

I.G.Y. SOUNDS ALERT ON SOLAR ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON, July 7 (AP)—Sky observers were alerted today to an increase in solar activity.

International Geophysical Year participants were told the increased activity probably would be followed by magnetic, ionospheric, auroral and perhaps cosmic ray disturbances in the earth's atmosphere.

The I. G. Y. world warning center, operated by the National Bureau of Standards at Fort Belvoir, Va., declared a Special World Interval effective at 8 o'clock tonight.

During this twenty-four hour period, observers around the world will step up their data-gathering to try to gain better understanding of the solar eruption mechanism and its varied effects. These may include interference with radio communications.

The interval was declared after the center received reports of a Class III solar flare, the category of greatest intensity. Japan also reported significant radio noise from the sun.

This is the fourteenth Special World Interval declared since the I. G. Y. began on July 1, 1957. The eighteen-month period was chosen to coincide with a peak in the eleven-year cycle of solar activity. It has turned out to be the most intense in 200 years.