

Boulder, Colorado

August 23, 1968

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASEGordon Newkirk Appointed NCAR Associate Director

Boulder, Colo.---Dr. Gordon A. Newkirk, Jr., has been named associate director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and director of the High Altitude Observatory of NCAR.

The appointment was made by the Board of Trustees of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) and was announced by Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, UCAR's president and chief executive officer. UCAR is the non-profit corporation of 24 U.S. universities that operates NCAR under sponsorship of the National Science Foundation.

Commenting on the appointment, Dr. John W. Firor, director of NCAR, said: "This appointment by the UCAR trustees expresses the confidence we all feel in Gordon Newkirk's ability to deal effectively with the challenges and demands of this position of leadership within NCAR. NCAR is fortunate to have among its directors this accomplished scientist, who is the world's leading authority on observations and structure of the white-light solar corona."

Dr. Newkirk joined the staff of the High Altitude Observatory in 1955, and became an NCAR staff member when the Observatory joined NCAR in 1961. He became a member of the teaching staff of the Department of Astro-Geophysics of the University of Colorado in 1956. Since 1961, he has served as a professor adjoint on the CU faculty, first in the Department of Astro-Geophysics, and since 1965 in the Department of Physics and Astrophysics.

Since January of this year, Dr. Newkirk has served as acting director of the High Altitude Observatory. As director of the Observatory, he succeeds Dr. Firor, who was appointed director of NCAR in May.

Dr. Newkirk's research interests include radio and optical measurements of the electron corona of the sun, scattering of sunlight in the earth's

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atmosphere, the influx of meteor particles into the earth's upper atmosphere, the relation of magnetic fields to the structure of the corona, and improvements in coronagraphs. Dr. Newkirk led the NCAR expedition that went to Pulacayo, Bolivia, to observe the 1966 solar eclipse. He is currently supervising the development of a satellite coronagraph to be flown on a manned mission in space as part of NASA's Apollo Applications Program.

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