MAGNETIC STORM SUDDEN COMMENCEMENTS AND SOLAR FLARE EFFECTS (PRELIMINARY REPORT ON RAPID MAGNETIC VARIATIONS)

March 2003

Storm Sudden Commencements (SSC)			Solar Flare Effects (sfe)		
Day	Time	Quality: Station Group*	Day	Begin-End	Station(s)
20	0444	B: SOD* NUR*	03	1513-1524	GUI
		C: BDV* EBR* HTY LIV*	11	1717-1740	GUI
			19	0947-1000	NGK BDV

REPORTING OBSERVATORIES (up to the 5th of May 2003):
SOD NUR NGK VAL BDV CLF HRB NAG GCK EBR SPT HTY GUI GNA CNB LIV

Three-letter codes identify each observatory. Reporting stations have been grouped by the character of the observed event. The letter A means very remarkable; B means fair, but unmistakable; C means very poor, doubtful; and - means no quality figure given. The * means that the SSC, at least in one component, was preceded by a small reversed impulse. SSCs are given only when five or more stations report the event. SFEs include all reports. If an SFE is confirmed by solar or ionospheric events, the name of the station is identified with a plus sign (+).

Note that we have included data of the Antartic Station LIVINGSTONE (62° 39' 44" S, 60°23' 41" W) -- Luis F.

Criterion on Provisional SSC data

From December 2002, we are giving as provisional SSC only the SSC reported by more than 4 observatories. This is a change with respect to the previous criterion according to which we used to give the SSC reported by more than 5 observatories. The change, pending IAGA confirmation, has been provisionally taken because of the decreasing number of reporting observatories in order to keep the homogeneity of the data. The idea is to keep the same minimum percentage of the observatories reporting an SSC, relative to the total number of reporting observatories, to be considered as a probable SSC.