

# UA's Grant to Allow Study of Northern Lights

The University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute has received a \$24,434 grant to install and operate instruments aboard a research plane that will record observations of the aurora borealis.

The grant was provided by the National Aeronautical Space Administration. The plane is a Convair 990 jet, owned by NASA and based at Moffet Field in California.

The observations to be made by Institute personnel will provide information on the way the brightness of the light coming from atomic oxygen and molecular nitrogen emissions in the aurora changes with altitude.

These observations, according to Professors W. B. Murcray and Gerald Romick of the Institute staff, are important in studies of electrons coming into the atmosphere at altitudes above 60 miles.

The research plane will be used in a series of flights out of Ft. Churchill, Canada that will follow two kinds of paths: one along the general direction of the aurora from Ft. Churchill to Fairbanks and back and the other in a north-south direction from south of Ft. Churchill to the magnetic pole.