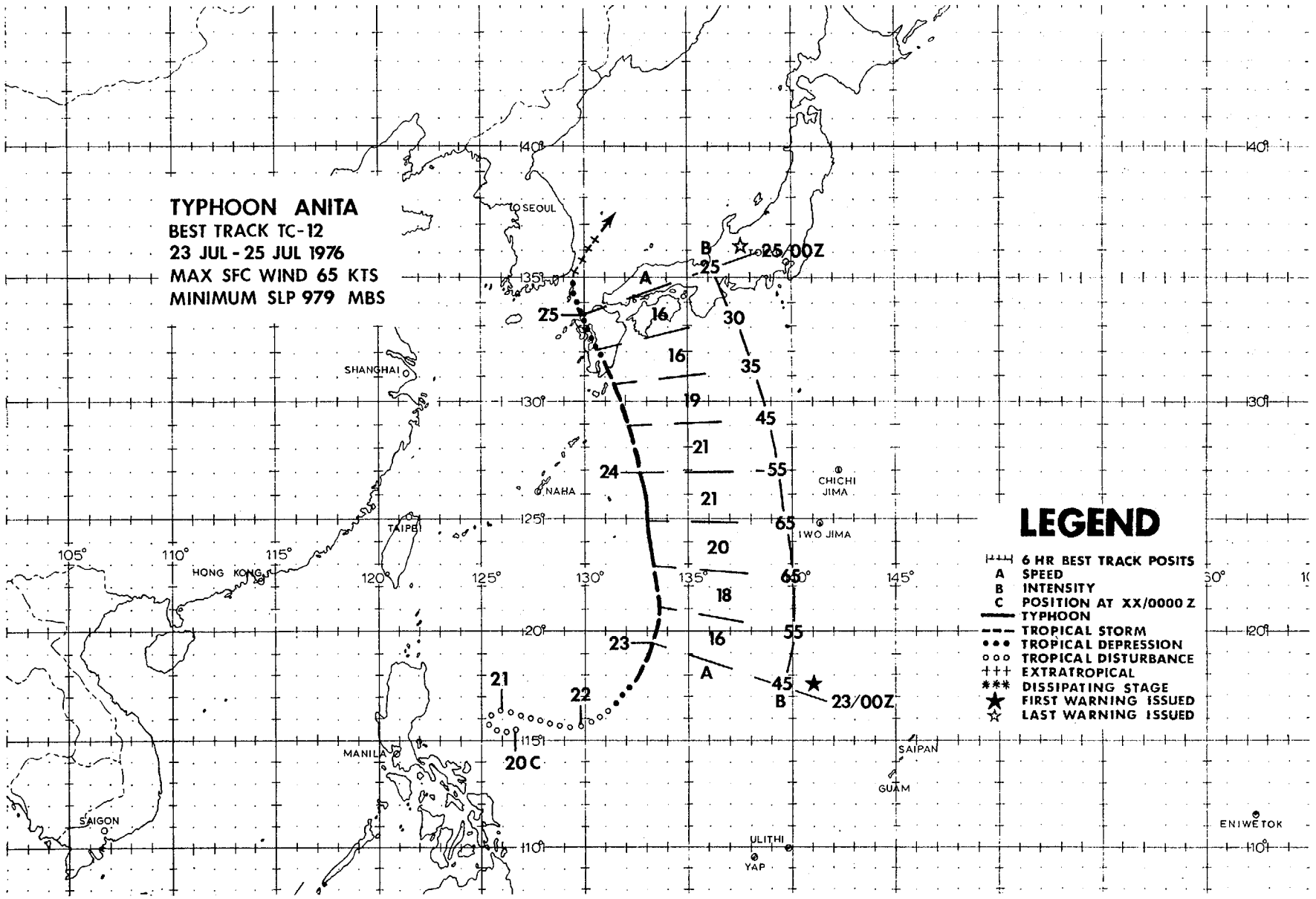
TYPHOON ANITA
BEST TRACK TC-12
23 JUL - 25 JUL 1976
MAX SFC WIND 65 KTS
MINIMUM SLP 979 MBS
SEOUL
SHANGHAI
NAHA
TAIPEI
HONG KONG
MANILA
SAIGON
CHICHI JIMA
IWO JIMA
SAIPAN
GUAM
ULITHI
YAP
ENIWETOK
25/00Z
23/00Z
20 C
LEGEND
6 HR BEST TRACK POSITS
A SPEED
B INTENSITY
C POSITION AT XX/0000 Z
TYPHOON
TROPICAL STORM
TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
EXTRATROPICAL
DISSIPATING STAGE
FIRST WARNING ISSUED
LAST WARNING ISSUED

Anita had its inception in mid-July within the monsoon trough which was enhanced by cross equatorial flow at low levels. Three distinct surface circulation centers were evident on the 20th: one in the South China Sea which developed into Tropical Storm Violet; and two in the Philippine Sea which eventually became Tropical Storm Wilda and Typhoon Anita.

As early as the 18th, the weak circulation, which eventually developed into Anita, was tracked by satellite. Initially the disturbance moved slowly westward along the southern edge of the mid-tropospheric subtropical ridge, but by the 20th a break had developed in the ridge near 135E and extended northward to Japan. At the same time, a high pressure center was building northwestward from its center location over Mindanao, forcing a wedge between the disturbance located in the South China Sea and those in the Philippine Sea. In response to this ridging, the disturbance which would become Anita reversed course on the 21st and began to head eastward.

The synoptic pattern at the 200 mb level from the 18th through the 20th found the Tropical Upper Tropospheric Trough (TUTT) positioned just north of the disturbances in the Philippine Sea. The flow around the trough initially suppressed the upper level outflow from the disturbances, however, by the 21st the trough began to recede northward, relieving the pressure. Midway through the 21st, a cyclonic cell within the TUTT moved into a position favorable to enhance the outflow of the disturbance which became Wilda, and duplicated this mechanism 24 hours later for Anita. On the 22nd, Wilda and Anita were developing simultaneously. They attained tropical depression characteristics at 0600Z and 1200Z, respectively. By 1200Z Wilda had accelerated northward along the western side of the subtropical ridge, allowing Anita to develop independently at an accelerated pace. By 1800Z Anita had attained tropical storm intensity, and began to move through the weakness left by Wilda.

As Anita continued to intensify, the size of the storm remained relatively small. Aircraft reconnaissance on the 23rd found only a narrow band of strong winds near the storm center. As Anita progressed northward through the weakness, it continued to intensify, reaching a peak of 65 kt and a minimum sea level pressure near 979 mb at 1200Z on the 23rd. The NOAA-4 satellite picture at 1207Z on the 23rd (Fig. 4-25) caught Anita at its peak intensity with a ragged eye discernible between two interlocking convective bands.

About the time Anita attained typhoon intensity, it also began to accelerate northward on a path similar to that taken by Wilda. With this acceleration, Anita was again thrust under the influence of unidirectional shearing. This suppressed Anita's outflow and contributed to loss of vertical stacking. The shear persisted for the duration of Anita's life, forcing the system to weaken almost as fast as it had developed. Anita's typhoon intensity lasted only 12 hours. Satellite data at 2214Z on the 23rd indicated that the storm had lost most of its hard core convection (Fig. 4-26). Thus, Anita was downgraded to a tropical storm at 0000Z on the 24th. As the system sped northward at 20 kt, it continued to weaken crossing western Kyushu late on the 24th with minimal tropical storm intensity. On the 25th, the remains of Anita entered the Sea of Japan and became extratropical at 0600Z while moving northward at 14 kt.

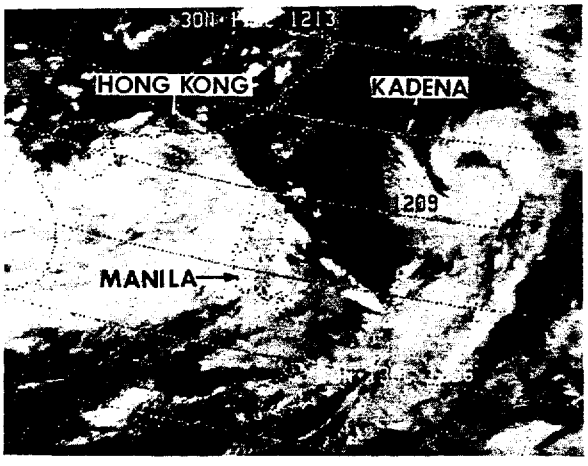

FIGURE 4-25. *Inverted infrared photograph of Typhoon Anita (right) at peak intensity 360 nm southeast of Kadena AB, Okinawa. At left Tropical Storm Violet approaches the China coast, 23 July 1976, 1209Z. (NOAA-4 imagery)*

FIGURE 4-26. *Anita at 60 kt intensity 270 nm east of Kadena AB, Okinawa, 23 July 1976, 2214Z. (DMSP imagery)*