

Correspondence

“America Can’t Afford to Ignore Weather Modification Studies”

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Tornadoes instead of tanks?

Tactical typhoons?

I don’t know, but I hope not!

My family and my doctor told me that I am crazy if I think the weather can be controlled. When they asked me where I came up with such “silly ideas” about weather I said to them, “From the British rock group, ‘The Moody Blues.’”

I explained in vain that one of their lead songs states, “Blasting, billowing, bursting forth with the power of ten billion butterfly sneezes, man, with his flaming pyre, has conquered the wayward breezes.”

Now when I heard that I thought, “What are they blasting? Napalm in Vietnam?”

Or is it something less sinister?” I later found out that it was a NASA spaceship which was blasting off and these vessels can rise above the winds and other elements of the earth.

The song continues on, “Climb to tranquility, finding its real worth,” That was a reference to our landing on the Sea of Tranquility on the moon, the value of which may still be highly under rated.”

I imagined a lot about controlling the weather. Years after that 1969 song release I found out that “The Moody Blues,” were participating in a NASA experiment! What reassuring news this was!

I mentioned some of these ideas to my parents and to the doctor. They said, “You’re obviously crazy if you think you can control the weather.” I told him that I didn’t have any dry ice nor a plane to deliver it with. “Still,” I said, “I would be very concerned if weather modification technology was developed by enemies of the United States and used against us.”

Other songs in American rock and roll music refer to weather. Don McLean, a favorite of President Bush,

sings about “Swirling clouds reflecting Vincent’s eyes that shine of blue.” A blue eyed Vincent Van Gogh had painted similar clouds in his infamous “Starry Night” painting. I know of many persons with disabilities who absolutely adore the song, including many blind people. Would all of the pain and suffering cause Mother Nature to use retribution? Silly thought, but there are millions of people who love that song.

And Eric Clapton sings, “Mom, take this badge off of me. That long black cloud is coming down!” Countless other famous groups sing about the weather including the beautiful song “Seems it Never Rains in Southern California,” by Albert Hammond. There are even entire compact discs dedicated to rain!

Regarding people who support weather modification being crazy, it must be remembered that when Marconi announced he could send sounds through the air, his family locked him in a mental hospital. Actually, he had invented the radio! And when the Wright Brothers said they would invent a machine that flies, they were rudely told that “If men were intended to fly, they would have wings, and therefore flying was against God’s intentions.”

Please, America needs to spend more money to gain weather modification technology before our enemies do. If a foreign power some day used massive storms against us, our only recourse might be nuclear weapons. I for one would like to avoid that.

A knowledgeable administrator said that weather modification has always been a desire. He added quickly though, that the liability from experiments has often been prohibitive.

While it is true that we can do considerably less with the weather than was hoped in the early years of modification, we can’t afford to give up. We must pursue the technology with all scientific resources possible.

The opinions and views expressed in this section are not necessarily those of the *Journal of Weather Modification* or the Weather Modification Association, articles are published here to express independent viewpoints toward stimulation and discussion among members of the scientific community.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN ADVANCING THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF WEATHER MODIFICATION

On the recommendation of an evaluation committee comprising world-known prominent scientists from Canada, China, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, and the United States, the UAE Prize for Excellence in Advancing the Science and Practice of Weather Modification was conferred on the following winners:

- The South African National Precipitation Research and Rainfall Enhancement Programme (Graeme Mather, Deon Terblanche, Francois Steffens, Lizelle Fletcher and Andre Gorgens), received the UAE Prize (\$200,000) for the design and execution of a successful weather modification experiment involving the revolutionizing concept based on hygroscopic nuclei injection and superb radar tracing software.
- Thomas J. Henderson (Atmospherics Incorporated, Fresno, California, USA) receives the UAE Prize (\$40,000) in recognition of pioneering work of advancing the field of Weather Modification for more than 40 years, for many years advancing the cause and improving the technical basis and execution of weather modification projects
- Bernard Silverman (Englewood, Colorado, USA) receives the UAE Prize (\$40,000) for many years of advancing and guiding the cause of weather modification and the assessment of rain enhancement projects.
- Magomet Abshaev , (High Mountain Geophysical Institute of ROSHYDROMET Nalchik, Russian Federation) with George Sulakvelidze, Ivan Burtzev, Lyudmila Fedchenko, Musabi Jekamuhov, Ali Abshaev, Boris Kuznetsov , Aminat Malkarova, Ahmat Terbuev, Pavel Nesmejanov , Ildar Shakirov and Georgy Shevela receive the UAE Prize (\$40,000) for research of hail processes covering the mechanism of hail formation and the hail suppression concept of beneficial competition, and for developing radar and rocket technology applicable to different hailstorms.
- The Chinese Institute of Weather Modification (of Academy of Meteorological Sciences, China Meteorological Administration, Beijing) receives the UAE Prize (\$20,000) for contributions to the rapid development of weather modification activities in China, for providing scientific guidance and for encouragement for further science based weather modification.
- Petjo Simeonov with Petar Konstantinov, Petko Boev , and Rangel Petrov (Cloud Physics and Weather Modification team of the National Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology with Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) receive the UAE Prize (\$20,000) for developing a very efficient fast acting seeding agent and in recognition of more than 35 years of well planned research in weather modification
- William L. Woodley with Daniel Rosenfeld (Woodley Weather Consultants, Littleton , Colorado , USA) receive the UAE Prize (\$20,000) for contributions to world-wide Weather Modification experiments and their advocacy of the aerosol pollution / precipitation link.
- Peter Hobbs with Arthur Rangno (Department of Atmospheric Science, University of Washington, Seattle, USA) receive the UAE Prize (\$20,000) in recognition of their conscientious application of physical principles to weather modification.

The prize was sponsored by the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, successor of the Department of Water Resources Studies, UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs which generously offered the Prize, which would stimulate international efforts for advancing the knowledge in the field important for satisfying the need for water under the increased shortage of fresh water in many regions of the world.

Congratulations to the award winners!