TYPHOON LINDA (30W)

The tropical disturbance that would become Typhoon Linda (30W) formed within an area of convection east of the Philippine Islands near 10N 130E on 26 October. The disturbance was mentioned in the Significant Tropical Weather Advisory (ABPW) as it tracked westward over the next several days under the subtropical ridge to the north. Convection began to increase over the disturbance as it entered the Sulu Sea on 30 October. At 0730Z on the 31st, a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) was issued as deep convection continued to organize about the disturbance's center. The first warning on Tropical Depression (TD) 30W was issued approximately 12 hours later.

The newly formed tropical cyclone reached tropical storm intensity within 24 hours as it tracked over the South China Sea. At this point, Tropical Storm Linda (30W) accelerated westward toward the southern tip of Vietnam. It tracked over the Vietnamese province of Ca Mau at 0900Z on 02 November with an intensity of 55 kt (28 m/sec).

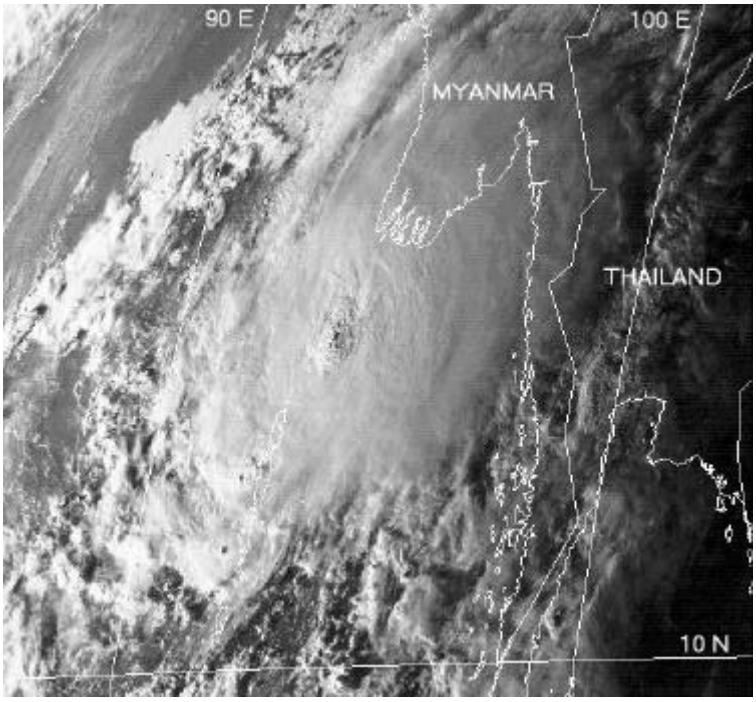


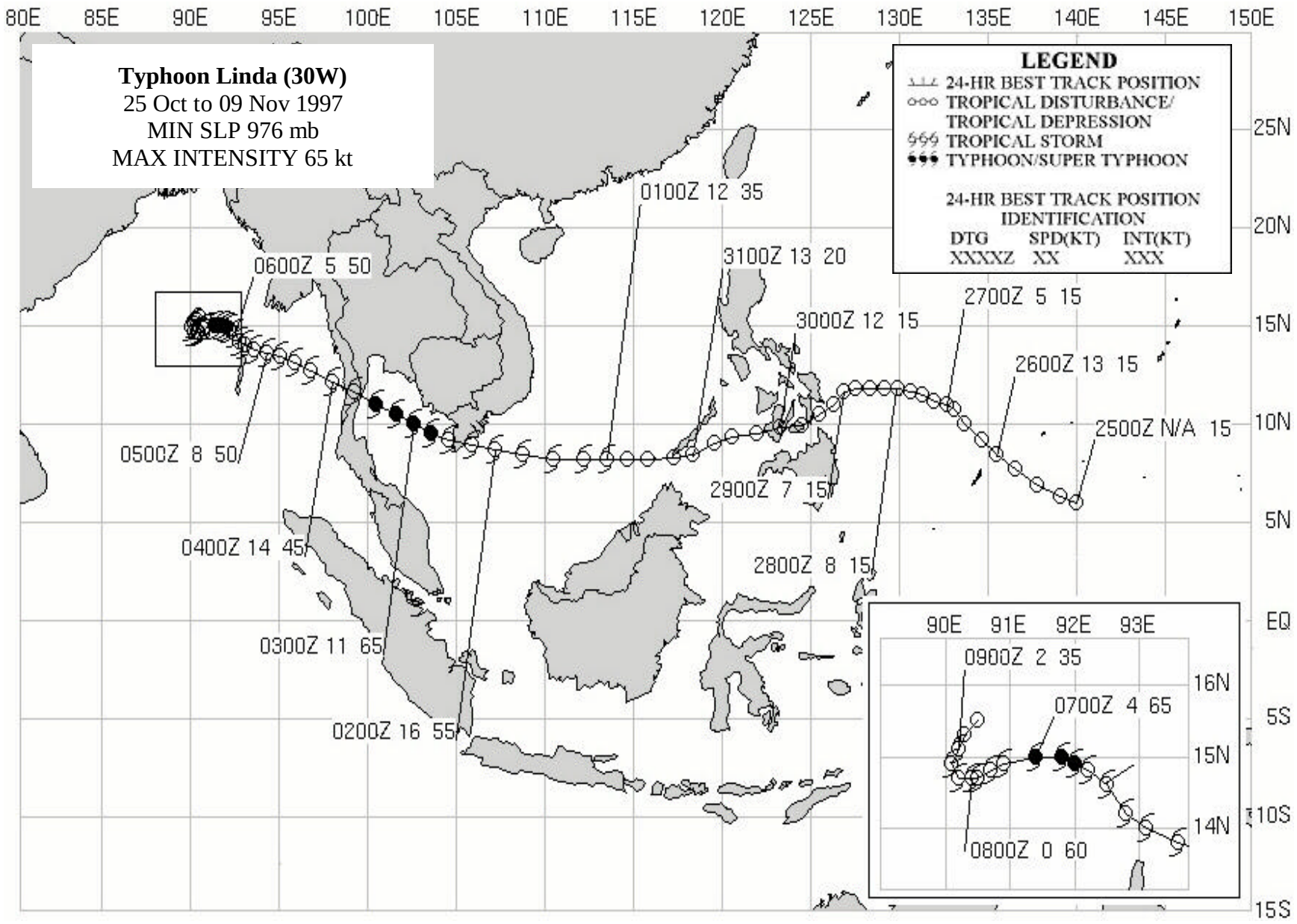
Figure 3-30-1 Typhoon Linda (30W) re-intensifying over the Andaman Sea after crossing the Malay Peninsula (051025Z November visible GMS imagery).

Linda reached typhoon intensity shortly after entering the Gulf of Thailand. The cyclone turned northwestward following steering from the subtropical ridge. The system weakened slightly to 55 kt (28 m/sec) prior to striking the Malay Peninsula at 1600Z on 03 November. Crossing the Malay Peninsula, Linda further weakened as it encountered the region's 3000 ft (914 m) to 5000 ft (1524 m) mountains. However, once over the warm waters of the Andaman Sea, the system began to reconsolidate. This was the first tropical cyclone since Typhoon Forrest (30W) in 1992 to cross from the Western North Pacific to the North Indian Ocean.

Soon after moving into the Andaman Sea, a weakness in the subtropical ridge began to develop to the north, causing Linda's forward speed to slow. Over open water once again, Linda reintensified and became a typhoon once again at 0000Z on the 6th. This was short-lived, however, as interaction with a mid-latitude trough began to introduce vertical wind shear. Linda stalled in the Bay of Bengal within an area of weak steering located between the subtropical

ridge axis at 500 mb and sub-tropical ridge axis at 200 mb. Upper level vertical wind shear continued across the system center, allowing slow weakening of the system for several days. By 10 November, Linda had dissipated.

Linda produced considerable damage and loss of life in Vietnam and Thailand. Vietnam's Ca Mau province, located to the northern side of Linda's passage, reported significant damage. Newspaper reports as late as 08 November indicated that at least 330 people were killed in Vietnam and Thailand with approximately 2250 people still missing. Many of the missing were Vietnamese fisherman or sailors caught at sea in the path of the tropical cyclone.


Typhoon Linda (30W)
25 Oct to 09 Nov 1997
MIN SLP 976 mb
MAX INTENSITY 65 kt
LEGEND
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE/ TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL STORM
TYPHOON/SUPER TYPHOON
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION IDENTIFICATION
DTG SPD(KT) INT(KT)
XXXXZ XX XXX
0600Z 5 50
0500Z 8 50
0400Z 14 45
0300Z 11 65
0200Z 16 55
0100Z 12 35
3100Z 13 20
3000Z 12 15
2900Z 7 15
2800Z 8 15
2700Z 5 15
2600Z 13 15
2500Z N/A 15
0900Z 2 35
0700Z 4 65
0800Z 0 60
80E 85E 90E 95E 100E 105E 110E 115E 120E 125E 130E 135E 140E 145E 150E
25N 20N 15N 10N 5N EQ 5S 10S 15S
90E 91E 92E 93E
16N 15N 14N