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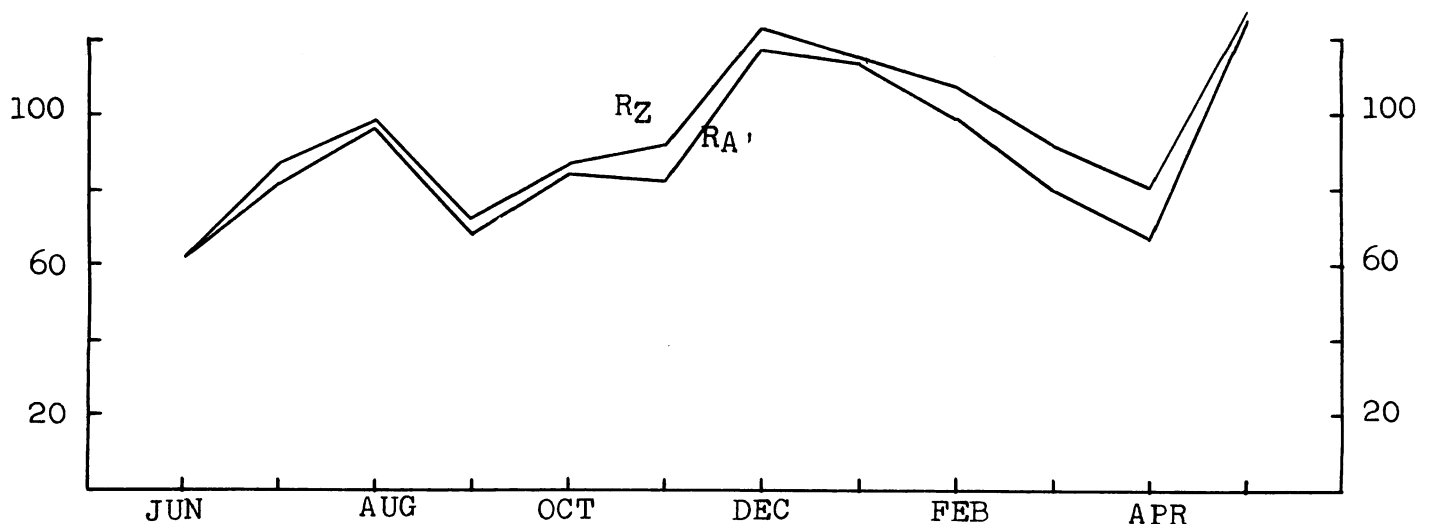
May 1968

SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING MAY

Despite the great increase in relative sunspot numbers, only three ionospheric disturbances were recorded by Solar Division observers during May. Disturbances on the 3rd and 4th were only of medium intensity although they were widely recorded with seven observers having good records of the event on the 4th. A reproduction of one of these recordings appears on page 2.

Sunspot activity increased markedly over the level of the previous month. The monthly mean of 124.3 for the American numbers was the highest mean so far for this cycle. The previous high was 117.2 in December 1967. Toward the end of the month three large groups were present each of which was easily visible to the unaided eye.

RECENT TREND OF RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS



AMERICAN (R_A') AND ZURICH (R_Z') RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS, MAY 1968

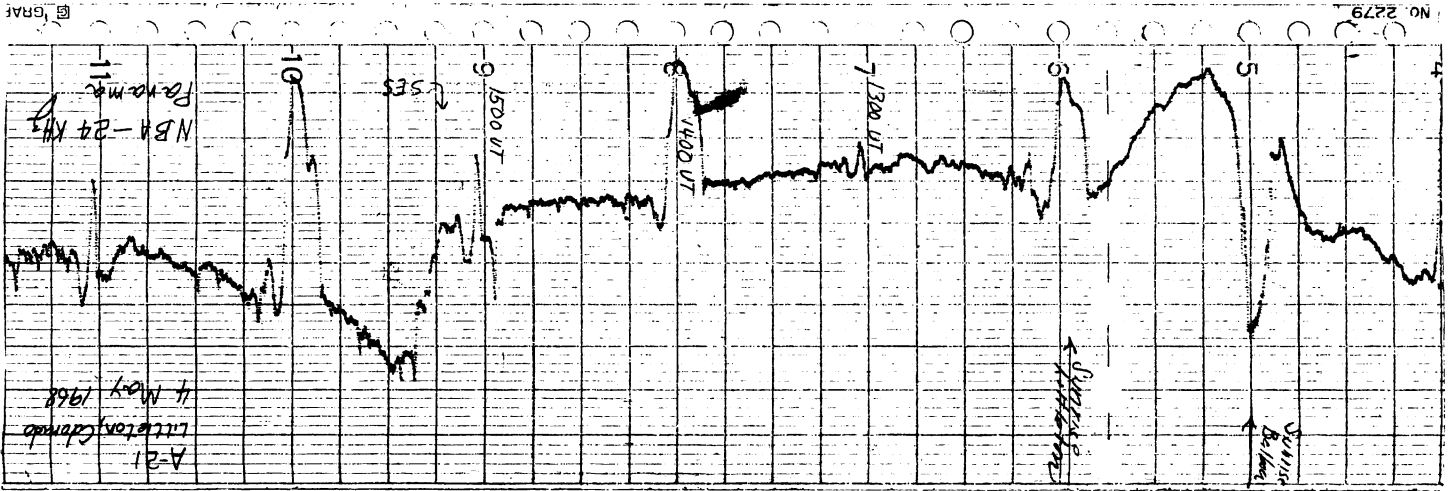
DAY	R _A '	R _Z '	DAY	R _A '	R _Z '
1	130	126	16	84	103
2	138	154	17	123	114
3	128	157	18	139	136
4	119	138	19	150	138
5	128	134	20	169	140
6	141	144	21	162	145
7	128	135	22	161	139
8	104	128	23	151	149
9	110	130	24	144	165
10	109	117	25	120	146
11	94	106	26	123	121
12	88	82	27	128	139
13	82	91	28	126	133
14	82	80	29	136	135
15	78	95	30	139	126
16			31	138	136

May mean R_A' = 124.3

May mean R_Z' = 128.5

SUDDEN IONOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES RECORDED DURING MAY

DAY	MAX.	SEA	DEF.	OBSERVERS	DAY	MAX.	SEA	DEF.	OBSERVERS
3	2130	2		A-22	4	(1515)	1+		A-6
3	2136		2+	A-18	4	1528		2	A-1
3	2130		2+	A-21	4	1523	1+		A-8
3	(2122)	2+		A-5	4	1530			A-19
4	1530		2+	A-18	4	1819	1		A-21
4	1528		3	A-21	24	1831			A-18
4	1520	1		A-22	24				A-22



Recording of a widely observed sudden ionospheric disturbance is shown above as it was recorded as an enhancement of the signal strength of very-low-frequency station NBA in Panama.