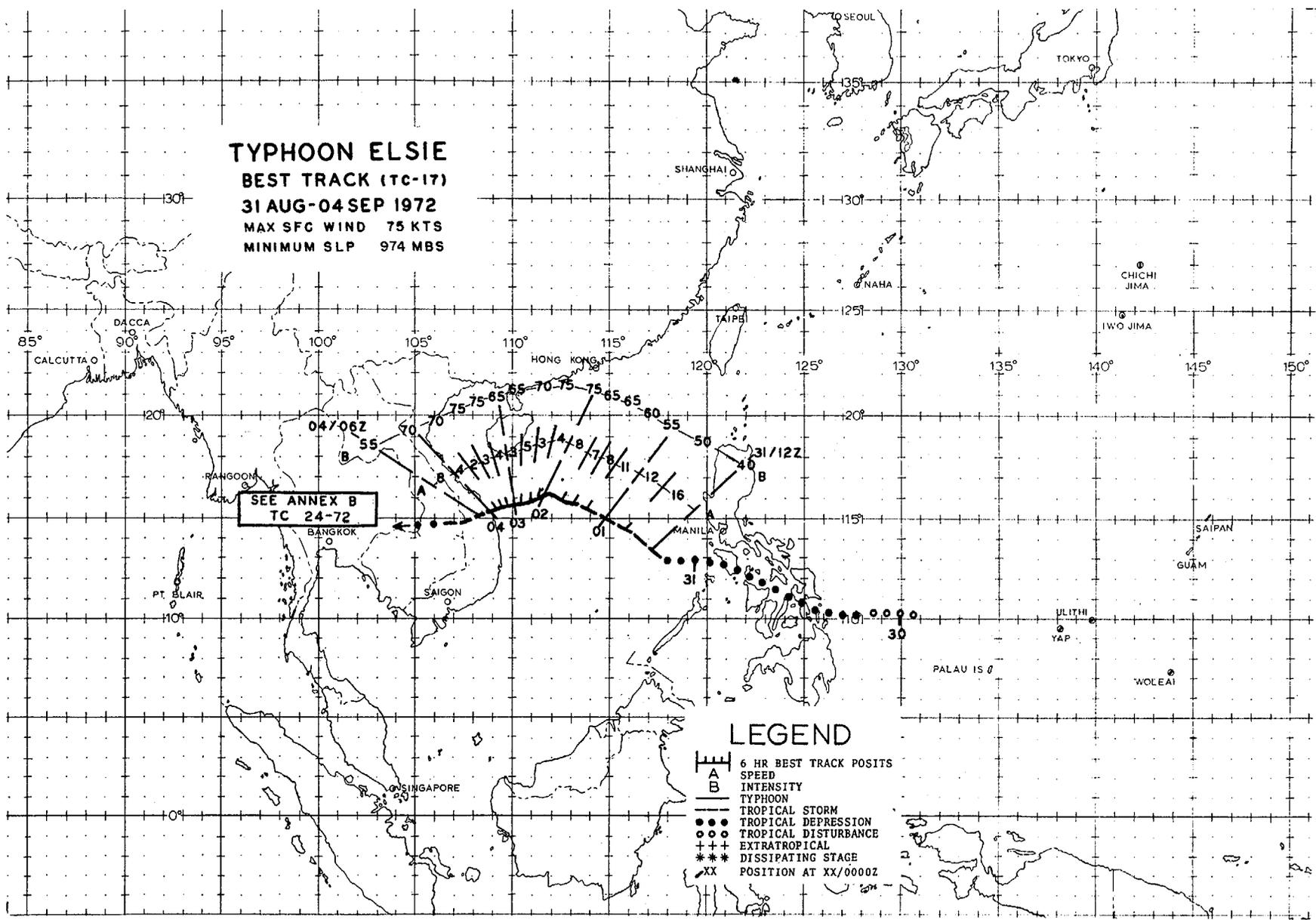


TYPHOON ELSIE
BEST TRACK (TC-17)
31 AUG-04 SEP 1972
MAX SFC WIND 75 KTS
MINIMUM SLP 974 MBS



LEGEND

- 6 HR BEST TRACK POSITS
- A SPEED
- B INTENSITY
- TYPHOON
- TROPICAL STORM
- TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
- +++ EXTRATROPICAL
- *** DISSIPATING STAGE
- XX POSITION AT XX/0000Z

ELSIE

The fourth typhoon of the month, Elsie, was first spotted by satellite as a disturbance east of Leyte Gulf on 29 August. After crossing the central Philippines as a depression, Elsie entered the South China Sea west of Mindoro on the 31st. Tropical-storm force was achieved later that day. By 1 September Elsie began to slow, apparently due to a slow-moving trough over China.

Elsie reached typhoon force near the Paracel Islands, then shifted to a southwest track as heights began to build in southern China. Moving slowly across the South China Sea toward the Vietnam coast, Elsie required two days to travel 160 nm

(Figure 4-20). As her center passed Quang Ngai, a minimum sea level pressure of 991 mb was registered and peak gusts of 60 kt were reported.

Elsie weakened rapidly as she moved into Thailand but maintained her identity across the Indo-China peninsula, redeveloping to typhoon strength in the Bay of Bengal (see Annex B). Elsie was only the second tropical cyclone in September to reach severe storm intensity (>47 kt) in the Bay of Bengal since 1943. During her passage over Thailand, Elsie caused three days of heavy rains, flooding many parts of the country.

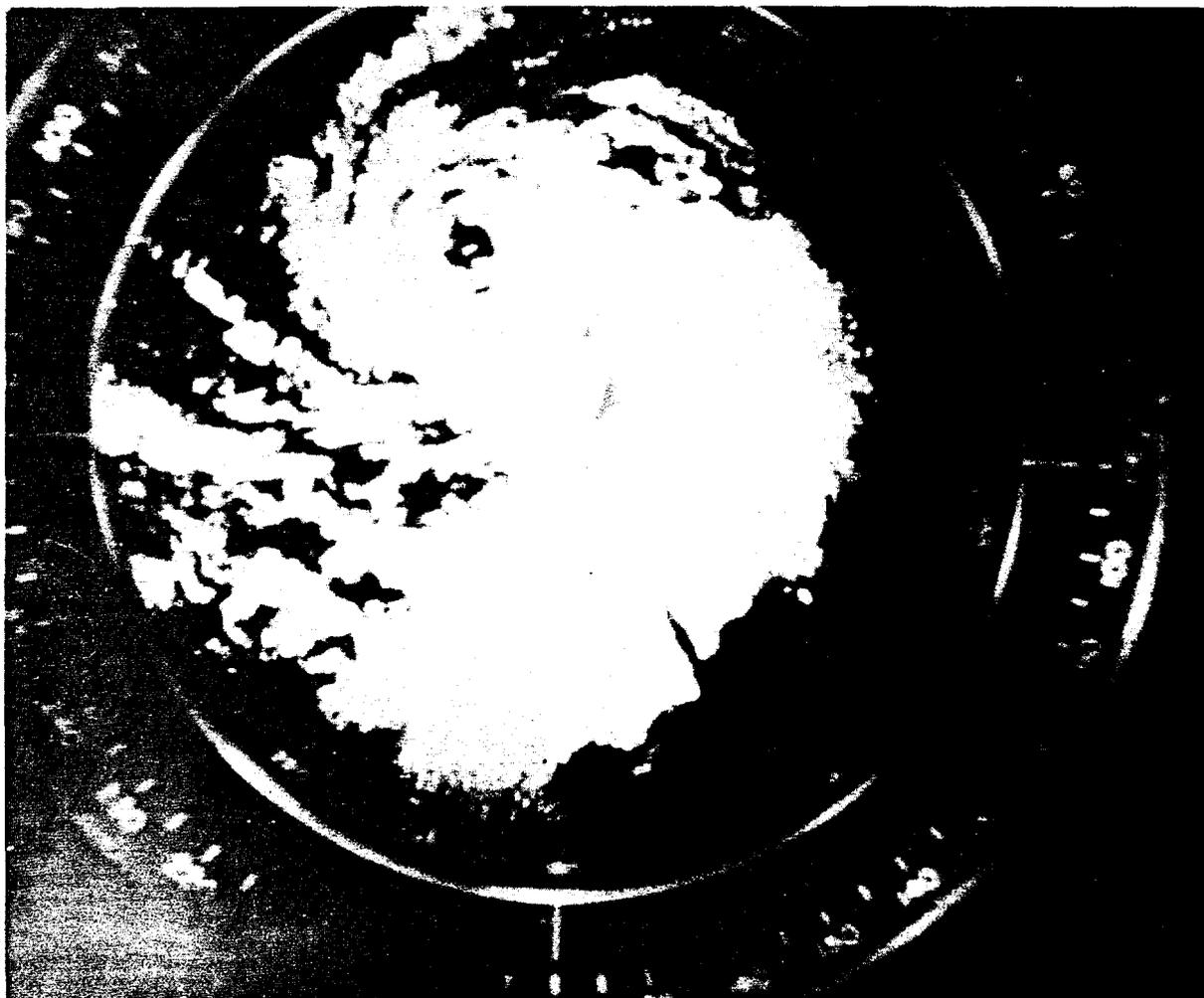


FIGURE 4-20. *Radarscope presentation (AN/SPS-30, range 150 nm) of Elsie taken aboard USS KITTY HAWK while the typhoon was centered 130 nm south of Hainan Island, 2 September 1972, 1720 GMT. Blip in eye is return from weather reconnaissance aircraft.*