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For Immediate Release

### Scientists from Other Nations Work with Hail Experiment

Grover, Colorado---Three atmospheric scientists who are working with the National Hail Research Experiment (NHRE) this summer are adding an international flavor to the project.

They are Dr. Yurig S. Sedunov, a Soviet hail suppression expert; Prof. Krzysztof Haman, of the University of Warsaw, Poland; and Dr. F. A. Berson, an atmospheric scientist from Australia.

Dr. Sedunov, who is interested in hail suppression and cloud physics research, is deputy director of the Institute of Applied Meteorology at Obrinsk, U.S.S.R. He will be here until mid-July on an exchange visit which will be returned later this summer by one of the NHRE scientists, Dr. John Marwitz of the University of Wyoming. Dr. Marwitz, who has been serving as an NHRE operations director this summer, will visit Obrinsk to learn more about the work that is being done by the Soviet meteorologists in cloud physics and hail suppression.

Professor Haman, of the University of Warsaw's Institute of Geophysics, is studying the growth processes of thunderstorm clouds. He will be working with the NHRE scientists until the middle of August.

Dr. Berson, who is on the staff of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Aspendale, Australia, is studying the large-scale weather conditions that influence the formation of hail in thunderstorms. He will be in the United States through next January.

The National Hail Research Experiment is a cooperative scientific field program designed to answer the question of whether or not man can modify hailstorms, knowledgably and systematically, to reduce their vast potential for destruction. The experiment is supported by the National Science Foundation and managed by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado. During the summer hail season, the experiment is directed from a field headquarters at Grover, Colorado.

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The hail researchers, who come from many universities, government research groups, and other organizations, have two goals: to gain an increased scientific knowledge of the physics and dynamics of hailstorms and to test the scientific feasibility of using cloud seeding as a tool to reduce crop damage from hail.

Radar and research aircraft are used to observe hailstorms that move into a large area centered roughly on the Pawnee National Grassland in northeastern Colorado. Cloud-seeding tests are designed to affect hailfall in a much smaller area, a square about 25 miles on each side. Within this area, located northwest of Sterling, Colorado, a network of precipitation gauges and other instruments is used to collect data on rainfall, hailfall, and other weather features.

Half of the storms that move toward this test area are seeded with silver iodide by aircraft, and the others are closely observed without being seeded. By comparing observations of seeded and unseeded hailstorms over a five-year period, the scientists hope to reach some positive conclusions about the feasibility of reducing hail damage by cloud seeding.

This summer's field work began May 1 and will end July 31. The northeastern Colorado area was chosen for the experiment because it is in the region of highest hailstorm frequency in the United States. But even in this hail-prone region, the number of storms that pass through the instrumented test area may be fairly small. According to the director of the hail experiment, Dr. William C. Swinbank of NCAR, as of June 19 cloud seeding had been done on only 5 days.

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