legitimate claims of contradictory views, one tends to see, describe, or even illustrate those circumstances which corroborate current views and thereby give them substance."

Thus the unacceptable - or the unacceptable theory - is excluded. The individual who persists in putting forth such a theory may ultimately be excluded and, in a number of historic incidences, declared to be out of touch with "reality" or insane. You may have the knowledge of a master scientist and still not be able to analyze or even see beyond the accepted theories of your own era. Reich's work demands that we do just this.

Do Dr. Reich's observations, deductions and conclusions concerning UFOs all conform to the best contemporary knowledge on the subject? Many of them do, and are virtually identical to those of countless other individuals. Can we say with certainty that his death was the result of a conspiracy or foul play tracing back to MJ-12, the FDA, the Communist Party, the "Hoodlums In Government" ("HIGS," as Reich termed them) employed by the FDA, or to that powerful segment of society who tend to mystify biology, then mechanically attempt to impose their own sex-negative morality on the rest of us? No. The fact is that at the time of his death Dr. Reich had high blood pressure, was overweight, and a chronic smoker. But based on what he represented to such diverse and powerful groups, would any (or all) of the aforementioned have desired his death and had the will and means to implement it? Oh yes: without a doubt. And with the official cause of death listed as a heart attack, the question of murder is likely to remain an open one.

Regardless of whether he was murdered or died of natural causes, humanity lost a brilliant and courageous thinker in November 1957, and one whose UFO-related work remains an extremely significant area of study for any student of ufology. I hope this paper will encourage readers to seek out the truth of this matter for themselves, through reading and practical application. While the most recent of the events described here linger in the mists of history nearly fifty years past, they continue to remain as shattering and relevant as if they had occurred last week. Knowledge is often its own reward and anyone who takes the time to understand Reich's work will only benefit from it. To ignore the profound truths it embodies affirms the actions of those who array themselves against all that is life affirmative, and again sets the stage for the worst aspects of history to repeat themselves. Remember: "Love, work and knowledge are the wellsprings of our Life. They should also govern it."

End

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About the author: Peter Robbins was introduced to the books of Wilhelm Reich as a teenager. In 1976 he met Dr. Elsworth F. Baker, Reich's first assistant for the last eleven years of his life. Soon after he became a patient of Dr. Baker and entered into almost seven years of medical orgone therapy with this distinguished practitioner.

Robbins went on to enroll in the classes New York University offered in scientific and social orgonomy with Reich scholars, Professors John Bell and Paul Matthews. They in turn invited him to become a member of the ongoing Seminar in Social and Scientific Orgonomy, patterned after the seminars which Sigmund Freud presided over during the nineteen twenties. Robbins spent much of the nineteen eighties involved with this group, presenting a variety of papers to his fellow members under Matthews' and Bell's guidance and leadership.

Peter was a volunteer fundraiser for the American College of Orgonomy's (ACO) Building Fund and had two papers on Wilhelm Reich and UFOs published in the Journal of Orgonomy. He was part of a select group of volunteers invited to witness a cloudbusting demonstration and presented on

the subject of Reich and UFOs at the ACO's Princeton NJ facility. He has also been an invited lecturer at international conferences on the life and work of Reich in New York City, Ashland Oregon, Niece France, and Karavomilos Greece. His talks on Reich and UFOs have been well received at numerous UFO conferences, privately organized events around the country, and at select venues across Great Britain. His articles on the subject have been included in a variety of publications and websites both here and abroad, and his paper, "Politics, Religion and Human Nature: Practical Problems and Roadblocks on the Path Toward Official UFO Acknowledgement" is scheduled to be published in the upcoming issue of Annals of the Institute for Orgonomic Science.