

DELLA

The third in a succession of tropical cyclones developing during October, Della formed in the monsoon trough south of Guam while Carmen weakened in the South China Sea on the 19th. Two days later, the circulation intensified to tropical storm strength approximately 250 nm east of Samar Island (Figure 4-24).

The subtropical ridge north of Della eroded quickly on the 21st as a major short wave in the westerlies approached from China. Della was drawn up into the weakness as the storm shifted to a northwest and later a north-northwest track. While winds about the center reached typhoon force, the short wave trough bypassed the meridian of Della late on the 22nd. With passage of the trough, a strong mass of high pressure advanced into southeast China and blocked further poleward movement of Della. The typhoon responded by turning sharply westward.

Navigating the Luzon straits during the 23rd, Della's center shifted southwestward and skirted the Luzon coast near Cape Bojeador. During this period, strong gusty winds swept the northern Luzon coastline. Aparri measured a gust to 85 knots from the

south after center passage, while Laoag reported southwesterly winds gusting to 56 knots. Vigan, on the west coast, received the heaviest 24-hour rainfall (3.1 inches). Only slight damage occurred in the Philippines due to the center avoiding landfall.

Charting a westward course across the South China Sea as a relatively small typhoon, Della intensified steadily. A Japanese ship the YAMAMIZU MARU encountered winds of 60 knots southeast of the center on the 24th (0600Z) while the Israeli ship NURITH reported 60 knot winds as it crossed west of Della's eye 12 hours later (24/1800Z). Aircraft reconnaissance of Della on the 25th (0456Z) measured a central pressure of 958 mb (lowest recorded during the storm's life) within a tight eye 15 nm in diameter (Figure 4-25).

Intensity estimates from satellite data suggested that Della weakened slightly before landfall on Hainan Island on the 26th. Emerging into and crossing the Gulf of Tonkin, the storm never regained its former intensity. Following coastal crossing of North Vietnam early on the 27th, the circulation weakened and subsequently disappeared from synoptic analyses.



FIGURE 4-24. Della achieving tropical storm strength in the Philippine Sea 210 nm east of Samar Island, 21 October 1974, 0023Z. (DMSP imagery)

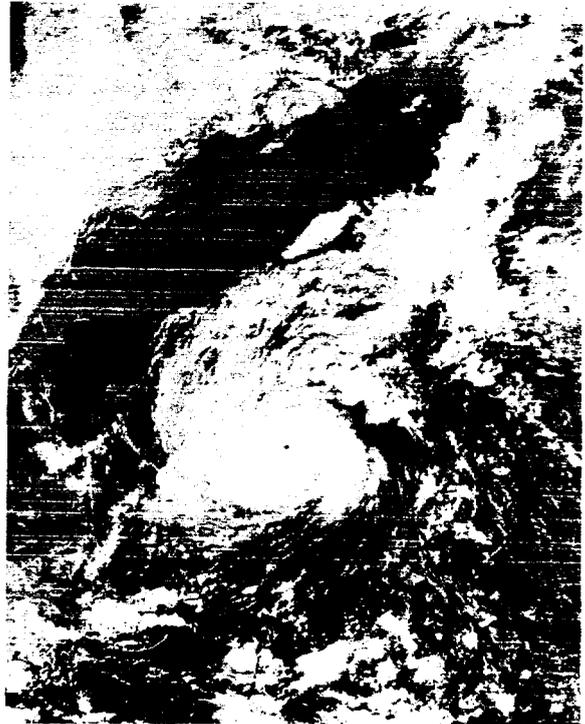


FIGURE 4-25. Typhoon Della near peak intensity in the South China Sea 280 nm south of Hong Kong, 25 October 1974, 0052Z. (DMSP imagery)