

SOUTHWEST CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

POST OFFICE BOX 30365
DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

(214) ADAMS 1-1471

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Al Mitchell, Director of
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PROF. FRANCIS S. JOHNSON NAMED CHIEF U.S. DELEGATE
TO FIRST GENERAL CONFERENCE ON 'ACTIVE SUN YEARS' (IASY)

Prof. Francis S. Johnson of the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, Dallas, has been appointed chief delegate and national representative of the United States for the first general conference on the International Years of the Active Sun (IASY).

The general conference will be held in London, at the Royal Society, late in January.

Professor Johnson was appointed by Dr. Herbert Friedman, who is chairman of the U. S. Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics. Doctor Friedman, who heads the Atmosphere and Astrophysics Division, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C., has also served as chairman of a recent study on space research planning at the national level, with Doctor Johnson as vice-chairman. The study was made for the National Academy of Sciences' Space Science Board.

Professor Johnson heads both the SCAS' Atmospheric and Space Sciences division and the Space Sciences Center, Institute of Technology, Southern Methodist University.

International Years of the Active Sun (IASY) is a world-wide research undertaking concerned with the period in which the Sun will have greater numbers of "storms" and "flares" -- throwing out more energetic particles that are a hazard to space flight. The active cycle is expected to cover 11 years, and is now beginning.

IASY is a successor to IQSY -- International Years of the Quiet Sun -- in which storms, flares and powerful radiation were less frequent, and research programs were shaped to fit those conditions.