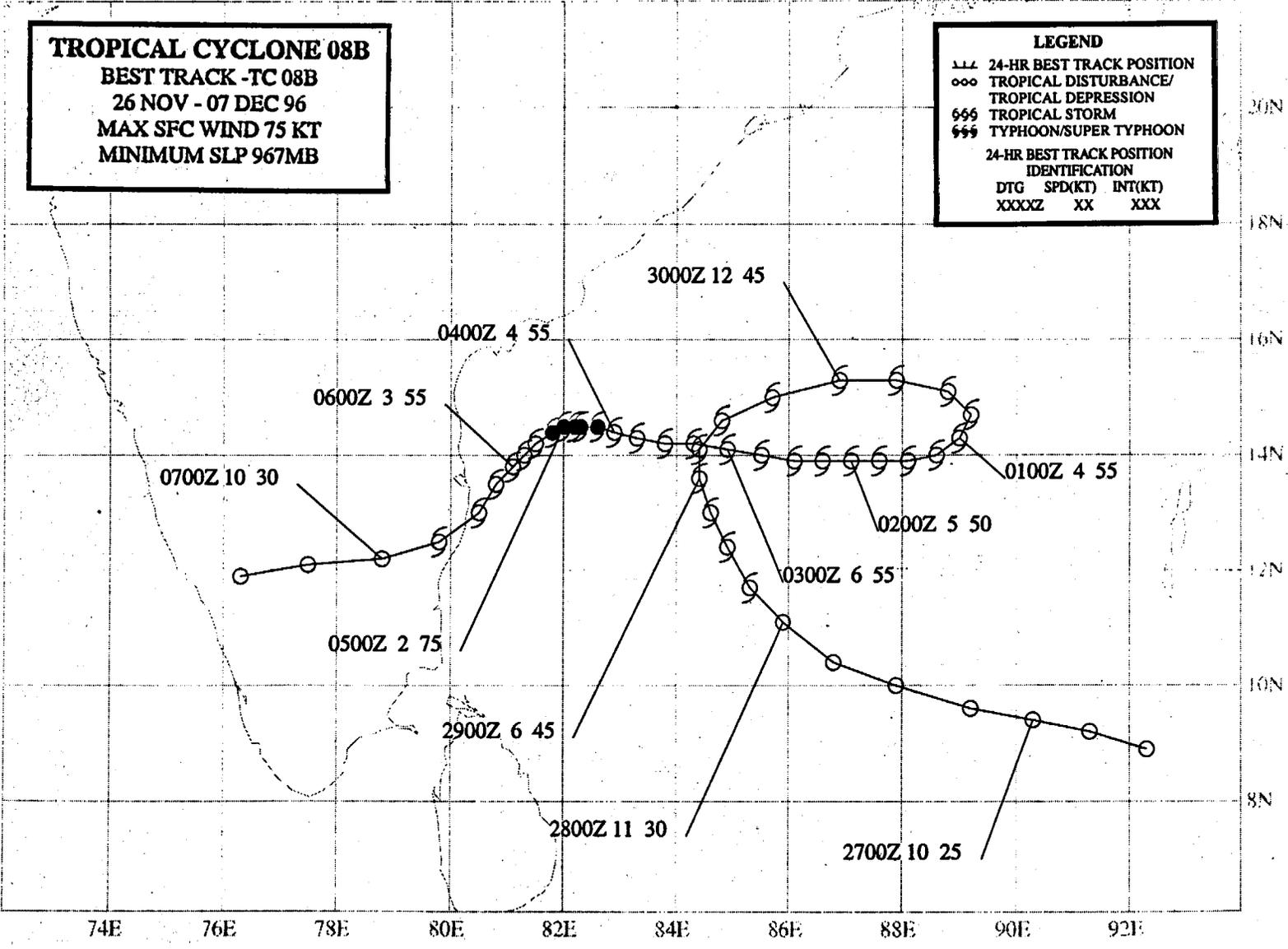


TROPICAL CYCLONE 08B
BEST TRACK - TC 08B
26 NOV - 07 DEC 96
MAX SFC WIND 75 KT
MINIMUM SLP 967MB

LEGEND

- 24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION
- ooo TROPICAL DISTURBANCE/
TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- 666 TROPICAL STORM
- 666 TYPHOON/SUPER TYPHOON

24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION
IDENTIFICATION
DTG SPD(KT) INT(KT)
XXXXZ XX XXX



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TROPICAL CYCLONE 08B

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Tropical Cyclone 08B (TC 08B) was unusual for three reasons: 8 days in warning, a 4-day loop, and erratic southwestward movement along the coast of India. Hundreds of lives were probably spared because TC 08B weakened before making landfall.

II. TRACK AND INTENSITY

TC 08B formed in the monsoon trough just south of the Andaman Islands. The persistence of an area of poorly organized convection over a well developed low-level circulation resulted in JTWC's first mention of the tropical disturbance on the 261800Z November Significant Tropical Weather Advisory. As the system slowly developed, JTWC issued the first TCFA at 270130Z. However, a second TCFA was required at 272230Z to reposition the alert area to the west. An increase in overall organization and intensity prompted JTWC to issue the first warning valid at 280600Z. Although TC 08B's initial track was to the west-northwest, the cyclone started a large clockwise loop on 29 November that took four days to complete. Early on 04 December, the system slowed and peaked at 75 kt (39 m/sec). As the cyclone approached the eastern periphery of the blocking high in the low to middle levels over India, strong 50-kt (26 m/sec) upper-level southeasterly winds appeared (Figure 3-08B-1). These features resulted in a track change to the southwest, and increased vertical wind shear weakened the cyclone. By the end of 05 December, the upper and lower levels of the cyclone had become decoupled. The convection was displaced to the northwest and the LLCC moved to the southwest. At 061500Z, TC 08B moved ashore near Pondicherry, about 60 nm (110 KM) south of Madras. The final warning was issued, valid at 061800Z, as the system dissipated over southwestern India.

III. DISCUSSION

a. *Longevity*

An investigation of Bay of Bengal cyclones since 1972 indicates that no other looping tropical cyclone has taken four days to complete its looping motion. Also, the 8-day period of warning is considered very long, as the average period in warning for Bay of Bengal cyclones is less than four days. Longer warning periods have been noted for cyclones that form in the Bay and move westward in to the Arabian Sea before dissipating.

b. *NOGAPS performance*

With regard to TC 08B's change of track to the southwest near the coast of India, NOGAPS correctly anticipated the movement as early as 02 December — three days before it actually occurred.

IV. IMPACT

Because TC 08B weakened over water before making landfall, the death toll was very low, 7. There were no reports of significant damage.

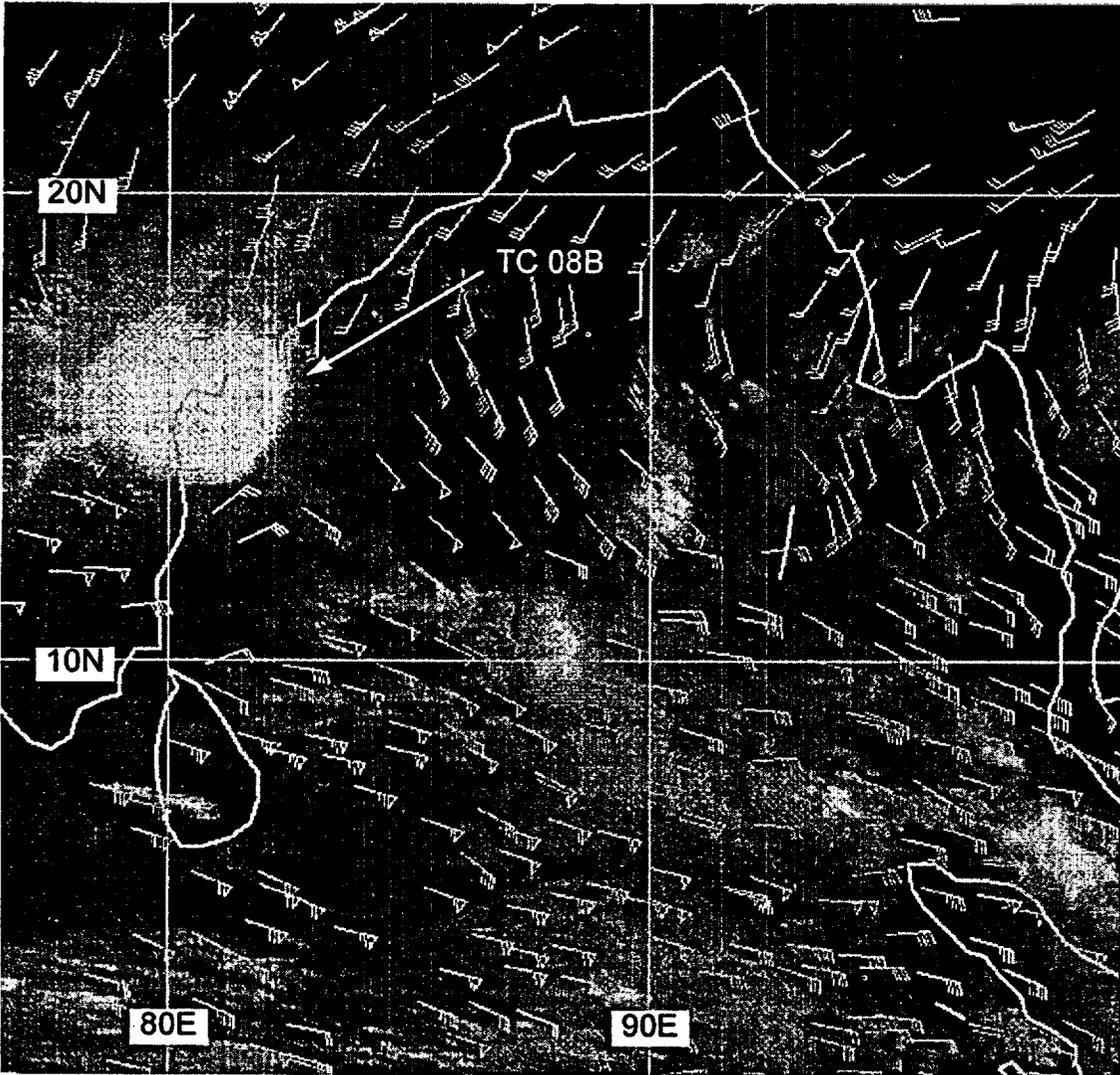


Figure 3-08B-1 Water vapor imagery and upper-level cloud-track winds reveal strong southeasterly winds impinging upon TC 08B (041132Z December water vapor GMS imagery).