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THE INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR

The International Geophysical Year designates a program of cooperative research by more than 30 nations in some ten fields of geophysics. This international effort will occur during 1957-58, when intensive observations and measurements will be made simultaneously throughout the world. Studies at existing stations and observatories will be intensified; new stations will be established at critical sites, ranging from the North Polar regions to the Antarctic. Every major land and sea mass will be covered in this study, and the measurements will extend from oceanic depths to a hundred and more miles above the surface of the earth where rockets will carry instruments to determine directly the nature of the upper atmosphere.

The period of actual observations, as well as the stations which will be used, have been selected with the object of having a minimum program with maximum results. Since the sun is the key to many geophysical problems, especially those related to weather and telecommunications, the time set was based on the increased probability of occurrence of solar flares and other disturbances during 1957-58, a period of sunspot maximum.

The need for an international program in geophysics stems largely from the global nature of the phenomena. The weather in one place,