

"GILBERT"—THE MOST POWERFUL HURRICANE IN HISTORY

by Henry W. Brandli (1)

On September 14, 1988 at 0000 GMT, hurricane Gilbert's central pressure dropped to 26.13 inches of mercury—the lowest pressure ever recorded in a western hemisphere hurricane. Winds around the storm gusted in excess of 200 mph as it moved through the Caribbean Sea; it impacted Cozumel, on the Yucatan Peninsula, after having devastated Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. The storm eventually slammed

into Mexico and entered the United States through western Texas; it then moved northeast through the central states where it brought much needed rain.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Henry W. Brandli is Chairman, NWA Satellite Meteorology Committee.

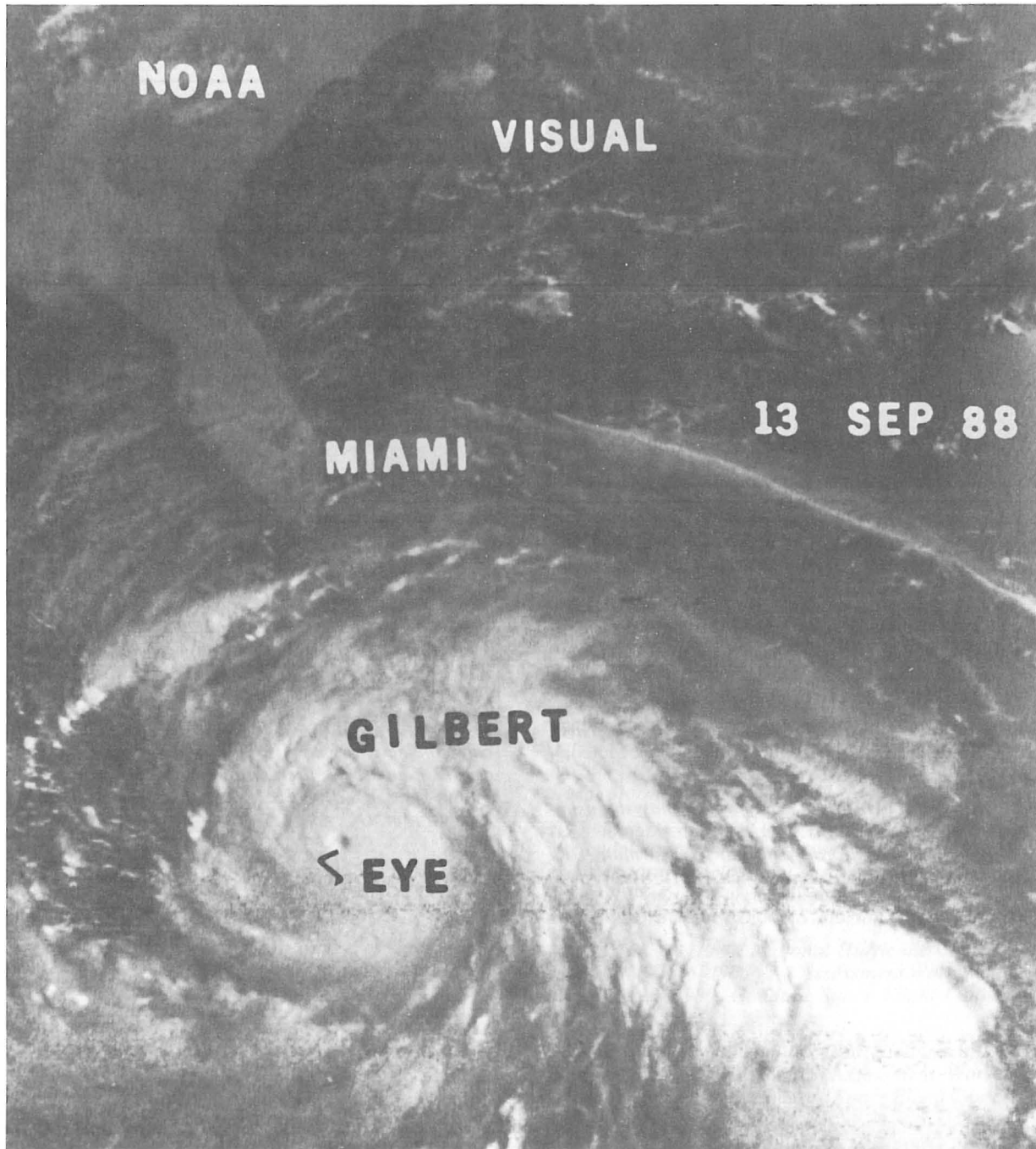


Fig. 1. The NOAA—10 near IR (0.7–1.0 microns) imagery taken at 0000 GMT September 14 and received by APT at the authors home, shows hurricane Gilbert passing over the Grand Cayman Island.