

TROPICAL STORM RUTH (03W)

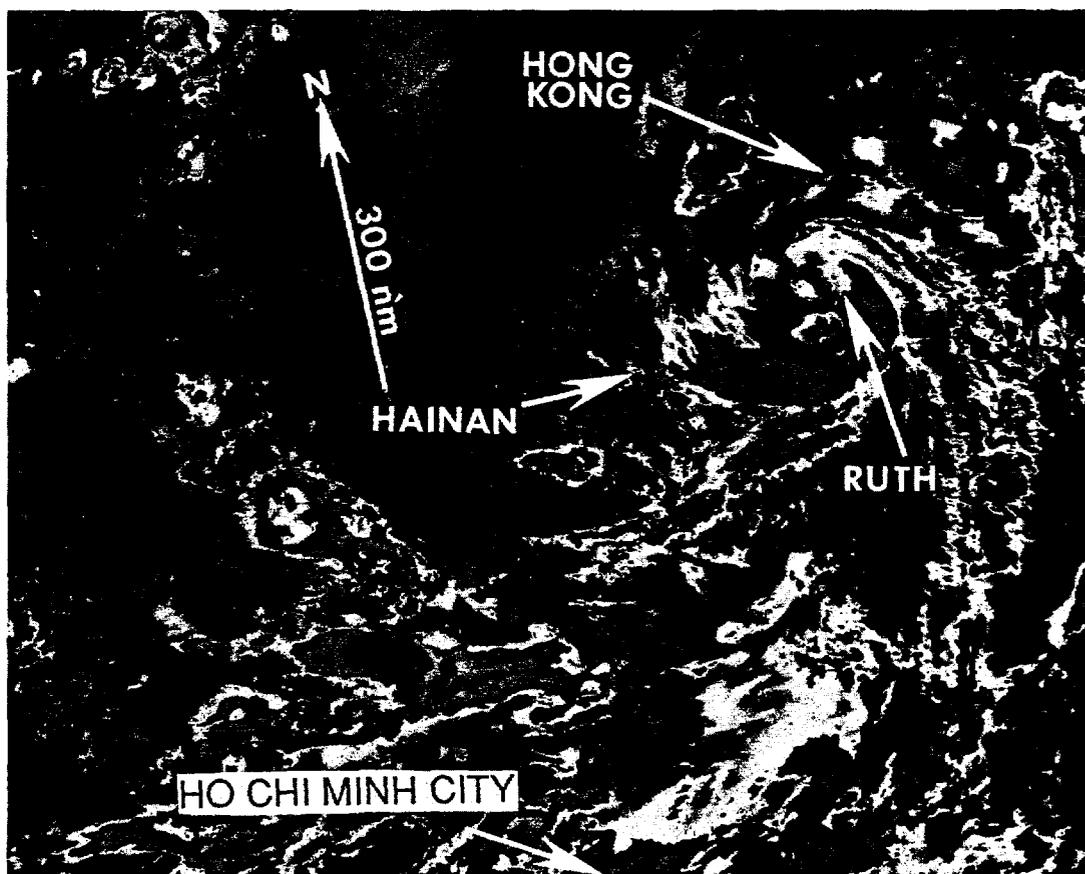


Figure 3-03-1. Tropical Storm Ruth was a short-lived tropical cyclone. Only six warnings were issued on the system before it moved inland and dissipated over southern China. It began as a monsoon depression 240 nm (444 km) southeast of Hong Kong over the South China Sea. Early on 17 June, convection consolidated into convective bands prompting its mention on the Significant Tropical Weather Advisory (ABPW PGTW) at 0600Z as having good potential for development. As a result, JTWC issued a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert, valid at the same time, because satellite imagery indicated upper-level anticyclonic outflow was becoming established. JTWC issued the first warning on Tropical Depression 03W at 180000Z, after synoptic reports indicated surface pressures in the area had dropped significantly overnight from 1001 mb to 995 mb. The initial forecast tracks indicated the system would move northwestward, but subsequent forecasts gradually shifted the track further west as the subtropical ridge east of Ruth began ridging slowly westward across southern China. The system was upgraded to tropical storm intensity at 181800Z based upon a Dvorak intensity estimate of 35 kt (18 m/sec) maximum sustained surface winds associated with convective bands which were wrapped halfway around the center (see image above). Ruth was downgraded to a tropical depression on the fifth warning as it interacted with the southern coast of China. Hong Kong (WMO 45005) radar reports were excellent and proved instrumental in accurately tracking this tropical cyclone for a day before it made landfall. Ruth dissipated within eighteen hours of moving inland, causing little damage and no known deaths (181138Z June DMSP infrared imagery).