

TYPHOON IRA (30W)

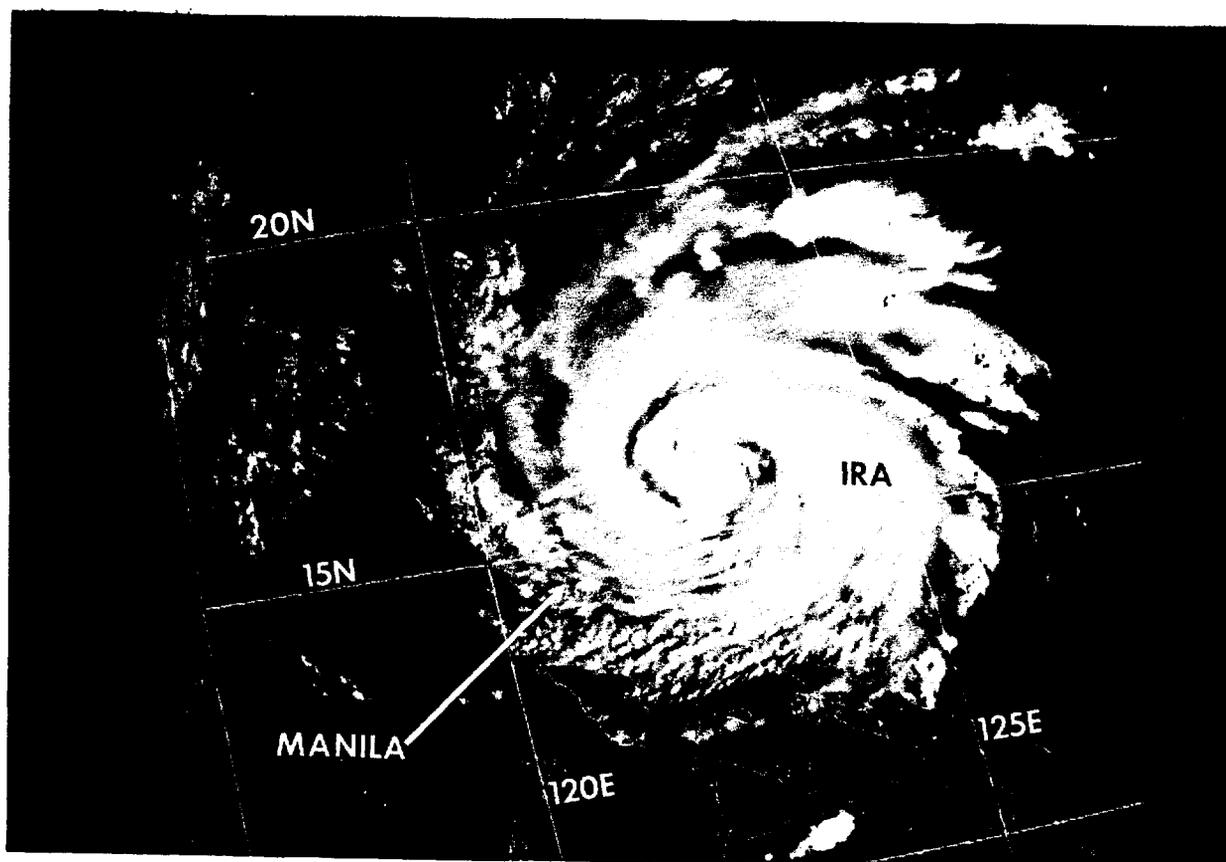


Figure 3-30-1 Typhoon Ira shortly before making landfall in Luzon with maximum sustained winds estimated at 110 kt (57 m/sec) (010121Z November visible DMSP imagery).

I. HIGHLIGHTS

The final tropical cyclone to form during October, Ira, passed directly over Luzon at typhoon intensity and followed a westward track (Figure 3-30-1). Upon entering the South China Sea, a weaker Ira turned toward southern China and made landfall three days later southwest of Hong Kong.

II. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

October

250600Z - An area of persistent convection associated with a weak cyclonic circulation within the monsoon trough, north of the Caroline Islands, resulted in the initial identification of the disturbance in the Significant Tropical Weather Advisory.

271200Z - A Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert was issued based on an increase in convection and convective curvature, evident in both infrared satellite imagery and on the NEXRAD Doppler Radar located on Guam.

271800Z - The basis of the first warning was a satellite intensity estimate of 25 kt (13 m/sec) and Doppler radar velocity information which indicated winds ranging from 22-30 kt (11-15 m/sec) at altitudes of 1500 to 16,000 feet (460 to 4900 meters) above sea level.

281200Z - Based on a satellite intensity estimate of 35 kt (18 m/sec), Ira was upgraded to a tropical storm.

300000Z - Ira was upgraded to a typhoon based on a satellite intensity estimate of 77 kt (40m/sec).

November

050000Z - The final warning was issued after the system made landfall in southern China where it rapidly dissipated.

III. IMPACT

News reports attributed eight deaths in the Philippines to Typhoon Ira's trek across central Luzon. In addition, heavy rains associated with the typhoon also caused extensive flooding in low-lying areas of Luzon.