

Scientists Urge Major Effort To Find Civilizations in Space

WASHINGTON (AP) — An international group of scientists is calling for a major effort to find possible civilizations in space by listening for their radio signals.

In a letter to be published Friday in Science magazine, the scientists say the debate over whether there is other intelligent life has gone on for decades and will continue to go unresolved without such an effort.

The scientists, representing many disciplines and countries, say their opinions are divided on a

number of questions concerning other civilizations in space.

"But we are unanimous in our conviction that the only significant test of the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence is an experimental one," said the letter authored by Dr. Carl Sagan, the astronomer and author from Cornell University.

Others signing the letter, some Nobel Prize winners, include astronomers, engineers, biologists, physicians, philosophers and computer experts.

"Using current radio-astronomical technology, it is possible for us to receive signals from civilizations no more advanced than we are over a distance of at least many thousands of light years," said the letter.

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cr: Joe Zarzynski