SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING AUGUST

Sunspot numbers reached a low level during the first week. They rose to near 200 at the middle of August when active longitudes returned. The monthly mean of 134.5 was down somewhat from the previous month but still high enough to raise the 12-month smoothed mean to 153.6 for February.

The list of ionospheric disturbances for August was compiled from an analysis of most of the August recordings. The arrangement of the data is slightly different than previously. Following the day, the time of maximum is given in Universal Time. The next column (SES) rates the importance on a scale of three. It is based on the duration of the event. 1- lasts less than 20 minutes, 1+ is 20 to 30 minutes, 2 is 30 to 45 minutes. 2+ is 45 to 85 minutes, 3 is 85 to 125 minutes and 3+ exceeds 125 minutes in duration. August ended with an importance 3 event (90 minutes duration) on the 31st. Next is a column (FREQ) in which the number refers to the total number of different signal-source frequencies on which the event was recorded. Last are the observers who recorded the event. Many observers on several frequencies increase the definiteness of even tiny events to 5.

The most sensitive propagation path this month was 21.4 kHz over short distances. Examples are reproduced for the three most active days during which almost half of the 41 ionospheric disturbances of August occurred. By comparing the actual recording with the list above it is possible to get a better idea of how the disturbances are rated for importance and definiteness.
### American ($R_A$) and Zurich ($R_Z$) Relative

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### Mean

- $134.5$ (October)
- $135.0$ (November)

Please note that the above numbers are for two different months.