Controlling the climate: is weather a weapon?

(Continued from page 6) get the Defense Department to testify on its weather modification activities. The article goes on to specify some of these and then concludes by quoting a statement of warning by the distinguished climatologist Dr. Gordon J.F. MacDonald of UCLA that operationally, tidal waves, floods and droughts could be carried out secretly: "Such a secret war," Dr. MacDonald is quoted as saying, "would never be declared or even known by the affected population. It would go on for years with only the security forces involved being aware of it. The years of drought and storm would be attributed to untold natural and only after the nation was thoroughly drained would an armed takeover be attempted."

To summarize the comparison between the two articles we have all the veteran weapons systems analysts whose "hobby" is studying the weather, who tells us that natural weather will be destroyed—once presuming this leads to a prescription of weather modification to rig the situation and we have the eminent geophysicist and climatologist warning us that geophysical weapons systems are being developed that could produce long-term upsets in the climate. Another point made by Dr. MacDonald in his article—the destructive effect of the electromagnetic fields in the environment on human health and performance—is also relevant here. He said that weapons systems could be developed that would increase the intensity of the electromagnetic field oscillating in the spherical-shaped cavity between the Earth and the ionosphere specifically that this would "seriously impair brain performance to a very great extent, all actions in selected regions over an extended period." There are at least three kinds of studies of the effects of electromagnetic fields on animal and human biology: those dating back as far as 1933 in which the occurrences of solar-generated magnetic storms were successfully correlated with increases in the incidence of such things as deaths from myocardial infarction, mental hospital admission, and automobile accidents; those of clinical symptoms in people occupationally exposed to electromagnetic fields—these, oddly enough, are preponderantly Russian—and those recording the responses of animals and human experimentally exposed to electromagnetic fields—two principal findings of which are that such exposures induce hyperactivity and impair conditioned reflexes and would therefore be of interest to the behavioral scientist as well as to the climatologist."

Possibly related to the issue of lightning generation raised by Dr. MacDonald as means of intensifying environmental fields is a 1969 article by F.G. Hirsch et al. on the psychophysiological effects of high-density pulsed electromagnetic energy, in which it is described an immense electromagnetic pulse generator—a van de Graaff generator charge an underground bank of capacitors which discharge from an array of metal wires to a layer (Please turn to page 12)