

east have seldom been matched where Washington's total of 2.03" in 24 hours was second only to 2.13" in 1976.

Excellent forecasts and warnings were issued for nearly all severely affected areas, and we can only speculate as to whether the relatively large

number of weather-related deaths were due to inadequate local warning dissemination, failure to hear or heed warnings, or merely to the fact that the storm was so severe and covered such a large area.

### RECORD MAKING SNOWSTORMS OF 1978

Two major snowstorms occurring within a week of each other, paralyzed much of the northeastern portion of the country in late January and early February.

The first storm system developed on the 25th of January (see article by Blackburn). AT 0130 GMT, 26 January, Figure 1, cloudiness from this deepening system covered most of the states east of the Mississippi River. Snow was reported from southern Missouri northeastward to Ohio at this time; heavy rains were reported south of this area. By 1230 GMT, the thick, convective cloudiness was

located off the Mid-Atlantic Coast and across New England and New York state. Cyclonically-curved middle and low clouds, stretching from (A to B) continued to produce snow over the Great Lakes states. The strong winds accompanying this storm reduced visibilities and drifted snow, making travel impossible.

The second storm moved rather slowly. It began to develop late on the 5th of February and produced light snow through the Mid-Atlantic states. Eastward progress of this coastal storm was blocked, and the storm became nearly sta-

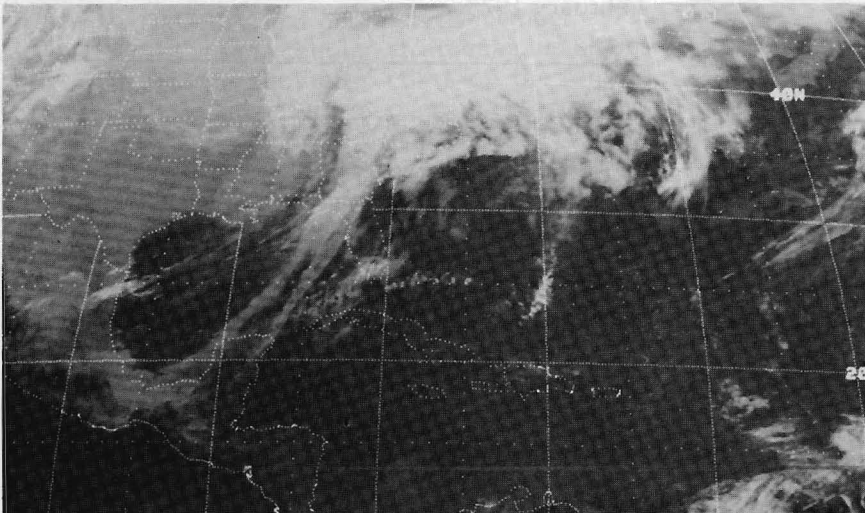


Figure 1. GOES-1 Infrared Data, 0130 GMT, 26 January 1978.

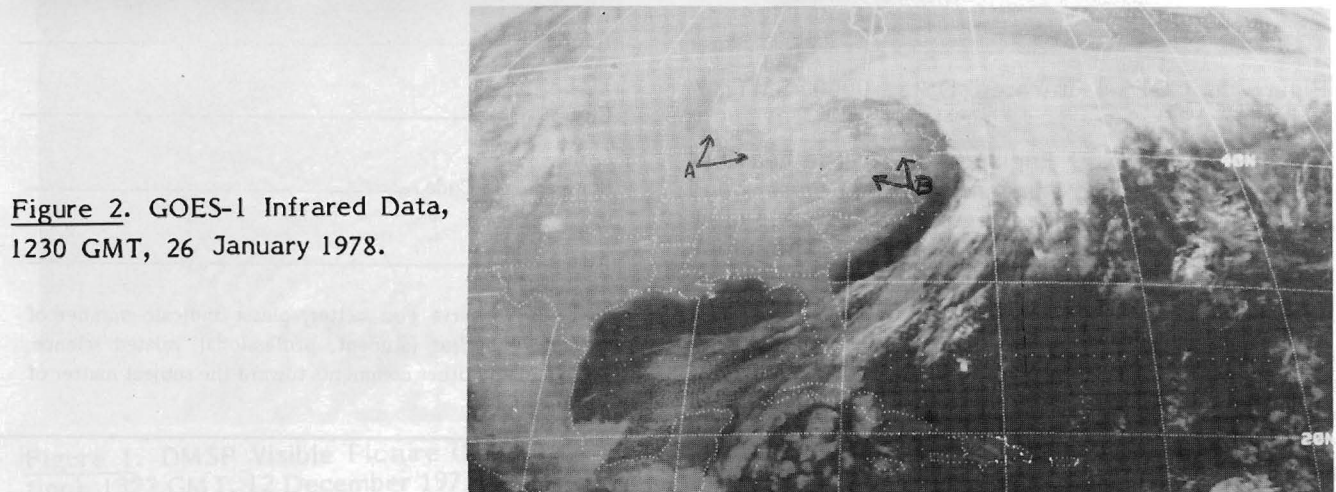


Figure 2. GOES-1 Infrared Data, 1230 GMT, 26 January 1978.

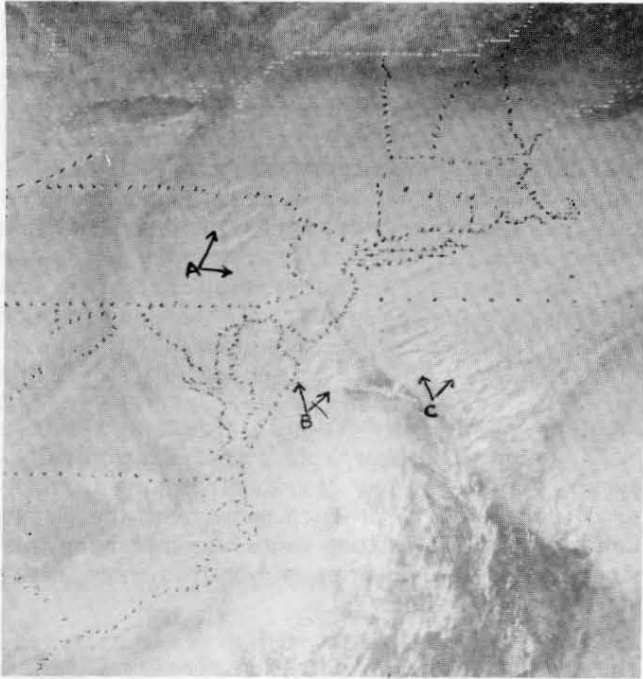


Figure 3. GOES-1 Visible Image, 1520 GMT, 6 February 1978.

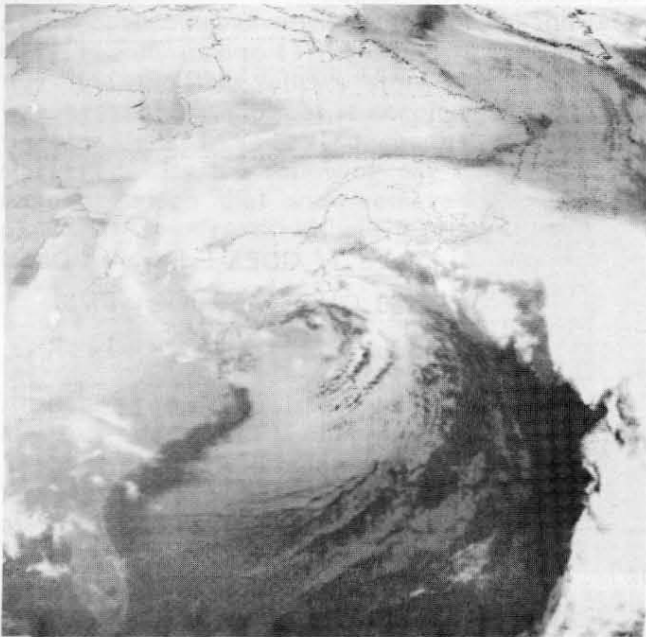


Figure 5. GOES-1 Infrared Data, 0900 GMT, 7 February 1978.

tionary off the New England coast. The heaviest snow was concentrated in the east-west band north of the low center. Figure 3 is a visible view of the storm at 1500 GMT, 6 February. The lumpy or textured cloud areas (A, B, C) mark the edge of heaviest precipitation. The two subsequent infrared views clearly show that Long Island and southern New England were under the influence of the precipitation-producing cloud band for quite some time. Strong winds accompanying the storm made conditions even worse causing huge drifts and significant ocean-wave damage. F. P.

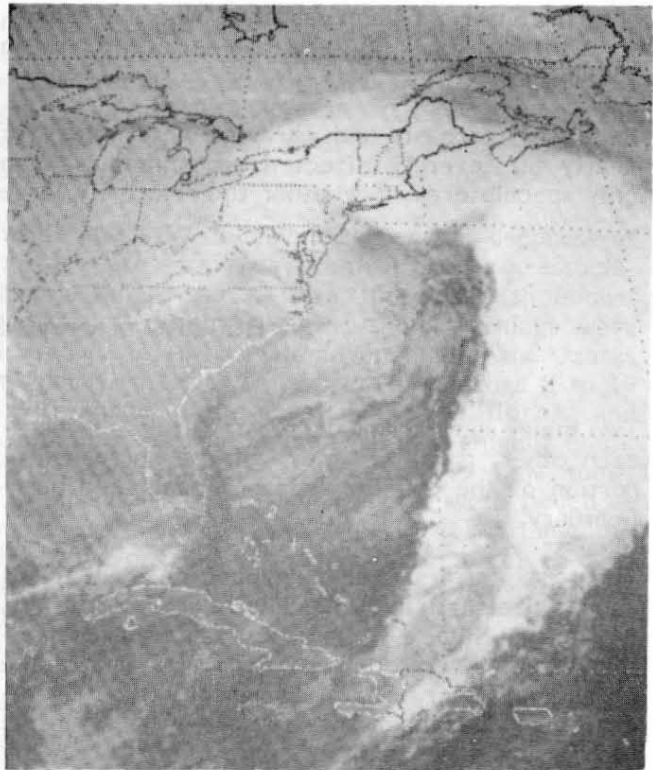


Figure 4. GOES-1 Infrared Data, 2300 GMT, 6 February 1978.

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