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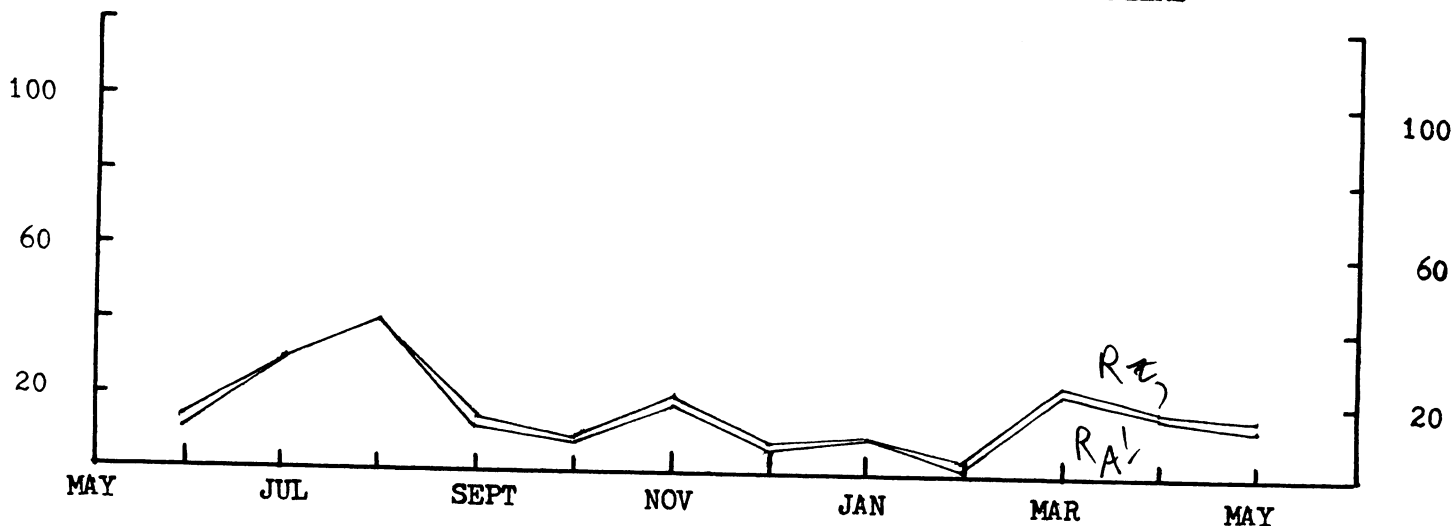
MAY 1976

## SUNSPOT ACTIVITY FOR MAY

Sunspot numbers continued their downward trend of recent months. The mean of the American sunspot numbers fell to 11.2 compared to 16.9 in April and 21.1 in March. There were six spotless days in May. The month began with a pair of entangled groups approaching the west limb. This interesting region had produced most of the ionospheric disturbances of April and continued to produce them the first few days of May thereby accounting for most of May's disturbances also. As this region rotated over the west limb a large spot appeared at the east limb to make its third passage across the visible disk, a rather rare occurrence for the present phase of the solar cycle. This spot was only 1° north of the equator and slowly drifted until it was right on the equator by the time it approached the west limb.

Fifteen indirect flare patrol observers sent May charts for analysis. Recordings of ionospheric disturbances on the second and fourth of May are reproduced on page two.

### RECENT TREND OF RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS



AMERICAN (R<sub>A</sub>) AND ZURICH

SUDDEN IONOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES RECORDED DURING MAY 1976

(R<sub>Z</sub>) RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS FOR MAY 1976

Day	Max.	SEA	SES	Def.	Observers
1	22:20		1+	4+	A19,31,34,37,40
2	20:41	1-	1+	5	A1,19,26,31,37
4	15:36		1+	4	A1,31
23	11:47		1	5	A29

DAY	R <sub>A</sub>	R <sub>Z</sub>
1.	30	35
2.	25	26
3.	23	25
4.	4	8
5.	8	23
6.	7	10
7.	8	10
8.	10	9
9.	9	8
10.	10	10
11.	20	16
12.	21	17
13.	20	23
14.	27	30
15.	15	17
16.	15	12
17.	20	18
18.	8	8
19.	16	20
20.	17	20
21.	10	14
22.	8	7
23.	8	15
24.	7	8
25.	0	0
26.	2	7
27.	0	0
28.	0	0
29.	0	0
30.	0	0
31.	0	0
Mean	11.2	12.7

Charts from the following observers were received and analyzed:

A-1,4,19,26,28,29,30,31,32,34,36,37,40,42,43

