

PHILIPPINES JOINS U. S. SOLAR ECLIPSE TEAM

The National Science Development Board has approved Fr. Francis Glover, S.J. of the Manila Observatory, to represent the Philippines on Canton Island. He will be a member of a scientific team sent out from the Laboratories of the National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado, to gather upper atmospheric data during the solar eclipse of February 4. (In Manila, the sun rises in partial eclipse February 5.) Fr. Glover flew from Manila on January 12 to Honolulu. The team and its equipment were flown directly from there to the mid-Pacific base of operations.

Canton Island is a coral atoll about 1800 miles southwest of Hawaii. It lies just south of the Equator and east of the Date Line. This position puts it directly in the path of near totality and proximity to the magnetic equator, an ideal spot from which to gather their specialized scientific data.

The sun during the eclipse time, will be almost directly overhead. This zenith position offers an excellent opportunity to check the ionizing influences responsible for the ionosphere and to note the changing effects brought about during the time of the eclipse.

The Manila Observatory has been engaged in ionosphere research in Baguio since 1952. During a similar noon-time solar eclipse in 1955, a very memorable and much discussed set of records were gathered there.

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