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Ken Foster [@Penn](#) doesn't agree with [@theNASciences](#) that MWs are most likely cause of ills at embassies in Cuba & China: "just not possible" he told [@NYTmag](#) last year, "You might as well say that little green men from Mars were throwing darts of energy"



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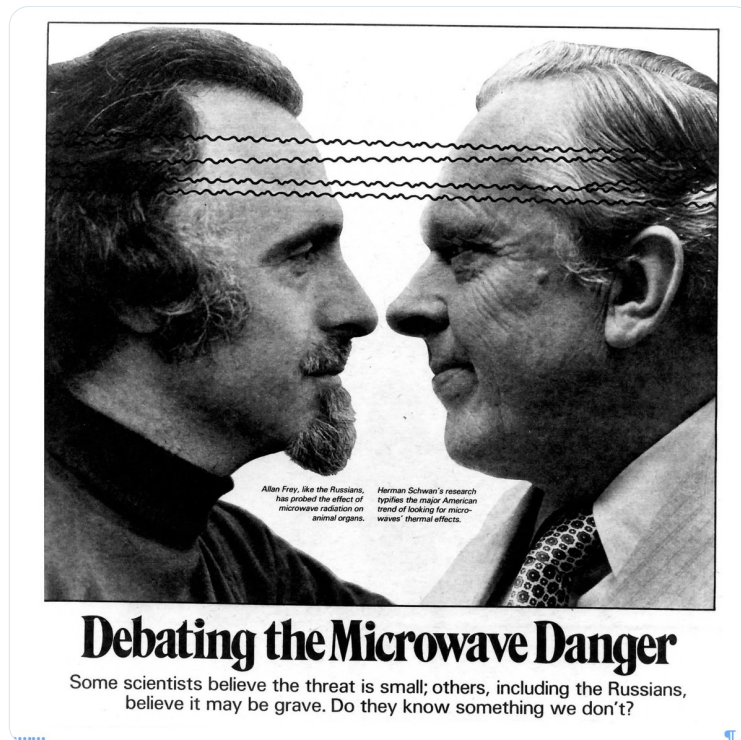
One theory for how the sounds reported by the diplomats might have been generated was that it involved something called the "Frey effect," named after Allan H. Frey, an American scientist who found that microwaves aimed at the head can cause a clicking sound. But according to Kenneth Foster, a professor of bioengineering at the University of Pennsylvania and an author of [a 1974 study](#) on the effect, the sound would be so soft that near silence would be needed for a person to detect it. "It is just a totally incredible explanation for what happened to these diplomats," he said. "It's just not possible. The idea that someone could beam huge amounts of microwave energy at people and not have it be obvious defies credibility. There's nothing behind it. You might as well say little green men from Mars were throwing darts of energy."

I checked in with Foster. He hasn't changed his mind. "The theory that the illnesses of the embassy staff were caused by microwaves never had any credible evidence going for it and the NAS report presents none either," he said. "Show me some and I am open to changing my mind"

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This same dispute over low-level MW effects has been raging for decades. Foster joined [@Penn](#) in 1976 to work with Herman Schwan, a bioengineer recruited from Nazi Germany. The following year, Allan Frey and Schwan faced off in an article in [@PhillyInquirer](#) Sunday Magazine.

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At the time, it was the U.S. embassy in Moscow that was being zapped. “THE MICROWAVE DANGER: What do the Russians know?” was the blurb on the cover of the September 18, 1977, [@PhillyInquirer](#) magazine.

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From the article:

Schwan and colleagues “deny adamantly the evidence of...microwave sickness.”

“Russian studies have been anecdotal in nature,” said Foster. Such evidence is “notoriously unreliable.” ...“It’s hard to separate [common anxieties] from the effects of microwaves.”

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Also [@PhillyInquirer](#):

“By suggesting that MWs might act in some strange insidious nonthermal fashion, Frey’s work initiated a whole new era of medical MW studies.”

“Where do we now stand?...Frey concludes that ‘due to the lack of data, we are left with a large question mark’.”

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Today, 43 years later, many of the same people are raising the same uncertainties. Research that might have offered some answers was never done.

We continue to be left with that “large question mark.”

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[.@DARPA](#) ran the super-secret Project Pandora to investigate possible low-level

microwave effects from the Moscow Signal. It was a bust. Many of those in charge believed in weak effects but at the same time the public was fed the thermal-only paradigm.

It continues today.

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Fun fact:

The author of that [@PhillyInquirer](#) magazine article was Ron Chernow, then a freelance science writer, who went on to become a Pulitzer Prize winning biographer and the inspiration for [@HamiltonMusical](#).

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