1. GENERAL REMARKS ON DESIRABILITY OF SOLAR RESEARCH IN THE PHILIPPINES

The earth is unique among the planets in its very special relationship to the sun. It is at the proper distance and has just the proper atmosphere, necessary for the support of human life and for shielding man from the disintegrating rays of the sun. Study of the sun and of its effects on the earth's atmosphere may be undertaken out of sheer curiosity and from a sense of wonder, but there have been few studies in any field of knowledge which have not eventually yielded very practical results, capable of changing the whole pattern of man's life. Study of the sun is already a handmaid of the study of the weather with its vast import for the economy of the world. Short wave radio communications and, now, space travel need a full knowledge of how the sun has been acting and how it will be likely to act.

The activity of the sun first has to be thoroughly known before the reason for the activity can be well given. Men can little afford to leave any clue not investigated, nor can a possible solar phenomenon be allowed to pass unnoticed. Unpredictable and remarkable solar phenomena will likely be recorded, which otherwise would escape detection. However, the majority of solar observatories are concentrated in relatively small areas of the world. The Philippines offers a location where the sun can be observed during daily intervals when most of the rest of the world observatories are in the shadow zone. Also seasonally, the time for best solar observation, the dry season in the Philippines, coincides with the season of winter storms in the United States and Europe. Because of the great expanse of the Pacific Ocean to the East, the early hours of the day, most advantageous from the point of view of the cloudless skies usual in the morning and of good "seeing", are also most desirable from the viewpoint of filling an observing gap. Japan, our nearest scientific neighbor, has long-lasting stretches of clouds, when the Philippines has clear weather. This is