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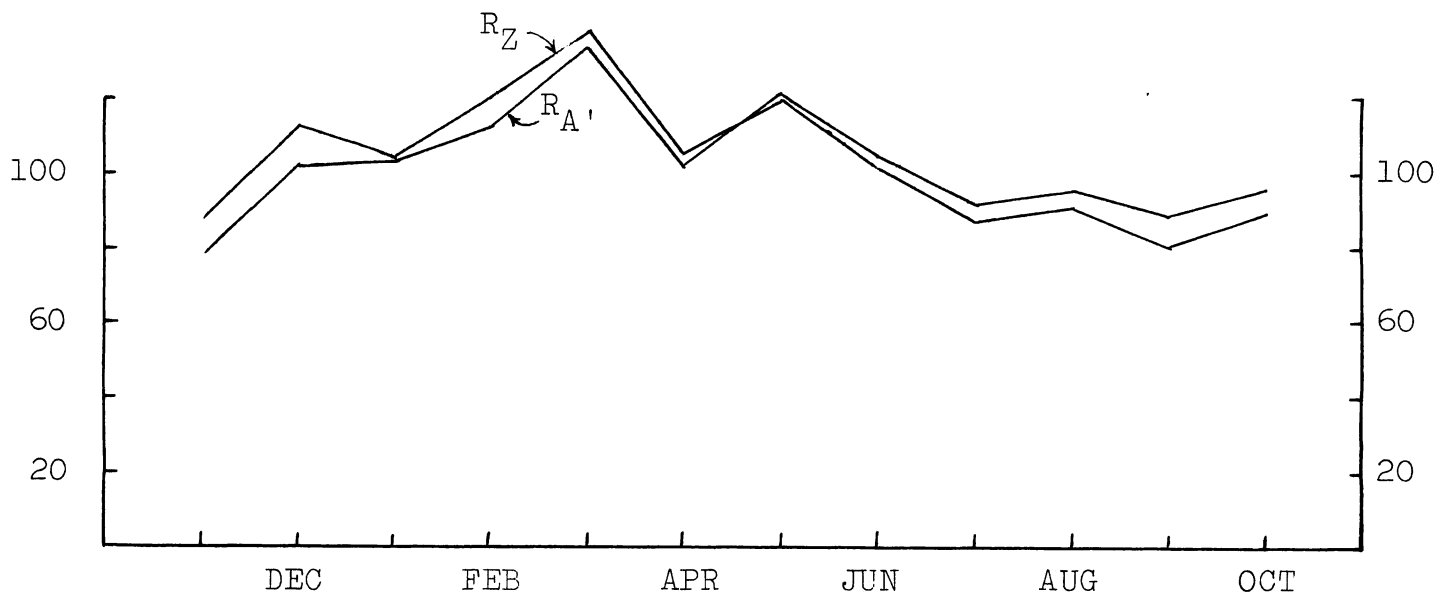
SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING OCTOBER

Anyone seeing the large sunspot group which made its first appearance at the east limb on the 19th would have expected such an outstanding group to produce numerous large flares. Despite its ominous appearance Solar Division observers of the indirect flare patrol group recorded only four ionospheric disturbances during its passage across the sun's disk. None of these were of above average intensity and only two were widely recorded. A recording of the event on the 26th is reproduced on page two. Here it can be seen that the enhancement of atmospheric noise associated with this disturbance was very modest. It is very unusual for such a spectacular group to produce so little activity.

Sunspot numbers were slightly higher in October. The mean of the American sunspot numbers rose to 96.4 from 88.9. Most of this higher mean is attributable to the one large group mentioned above. As can be seen, the numbers exceeded one hundred for nine days with the highest counts on the 26th when the group was on the central meridian and its numerous small spots easily visible.

A southern sunspot region that caused some problems concerning its group count crossed the central meridian on the 29th. This was actually three separate groups as became more evident by the 30th.

RECENT TREND OF RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS



AMERICAN (R_A) AND ZURICH (R_Z) RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS, OCTOBER 1969

day	R_A	R_Z	day	R_A	R_Z
1	107	84	16	43	43
2	117	101	17	23	38
3	113	98	18	40	43
4	106	92	19	39	35
5	118	103	20	72	87
6	125	117	21	84	102
7	121	120	22	113	107
8	125	92	23	123	124
9	96	89	24	138	133
10	91	78	25	153	137
11	70	68	26	161	142
12	63	60	27	130	138
13	62	47	28	123	121
14	71	55	29	129	113
15	48	46	30	101	95
			31	83	80

October mean R_A = 96.4

October mean R_Z = 89.9

SUDDEN IONOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES RECORDED DURING OCTOBER 1969

DAY	MAX.	SEA	SES	DEF.	OBSERVERS	DAY	MAX.	SEA	SES	DEF.	OBSERVERS
8	1636	1+	2	5	A-21,19,22,1,20	17	0920	2		4	A-17
9	2110		2	5	A-21,20	19	1725	1+	1+	5	A-21,22,19,1
10	2032		1	4	A-21,1	24	2119		1	4	A-21
10	2228		1	4	A-21	26	1637	2-		4	A-19,22,21,1
17	0715	1-		1	A-17	27	2104		2+	5	A-21

